

shame; and often: their most sacred festivals are simply scenes of licentiousness, that cannot be even spoken of. What hope is there for this dark land—over which the clouds of evil and darkness have only been thickening as the ages have rolled on—if not in the spotless Lamb of God? But let us rejoice together that even already in the most marked way we see the vast pile—hoary with age—tottering even to its very foundations—but of this more next time. With humble apologies for my long delay, I remain,

Yours very truly,

J. WILKIE.

### TRINIDAD.

#### *Report of San Fernando Indian School for 1886.*

BY MISS TISSIE COPELAND.

"Another year has passed quickly away and looking back we see many pleasing results for which we feel very thankful.

In our school the average attendance has increased. We have had as many as 130 present at one session, and at an examination in October, 140; but the average for the year was 106.

Our plan at the beginning of the year was to run the School with Monitors under myself. This plan was adhered to for some time, but, from the number of children, the variety of subjects, and diversity of language, it was found necessary to divide the School into three departments, each having a responsible head. This increased the monthly expenditure, but doubtless added to the efficiency of the work. These Monitors are some of our brightest boys who have come in from the country schools. There are about a dozen of them, and they give promise of being useful as teachers and Christian workers, being able to read and write equally well in English and Hindi. Their parents generally are poor, and although all promised to contribute towards their keeping, yet I know that in some cases this promise held good only for a short time: two lads were entirely dependent on Mr. Grant for eight months, but through the kindness of a few ladies in Toronto, he was able to keep them in school. If some good friends would remember this department of the work, we think it would be money well expended.

They have worship together in Hindus-

tani in the School Room, when Rev. Lal Behari gives them systematic instruction in the Word of God, each takes his turn in reading the Scriptures and leading in prayer. On Sundays they go out two by two to preach the Gospel to their own country people in their own language: they are all desirous of doing good. Some go out to the estates, to hospitals, to the market place, or any place where they can get a little crowd to hear them, and they tell to them the wonderful words of life.

At one house which I visit very often, there is an old woman who, when I commenced to sing a Coolie Bhajan, would invariably begin to make a noise, talk loudly, and try to draw away the attention of the young people around me, but when I was in, one afternoon not long ago, she handed me a hymn book and asked me to sing, then she spread rice bags on the floor and told the others to sit down and listen, and sing with me: she sat down, too, and did not say a word until I had finished, then she said "That good, sing another."

In our Sabbath School we follow the Westminster course of lessons. Mr. Grant sent for a hundred penny Testaments, so now at our Bible lessons in School we read together the Home Readings in connection with the lessons. Our lessons this year in the Gospel according to St. John have been most interesting, and a number of the children can tell what is contained in each chapter. They like to read their Bibles, and are very attentive to our lessons. We have learned a number of Hindustani hymns, and sing them at the Hindi service on Sabbath mornings. At first we used the harmonium with them, but the people said they would prefer singing them without it, they are more accustomed to sing to the beating of drums and cymbals. The singing at this service has improved very much since we have commenced these new tunes.

Every Monday morning the children of the higher classes bring a short written essay on some subject that they have had during the week, and they have improved considerably in their composition. We have also commenced the study of British History, and Mr. Grant still has his Latin class every morning. We have enlarged our school-room lately, and have in addition a nice class-room underneath the main building, so that we have now ample room for seating all the children, who had been very much crowded before."