

Foreign Missions.

Letter from Mr. Morton.

Tunapuna, May 25th, 1881.

In continuation of my letter of March 24th, I beg to report:—

(1) That the School which was opened at Arouca March 1st, has kept up an average of over 25 and is doing well.

(2) That a school was opened at Curepe Village May 1st, the people there pledging themselves to pay the room rent. The teacher—Akbar Ali—seems to be getting hold of a fine class of boys, who are working but come to be taught in the afternoon.

(3) The house we occupy is very uncomfortable in itself, inconvenient in situation, and uncertain in tenure, as we may be obliged to leave it at a months notice. I have therefore purchased land in a central position and have a building already framed and covered in. The upper story will be our dwelling and part of the lower will serve for a school and church till the progress of the work may justify or necessitate a larger expenditure.

(4) James R. Greig, Esq., of Glasgow, collected and forwarded £34 6s., stg. This amount has been reserved for a building at Frederick Estate. The building there is only delayed on account of the necessity of pushing forward the Tunapuna building before the wet season, and the difficulty of carrying on our mission work and overlooking the erection of buildings in different places at the same time.

(5) Present arrangements will suffice at the other two stations for a time. Later a school house will be needed at Arouca, and Mr. Zurcher has kindly promised a lot of land near the Arouca railway station for that object,

(6) His Excellency Governor Freeling has sent us unsolicited a donation of \$25. We are glad to report that the good will of the planters has been shown in various ways.

We hope to occupy our new premises by July 1st. This undertaking involves us in very considerable pecuniary responsibility, but it seems the simplest, quickest, and cheapest way to provide for our own health and for the necessities of the work.

Yours, etc.,
JOHN MORTON.

In a private letter dated April 25th, Mrs. Morton writes:—

“We have not been very well since we came up here, Mr. Morton was in bed three days. We are better now but we got a little frightened and Mr. Morton decided to build at once. It is a great undertaking here to build a comfortable house with very little money. We are very short of money for this new field.”

With the bitter experience that Mr. and Mrs. Morton have had of fever from living in poor dwellings in Trinidad, it is no wonder they were frightened. The frequent attacks of fever, ending in Mrs. Morton's long and severe illness, from which there seemed for a time but little hope of recovery, has taught them a lesson that they cannot forget. But their remembrance of the danger and anxiety is not enough. They cannot build a house out of the memory of their former sufferings. They cannot make bricks without clay. They give largely of their own salary to the mission, but that can do a very small part of the work. Those who are most likely to forget, and should not do so, are we who are living comfortably at home. We need to remember that our missionaries whom we have sent to tell the heathen of a Saviour have suffered in the past on account of the places in which they lived, and that it is our duty to provide for them dwellings in which they can live with safety while doing our work. Besides a house to live in, which is indispensable if they are to remain there and carry on their work, there are churches to build in this new district if the work is to be effectual. Mr. Morton in his letter in our May number says:—

“We need a building and a school at Tunapuna, Frederick, Curepe Village, and St. Juan. The successful occupation of these parts is only a question of means; circumstances are somewhat adverse. From continuous and excessive dry weather our sugar crop is very short and free labor cannot get regular employment. Planters and people thus feel the pressure of hard times. We cannot however stand still or even wait. We will take up one burden at a time and begin with Tunapuna building for school and church. The outlay can scarcely be set below \$1200, that