

Teachers and scholars are now looking forward to our annual picnic, which will take place in the course of a fortnight. We are expecting a large attendance.

During the last ten days there have been heavy rains, which have been of great benefit to the crops and to the appearance of the country generally. Our school, farm and garden are doing nicely. Besides nice fields of oats, barley and potatoes, we have our vegetable and flower gardens, all of which we hope will repay our labour with returns both useful and beautiful.

MISSION STUDIES.

East India Company and Missions.

By Miss Ferrier, Caledonia.

(FOURTH PAPER.)

Before telling you any more about Mission work in India, it is necessary to say a little about the East India Company, which for a long time did much to hinder the progress of the Gospel in India. On the very last day of the 16th century Queen Elizabeth granted to a company of London merchants a charter which gave them the sole right to trade with India. This Company rapidly grew in wealth and power, and by conquest or purchase gradually acquired large possessions in India, which in process of time were ruled by British governors and kept in subjection by British armies, solely with a view to promote the interests of the Company, and with no thought for the good of the conquered people.

The Directors of the Company strenuously opposed all missionary effort; one of them is reported to have said that he would rather see a band of devils than a band of missionaries in India, and from the year 1792 to 1812 all religious or secular instruction to natives was strictly forbidden. It was for this reason that Dr. Carey and his fellow labourers found it necessary to settle in the Danish colony of Serampore, and they found a powerful friend and protector in the Governor, who was a good man and interested in Mission work.