

The minutes of the Mission Synod being printed and in the hands of members, were considered as read; and letters from Messrs. Paton, Copland and Neilson.

Mr. Paton's letter accompanied the Synod's minute, respecting the death and character of Rev. J. D. Gordon, and gave full information respecting that melancholy event, and the proceedings of the heathens and native christians afterwards, and was ordered to be published. It is now in type but is crowded out for a month.

Mr. Copland's letter was explanatory of the Resolution of the Mission Synod, that the New Hebrides Missionaries be placed on the same footing, as regards salary and other privileges as the Missionaries of the London Missionary Society. The consideration of this resolution was postponed until all the facts of the case should be received by correspondence with the Secretary of the London Missionary Society.

Mr. Neilson's letter gave an account of Dr. Geddie's prostration by an attack of Paralysis, of partial recovery, and relapse, and of the probability of his being laid aside permanently from all public work. Mr. N's. letter showed that Dr. and Mrs. Geddie could not with safety come to Nova Scotia, and that the lowest sum on which they could live comfortably in Australia, he found after careful inquiry to be £200 sterling per annum.

The Board heard these tidings of the Dr.'s illness with sorrow. The Secretary was directed to assure Dr. and Mrs. Geddie of the Board's deep sympathy in their affliction and to inform them that they would instruct Dr. Steel to remit for their support at the rate of £200 a year.

The Secretary submitted an abstract of the state of the funds which he was directed to publish.

We find that this and other matter must stand over till April for want of room.

TRINIDAD MISSION.

Letter from Mr. Morton.

SAN FERNANDO.
January, 1873.

REV. AND DEAR BROTHER.—Having been very much engaged I have not written

you of the baptism of Henry Juraman, which took place on the 1st of December, ultimo.

He was married on the 1st October and from that time earnestly sought baptism. As you are aware he had been under instruction, and there was no difficulty about his knowledge. Latterly I think there has been no reasonable ground to doubt his sincerity and earnestness.

He was never an idol worshipper, as he belonged to a sect of the Hindoo called "Sants," that is "Holy ones" who do not make idols. Sev Narayan is the object of their worship, but many of their women worship Kālī. They are at least worshippers of Deotas and so far from being Saints, are often the vilest of people. The Brahmans do not make worship for them, nor celebrate their marriages, but they have gurus (teachers) of their own. Any of their gurus whom I have known have been besotted drunkards. Juraman's guru shortened his life by excessive drinking and smoking of Indian hemp.

Juraman's wife is still a heathen, but she now attends church at Iere very regularly and listens attentively, so that, although I regarded her at one time as hardened and hopeless, I trust her heart may yet be opened to receive the truth.

SCHOOL EXAMINATIONS.

From the 15th until the 23rd December, much time was given to the examinations of schools. There was a great gathering in San Fernando, of about 120 children from different schools in this district, where prizes were distributed to the most deserving. The examination for these prizes took place on previous days, in the different Schools.

Then Couva Schools had their Public Examination before closing, when it appeared that the teachers there, though not so much under our eye as the others are no less diligent. The children of these schools in their examination on the Catechism, answered admirably and Soodeen's highest class in a dictation exercise surprised all the visitors.

INSTRUCTION OF TEACHERS.

The examinations over, Soodeen, Anna-je and Thos. W. Cockey came to San Fernando and joined Aziz Ahmud, Thos. Vishnoo, Eāl Bibārē and some other young men in study; and for ten days I became a teacher for some hours daily. Some may ask what are the teachers studying? The special subjects were:—

Soodeen.—Grammar, Algebra, Simple Rules, Analysis Complex Sentences, Arithmetic well advanced, and English History.

Thomas W. Cockey.—The same but in Algebra, Fractions and Simple Equations.