

## MISS BLACKADDER'S REPORT.

PRINCESTOWN, Dec. 7, 1885.

Another year has swiftly passed away, yet we can look back and see that some good has been accomplished, that some success has attended the school work, and we are thankful for the health and strength that has been given us.

Some dear friends have been called from work, to enjoy sweet rest in heaven, while other friends have been added to the ranks of those who pray for the work and the workers.

I hardly know how to make a report of school work, interesting or profitable, the work is always the same, the course of instruction is not of a very advanced character, and is therefore monotonous.

Some of the pupils have made good progress in English and in Hindi. It really seems strange, but it is true, the children care very little about the Hindi, their own language, they prefer to learn English.

A good number passed the Government examination. We find some trouble in getting the children to pass the higher standards. The parents think that in one, two, or at the most, three years, all knowledge can be put in the brains of the children.

One morning a coolie woman came and told me she would not send her child to school any more, as he had been in school for three weeks and was still reading in the First Book!

Times have been dull this year, so we have had some trouble in getting books for the children. Some of the parents are too poor to buy books, others are too stingy, and in this way progress has been impeded; others again will gladly buy any thing the children require.

The names of some of our present pupils have been added to the roll of the church; also some of the older ones have had the courage to come out from among heathen families, and be called Christians.

A number of our old pupils have been married, invitations have been kindly sent to us, some of the weddings have been interesting, others have been very grand.

One of our girls who was married two years ago came in one day with a big, fat baby, "to let his grandmother," as your agent has affectionately called, "see him."

At the beginning of the year Mr. McLeod appointed two of our advanced pupils as Monitors in the Princhestown school;

one, a boy Abdool, a good student and a useful assistant. We hoped Abdool would have been very useful in the Master's work but God had other plans for his Hindi child.

Abdool wanted to become a Christian but his Mohammedan parents would not allow him to do so, still Abdool loved Jesus and trusted in Christ, for salvation. The unshaken faith of the dear boy during his illness was really wonderful, no parental displeasure, no cunning reasoning of the Mohammedan priests could shake his faith.

The other, lame Annie Mena, grown now to womanhood, is a communicant in the church, and a consistent Christian. She has a very interesting class of children in the Sunday School, and assists in day school.

The three children, or girls in my house are Annie Mena, Jessie Campbell, and Ellen Grantham.

A very interesting ceremony took place one Friday afternoon in August last. The children presented some gifts to Mrs. McLeod, Mr. McLeod, and the little boys, Norman and Harold. We had some music, recitations, readings, and compositions, one by James Tulsi, upon boils, was very amusing.

We have still continued our correspondence with those who are out in the world. They often write and tell us that letters sent to them do them good, and help to keep alive their interest in things that relate to life eternal.

I feel almost discouraged about my home correspondence. I write many letters yet few answers are returned, so the letters must go astray, and never reach their destination.

Mr. John Lewis of San Fernando, kindly sent me a package of books and cards for the school children. Principal Caldecott of Codrington College, Barbadoes, kindly sent a large number of beautiful Christmas cards to be distributed among the children. Mr. H. B. Darling has given school feasts, as he usually does. Miss Tearwood and Mrs. McLeod have kindly assisted us in the singing.

Doctor Hammond has attended myself and household with his never failing skill, kindness, and generosity.

I had an attack of fever in November, but am now in my usual health. We are glad to find a good number of girls in school. It is so difficult to get the parents