

LETTER FROM REV. J. K. WRIGHT.

COUVA, Mar. 21, 1888.

Dear Mr. Scott:

A short sketch about the new catechist for Couva, Athol Rufchan, may be interesting to friends in Canada. Athol was brought to a knowledge of the truth in India, and was baptized.

Owing to the death of his wife and child he was led to seek a change of scene and so set out for Trinidad as an immigrant. He took on board the ship his Bible and some Christian Tracts, and sought to do some work for the Master among his fellow-passengers. They listened for a time, but after a little became enraged and snatched away his books and threw them into the sea.

On arriving in Trinidad, which was about the same time as I settled here, he was sent to an estate about seven miles from our church. He soon found us out and came asking for a Bible and Tracts. During four years he came regularly to church, no matter what the weather might be. He soon came to have a great influence over the Christian people, an influence only for good. His life upon the estate where he lived was a standing witness to the beauty of the Christian religion.

Long ago it was my wish that he should be made a catechist, but according to law he must fill out at least four years of his indenture. His own wish was to labour for Christ. Keeping his eye upon this he saved up enough money to buy out his fifth year of indenture, so he came into the work at the beginning of this year.

Last month I made application for him to be taken on trial with a view to licensure as a regular catechist some day. He was received by the Council and was directed to study specially the Book of Genesis and The Life of Christ and to be ready for examination at the end of March.

I have been surprised at the zeal with which he has taken hold of these studies, and at the rapidity and ease and correctness with which he commits to memory whole chapters in the Old and New Testament. He is full of promise. He works with a will also among the people, and is gathering near those that were afar off. Would that you could see him on Sabbath afternoon, an hour before service, stand-

ing in the middle of the road, hailing all who pass by, both men and women, and compelling them to come in. Praise for Athol.

Yours truly,
J. K. WRIGHT.

COMMUNION SERVICE FOR
COUVA.

COUVA, TRINIDAD, B. W. I.,
March 17th, 1888.

We, the undersigned, have been deputed by the Managing Committee of the Couva Presbyterian Church to convey thanks—in the name of both English and Indian congregations—to the friends of our lamented friend, Miss Archibald, for the handsome Communion set which they have sent to us as a Memorial gift. We would express our sincere sympathy with the sorrowing relatives of our beloved friend, and our appreciation of their loving interest in us.

JOHN KNOX WRIGHT.
T. F. DICKSON, *Chairman*.
M. CAMPBELL, *Secretary*.

Demarara.

REV J. GILSON'S REPORT FOR 1887.

In spite of discouragements which frequently appeared sufficient to put an end to our work, we still continue to labour and to wait. To say that our difficulties have vanished would be misleading in the extreme. The Mission is still struggling for bare existence. The desired extension of our operations has not been realized. On the contrary the number of helpers has been diminished. The unsatisfactory state of the funds, and the unfinished condition of our house have been the constant reminders of our unsettled situation. The work has suffered seriously from uncertainty of support.

The Utulugt and Willem school has been open during the whole year. The total number on the roll was 252; 147 boys and 105 girls. The attendance was made up of children under working age, and of those who are usually employed on the estate, but who attend school when not working. The attendance of the latter was necessarily irregular. The attendance of the smaller children was more regular than the previous year.

During the first seven months Abraham