

the working of our School, which was opened on the 20th February at the extreme end of Cipro Street—a locality not at an inconvenient distance from any of the Coolie Children of the town, and perhaps the situation that would entice the largest number from the Country.

We opened with 16, gradually the number increased—70 are now enrolled—the average daily attendance for the past 3 weeks is 48. The pupils generally are under 15 years of age—5 are between 20 and 30 years—1 is about 45. Of these 6 are Chinese, 12 Madras, 32 from Eastern and Upper India, speaking the Hindustani or Bengali. Thus we have 4 different languages spoken by our Children in addition to the English, of which all have a smattering. To meet the wants of the School we have three teachers or monitors. One a Madras Coolie who had been engaged for some time previously in giving lessons in the Tamil, another a woman baptized by Dr. Duff, in Calcutta, and the third Aziz Ahmud from Lucknow. Unfortunately none of the teachers is capable of explaining English expressions to the Chinese, in their own tongue. But we have been favoured in securing the aid we have. I am present every day, frequently during the whole day, and feel much gratified with the progress of the Children, and fidelity of the teachers. Mrs. Grant is teaching the girls to sew.

The change in the appearance of the Children is quite marked. When our School was opened few gave any attention to cleanliness of person or attire. Indeed some came in a state of perfect nudity—others with a cloth wrapped around their loins—and in the case of others the little shirt was scarcely sufficient to protect the breathing apparatus and chest. But now most of the Children appear clean and neat.

Our estimated expenses for the year are \$575. Of this sum our Teachers receive \$360; the rental of property, taxes and repairs take the balance.

Our building furnishes rooms for two Teachers, and Aziz free of any charge, lives with ourselves.

To meet this we receive from the Board of Education \$175 which is the Salary of a third class Teacher, a capitation fee of 50 cents per quarter for each pupil attending 30 days, and \$5.50 additional for each pupil who at the close of the year passes a creditable examination. There will probably be still a small deficiency, but through the generosity of friends here, it will be fully and cheerfully met.

Last week Governor Longden honoured us with a visit, and after spending about an hour in the School room, His Excellency expressed his delight at what he witnessed, he spoke kind words to the Children and concluded by assuring me, that our School

would receive every consideration at Head Quarters.

But you are concerned for the religious training of the Children? Well according to Law, religious instruction is not to be given during certain hours, and we respect the Law, and yet I daily give a certain amount of religious instruction in school, and in addition, every Monday Evening the Children spend about two hours at our house, a portion of this time is devoted to religious instruction, and a part to singing hymns suited to the capacity of Children. Mr. Drennan, a young Scotchman, has kindly undertaken to give instruction in singing. In our school room we have a Sabbath School attended by about 80 children, the number of Coolies and Creoles being about equal. Immediately after the dismissal of the school I summon the Coolie, children and adults together, and after a brief service we take a collection which has averaged 95 cents daily, since the adoption of the plan five weeks ago. I have been careful to explain the object of the collection and I think they all understand that it is an offering to the Lord. From the beginning I believe it wise to impress this duty, but it is with us the day of small things.

Already we have 6 boys that can read easy sentences and in a few weeks we will have at least 20 who will be able to read the simpler portions of Scripture, and through the kindness of Chalmers' Church Sabbath School, I am put in a position to give each child a Bible, a copy of Bateman's Hymns and such papers as are entertaining for Sabbath School children.

I have just been interrupted by four thoughtful looking Coolie men who called to see me, they were entire strangers to me. They came about 12 miles as they stated just to hear about our religion. I hinted that they had probably other business but they affirmed that their only object in coming was to see, and to hear the same that I had told some of their friends—they appeared anxious and troubled, weary of their own religion they sought a better. They knew nothing of the Lord Jesus Christ, and never did I tell the story of redeeming love to any who listened with such close attention, and deep interest. After spending an hour and a half together they withdrew. I can't tell you how cheering and welcome such interruptions are. Here is a people anxious to learn a better way. If there be a little sacrifice in entering the mission field, the joy produced by such incidents more than compensates.

I may add that not a week passes, scarcely a day, without something fresh turning up to cheer us on. At our meeting on Sabbath three new ones avowed in the presence of their fellows that they believed