

THE DOMINION PRESBYTERIAN.

PRAYER.

Almighty God, who alone gave us the breath of life, and alone canst keep alive in us the breathing of holy desires, we beseech Thee for Thy compassions' sake to sanctify all our thoughts and endeavors, that we may neither begin any action without a pure intention, nor continue it without Thy blessing; and grant that, having the eyes of our understanding purged to behold things invisible and unseen, we may in heart be inspired with Thy wisdom, and in work be upheld by Thy strength, and in the end be accepted of Thee, as Thy faithful servants, having done all things to Thy glory, and thereby to our endless peace. Grant this prayer, O Lord. Amen.—Rowland Williams.

A CHRISTMAS HYMN.

Tell me what is this innumerable throng
Singing in the heavens a loud angelic song?

These are they who come with swift
and shining feet
From round about the throne of God
The Lord of Light to greet.

Oh, who are these that hasten beneath the
starry sky,
As if with joyful tidings that through the
world shall fly?

The faithful shepherds these, who greatly
were beloved

When as they watched their flocks by
night, the heavenly host appeared.

Who are these that follow across the
hills of night

A star that westward hurries along the
fields of light?

Three wise men from the East who
myrrh and treasure bring
To lay them at the feet of Him, their
Lord and Christ and King.

What Babe new-born is this that in a
manger cries

Near on her lowly bed His happy mother
lies.

Oh, see the air is shaken with white
and heavenly wings—

This is the Lord of all the earth, this
the King of Kings.

Tell me, how may I join in this holy feast
With all the kneeling world, and I of all
the least?

Fear not, O faithful heart, but bring
what is most in me:

Bring love alone, true love alone, and
lay it at His feet.

Richard Watson Gilder.

SPURGEON'S ESTIMATE OF CALVIN.

"I am not superstitious but the first time I saw this medal, bearing the venerated likeness of John Calvin, I kissed it, imagining that no one saw the action. I was very greatly surprised when I received this magnificent present. On the one side is John Calvin, with his visage worn by disease and deep thought, and on the other side is a verse fully applicable to him: 'He endured, as seeing Him who is invisible.' This sentence truly describes the character of that glorious man of God. Among all those who have been born of women there has not risen a greater than John Calvin; no age before him ever produced his equal and no age since has seen his rival.

"In theology he stands alone, shining like a bright fixed star, while other leaders and teachers can only circle round him at a great distance—as comets go streaming through space—with nothing like his glory or his permanence.

"Calvin's fame is eternal because of the truth he proclaimed; and even in heaven, although we shall lose the name of the system of doctrine which he taught, it shall be that truth which shall make us strike our golden harps and sing unto Him that loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and hath made us kings and priests unto God and His Father; to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever, the essence of Calvinism is that we are born again, 'not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.'"—From an address delivered by Mr. Spurgeon after a visit to Geneva.

MISSIONS IN THE WEST INDIES AND BRITISH GUIANA.*

The visitor to Trinidad lands at Port of Spain, the capital, a city of nearly 60,000 inhabitants.

The population of the island is nearly 300,000, of whom almost 100,000 are East Indians and their descendants. Our mission is chiefly to these. They are brought from India under indenture, or contract to labor on the estates for a period of five years with the privilege of returning at the close of this period. Of the 10,000 at present under indenture, 10,200 of them are employed on sugar, and 400 on cacao estates. The majority of the East Indians are either on or within reach of the sugar estates. The number introduced yearly is likely to be increased from 2,400 to 3,000, only 600 or 700 return annually to their native land.

Trade.—The imports of Trinidad per annum are valued at two and a half, and the exports at two and a quarter, million pounds sterling. There has been of late an appreciable increase in the trade with Canada.

Crown Lands.—In the ten years ending with 1903, over 97,000 acres of Crown Lands were sold to 9,602 persons, 30,584 acres of which were sold to 2,836 East Indians.

Climate.—The climate is thoroughly tropical, as the growth of cacao shows. But the tropical heat is modified by our insular position, and by the trade winds. The thermometer ranges from 62 degrees at night to 92 degrees in the shade by day. There are two seasons, the dry and the rainy. The former is trying on account of the glare, the latter climate tries, not by its extremes, but by its monotonous wet or dry heat. We have no hurricanes, no volcanoes, and no destructive earthquakes.

Districts.—The work for many years has been carried on from four centres, namely, Tunapuna, Couva, San Fernando and Princetown. Each centre has one or more resident missionaries.

For a brief account of the districts see *Reapers in Many Fields*, and for list of missionaries, see *General Assembly's Minutes*, 1905, page 176.

Day Schools.—In the whole mission there are 56 schools, from 9 to 18 at each centre, with 5,744 children on the roll, and 3,231 of an average daily attendance. Less than one-third of the children are girls, and, but for the Christian children, the proportion would be much smaller. All the schools are mission schools. The Government assists those that are up to its requirements, and insists on four hours of secular training in English, but leaves us free to give religious instruction during the first hour. Only a small number of the smaller schools are supported wholly by the mission. Our day schools are a distinct and an important branch of our mission work.

There are 80 Sunday Schools, with 3,706 on roll, and 2,261 of an average attendance. These reach some of the adults as well as the young.

Night Schools.—Night schools are also kept up where practicable, for those who have gone to work. The largest and most successful of these is one maintained for many years at Tunapuna by Mrs. J. Morton, which has an attendance of over 40. Mrs. Morton also took the lead in what are called "Homes for Girls." These began with a few girls from 10 to 15 years of age at the Tunapuna Manse, and the plan extended more or less to all the stations. It is now proposed to enlarge the scheme under the management of Miss Archibald.

Methods.—Preaching the gospel to the multitude in the synagogue or on the hillside, or to a woman by the well, and healing the sick, were the Master's methods; they are ours. We do a good deal of simple medical work. We

*V.P.S.C.E. Topic for Dec. 31, 1905; Acts 6: 1-8; 13: 1-4 (Monthly Topic Plan of Study.)

have regular services in more than 100 churches and school houses. And we go to the homes and hamlets of the people to tell the story.

Fruit.—The people are nine-tenths Hindus, and one-tenth Mohammedans, the language used is Hindi or Hindustani. The young people speak also English. The 10,000 under indenture (see above) have been here less than five years, some of them only a few months, and they have all the prejudices of the home country. They often meet us with the declaration, "I am 'bound, and busy, and a new-comer," and like the children of Israel with Moses they hearken not. Still, there has been some excellent fruit from such sowing. Immediate fruit has been seen most frequently in the case of those who had heard the gospel in India, or were able to read. In the case of others, the fruit has ripened after the immigrants had removed to his own lands.

The Indian people have nearly quadrupled since the mission was opened and the increase is increasing. This is our field. We get Bibles and books from India, but we are now doing part of our own Hindi printing.

British Guiana.—In the autumn of 1896 the work was extended to British Guiana, where the Indian population numbers 120,000. There the work is carried on similar lines to that of Trinidad, but by only two hard wrought missionaries. During the last eight or nine months the Foreign Mission Committee has been seeking a third for Demerara, as well as another missionary for Trinidad but as yet without success.

FACTS FOR CHRISTIANS.

"Facts are the fingers of God. To know the facts of modern missions is the necessary condition of intelligent interest."—A. T. Pierson, D.D.

1.—Out of every 100,000 church members in America, only twenty-one go to the foreign field.

2. There are one thousand million heathen in the world.

3. There are 10,000 missionaries.

4. Each missionary is responsible for 100,000 souls.

5. There is one medical missionary to every ten million heathen.

6. Forty million heathens die every year.

7. They are dying at the rate of 100,000 per day.

8. Every tick of the watch sounds the death-knell of a heathen soul.

9. Every breath we draw, four souls perish, never having heard of Christ.

10. Christ said, "Go ye into all the world." "Go" does not mean "stay."

"All" does not mean a "part."

11. Christians are giving at the rate of one-tenth of a cent a day.

12. Of every dollar given for Christian work, we spend ninety-eight cents on our home work, and two cents for the heathen.

13. We give one cent a year for each heathen soul.

14. The Moravians send one missionary out of every seventy members and send five missionaries to every minister at home.

15. The Moravians give to foreign missions an average of \$1.25 a month, or \$15 a year; other denominations average five cents a month, or sixty cents a year.

I have been helped by praying for others; for by making an errand to God for them I have gotten something for myself.—Samuel Rutherford.

"If I can get one touch of a rosy sunset into the life of any man or woman I shall feel that I have worked unto God."—George McDonald.

A Christian who engages in any lawful business is honoring God. He may be just as heavenly minded in trade as in preaching the Gospel.