

one to deliver, because it was in opposition to the way in which the people of the time were living, and it called upon them to repent. Nor did John confine himself to the poor and outcasts, but faced the powerful scribes and Pharisees, calling them a generation of vipers and warning them to flee from the wrath to come.

Although he was greatest of all the prophets, he was strong enough to be ready to take second place to Jesus, pointing Him out as the Lamb of God, and saying that he, John, was not worthy to unlatch His shoe.

Again, he showed his faith in his message and his strength to deliver it, when he stood before Herod and Herodias and told them they had sinned. He went to prison before he would take anything back, and when the executioner came to take off his head, he died as bravely as he had lived.

Quebec, Que.

### Three School Boys in Trinidad

*By Rev. Kenneth J. Grant, D.D.*

The first of these boys could go to school, but wouldn't;] the second would go, but couldn't; the third did go, and succeeded.

When I met the first, he was about eight years old, now he is quite forty-five years. His parents consented to his going, but as no one in his home knew a letter, and as it was before the advantages of instruction impressed the humble East Indian laborer in Trinidad, there was no pressure placed on Gharib. He was left to his own sweet will, and he willed that he wouldn't go. One morning, when on my rounds of school visitation, not finding the boy in school, I went in search of him. When he saw me coming, he took to his heels and made a bee line for a donkey shed a few chains off. I went in pursuit, and after very diligent search I was about to give up, supposing that he had eluded me and got into a cane field near at hand. "He can't be here," said I, "as everything has been ransacked." The only thing I had failed to examine was a new barrel, which appeared as if it had never been opened. I placed my hand on it, and finding it empty and not full as I supposed, I turned it over, and there crouched my truant boy. He very quietly went with me

to school, but daily he had to be pressed or coaxed, otherwise he would not come. After a few months he disappeared, and now he is a poor pagan laborer. He missed his chance. He could go, but wouldn't.

The second boy, who would go, but couldn't, was the eldest of four brothers. Their father was physically unfit for field work; their mother was strong in body, mind and heart—one in a thousand. Their eldest son, whom we shall call Ramdhani, had seen eleven or twelve years. This lad and his mother were the bread-winners for the whole family, and nobly did he work side by side with his mother on a sugar estate, where the feathery palm trees stood out as sentinels on every hill. The three younger boys went to the estate school—proved apt, got on, gave evidence of talent above many, and found places of usefulness and influence. The eldest, the son of toil, showed his nobility in the daily sacrifice that he made for his home, and, by gathering up and improving the odds and ends of time, in learning to read Hindi. His library in after years consisted of the Bible and a hymn book in Hindi. He never rose high, nor did he become prominent, but he served his generation according to the will of God. He made the best of his situation, and now reaps his reward.

Let me now tell briefly of the third boy who went to school, and succeeded. His parents were in humble circumstances, but they sent their boy to school and kept him at his books at home in the evenings, and it was no unusual thing to have complaints that their son was not getting on fast enough. He, however, made good progress in the various branches taught in the Mission School, both in English and Hindi. In scripture knowledge, his attainments were marked. At a tender age he served as a pupil teacher. Later, his parents got a few acres of land, and removed from the sugar estate. The son assisted his parents, taught a small school, and in time was in circumstances to purchase a few acres for himself, planted cocoa and succeeded wonderfully. All along, from early years, he did Christian work voluntarily. He is now one of the religious leaders in our Mission, a strong, fearless preacher of the truth.

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