

In a short time he was restored; evidently he had been but a short time in the water.

The natives are kindness itself. They supply us gratis with all the yams we require, and never once have we been out of them all the year. One village has not had an opportunity of bringing any all the season. On one occasion the teacher named a day on which they intended coming with a present, but I said, "Wait a little, we have a large quantity on hand; I shall send you word when they get low. So far, however, the heap has kept up.

On every occasion too that they make a feast, such as a marriage or a birth, etc., they bring us a share of what they have. To-day they have brought us a leg of pork, fish, yams, native pudding, pine-apples, mangoes, and a loaf of bread, and on Saturdays I frequently see them carrying bread home.

THE WORK IN DEMARARA.

By Rev. J. B. Cropper.

During the year the financial distress of the Colony which had been gathering for years past seemed to reach its climax; and though men had striven vigorously against adverse circumstances, the day seemed very near, if not actually at hand, when further effort was futile. But with the appointment of the Royal Commission on the sugar question there was a quickening of the determination to maintain the struggle, until, at least, it might be seen what was the outcome of the commission.

Thanks to the bountifulness of Nature there has been no fear of general starvation; but the pinch of want has been severely felt by many. This has its effect on the work of the Mission. But there have been beneficent as well as injurious effects; and it is to be hoped that lessons have been learnt during these days of discipline which will not soon be forgotten.

Work has been prosecuted along the old familiar lines, and with a recurrence of the customary incidents, bearing, now joy, now disappointment. But weighing all in the scales of result the year's work has not been in vain.

A clear distinction is preserved between the East Indian Mission proper and the work among the other branches of the community in the Better Hope Congregation. Dealing with the latter first:—The Sab. services, and the S. S. meetings and the mid-week prayer meetings have been held without interruption; and it is reported that there is im-

provement in the attendances at the services both Sabbath and mid-week. The same, however, cannot be said of the S. S. meetings. This, I fear, is in large measure due to the fact that the scholars have not been indulged in "treats" as heretofore. The Spiritual life of the congregation is poor. But in this respect we are not singular, for it is the condition of the whole Church, in all its branches, throughout the Colony.

The work among the East Indian immigrants is hopeful. The statistics of this branch, so important to the future of the mission, show:—

Catechists .....	3
Biblewoman .....	1
Baptisms, Adult .....	3
Baptisms, Children .....	12
Communicants .....	24
Marriages .....	3
Sabbath Schools .....	2
Day Schools .....	1
On the Roll .....	157
Average Daily Attendance .....	57

The regular Sab. worship has been uninterruptedly conducted, and there continues a gratifying improvement in the attendance. The addition of a Bible woman to the staff has proved of benefit. The daily house to house work of the Catechists has been faithfully performed.

Work was begun at Helena Settlement, 17 miles from Better Hope—in May; and has under much difficulty been continued. It is important to the future of the Mission that such settlements should be occupied at an early stage; and an effort must be made to maintain the work at Helena.

The Sabbath-School work is weak through lack of agents; but religious instruction is given in the day School. The attendance at this has more than doubled during the year.

Relations with the Church of Scotland and its ministers continue harmonious. Mr. Alexr. Crum Ewing's liberality in the support of the work has been supplemented by letters of kindly encouragement to the missionary; and the courtesy and kindness shown by the local authorities of the state must also receive mention.

Faulty and full of shortcoming has been the service of the "Earthen Vessel;" but Divine Power can use unworthy means to accomplish His work, and in the humble dependence on the Divine Power let the work of the future be placed.

Respectfully submitted,  
J. B. Cropper.

Demarara, British Guiana,  
24th March, 1898.