

of Mr. Christie, as the third missionary to Trinidad, and his location at Couva. We might have mentioned that, like your pioneer missionaries to this island, Mr. and Mrs. Christie on their passage encountered the perils of the deep. In his first letter to the Board Mr. C. writes;—"We had a very rough passage, the roughest that steamer has ever had, and we came very near never reaching here at all. Storms seem to have followed us, ever since we started on our missionary life. We had a very heavy gale in the Gulf Stream, and during the height of it about 500 tons of coal shifted over to leeward, and a part of the cargo, and we did not get on an even keel for three days. Several seas came down into the cabin, making everything very uncomfortable. On Friday evening we were considered to be in great danger, but the prayers that have been offered for us were answered, and we were kept by the Power that rules the storm. One man was lost overboard. The Captain and first & second officers were nearly swept overboard also, and the former was badly injured. Two of the boats were swept away. We arrived here (St Thomas) safely on Wednesday, Dec. 31st, and now the past seems almost like a dream."

Shortly after Mr. Christie's arrival, the three brethren, formed themselves into what is called the Mission Council. All estimates and accounts are submitted to this Council, and any question arising in any field, requiring special consideration, is deliberated upon, and such results reached as their combined wisdom may direct. Any matter calling for Presbyterianial action is submitted to the Trinidad Presbytery. This Council has been of great benefit to the mission; and perhaps if some such method had been adopted in all mission fields, where two or more missionaries are at work; it might have saved unfortunate misunderstandings, uncomfortable attritions, unhappy ebullitions and it may be withdrawal from the foreign service. It is not often a wise thing for men in the same field to work independently of each other. A solo may be very musical when we listen to it alone, but when the notes of another solo commingle with it, the result is likely to be anything but the *music of the spheres*. Better far that the two should arrange to sing in harmony, and then the performance may please and profit.

At a meeting of Synod 1873, it was agreed that a season of rest and relaxation for six months, should be granted to the missionaries, at the expiration of every

term of five years service. The terms of return were adopted *simpliciter* from the U. P. Church of Scotland. The Board meets all travelling expenses of the missionary and family to his native land and back,—the salary during the term of absence being reduced to £150 sterling. The expenses of travelling within the bounds of the home church, in furthering the objects of the mission, are paid by the Board,—it being understood that the collections taking in any congregation visited, shall go to the Foreign Mission Fund. This provision for furlough is a very wise one. It is impossible to work continuously, with any degree of vigor, in this land where there is so much to cultivate, without an occasional change to a cooler clime, to tone up both mind and body. It is surely a judicious policy that the foreign agents of the church should be brought home, before they become entirely and perhaps irrecoverably prostrated. A few months at home, to recruit exhausted strength and revive drooping spirits, may be the means of saving many years of valuable service for the Master.

In accordance with this arrangement Mr. Morton who had now completed more than six years of service, left with his family on leave of absence, towards the close of April 1874. A few weeks was pleasantly spent in Bermuda on the way to Nova Scotia, presenting the claims of the mission to the Presbyterian church there, which has ever since continued to take a lively interest in the Trinidad work. Five months were spent in the Lower Provinces, in visiting the churches, attending meetings of Synod, and also a meeting of the Dominion Evangelical Alliance held in Montreal.

Perhaps it might be as well, disregarding the order of time, in our narrative, to note at this stage, the several visits home on the part of the missionaries.

Mr. Morton's health having sadly broken down (it was feared at one time irretrievably) they were under the necessity of again seeking a change, and so the whole family left for Nova Scotia, in the summer of 1877. Mr. Morton having spent some three months at home, and Mrs. M's health being still in such a critical state, as to prevent her return to Trinidad, he resolved to come back alone. Mrs. Morton and family remained in Nova Scotia for more than a year, at the end of which time, they all returned, greatly benefitted; and ever since Mrs. M. has enjoyed comparatively good health, and been enabled to work for the mission, in a manner and with a degree of