

PORT MARIA,—JAMAICA.

INTERESTING ACCOUNT OF A BAPTISM.

OUR brother Day, amidst many personal and domestic afflictions, is enabled to report very favourably of the progress of the work at the stations under his care. He writes thus on the 23rd of July :—

It affords me much pleasure to be able to inform you that we have recently added to the church at Port Maria a considerable number, many of whom had been accepted for the ordinance of baptism by my predecessor, and others were the first-fruits of my ministry in this country. Last Lord's day, July 21st, I received 114 persons into the church by baptism, As this is the first time I have administered this ordinance in Jamaica, you will allow me to give you an account of the manner in which we conducted this and the other services of that interesting day.

On the previous evening (Saturday) I visited the spot intended for our use next morning, where I found, on the seabeach, booths formed of bamboo and branches from the cocoa-nut tree, containing fifteen commodious apartments for the use of the candidates after baptism. I was extremely pleased to find such comfortable and ingenious arrangements made. About seven o'clock in the evening I met the candidates in the chapel, where we held a prayer-meeting, and I gave an address to them, with a few directions as to their proceedings in the morning, when I told them I would meet them at four o'clock. This was punctually attended to; and, after singing that beautiful hymn, beginning,—

"I'm not ashamed to own my Lord," &c.

and praying, we proceeded to the appointed place: and, although the day had not dawned, I believe we had, exclusive of the candidates, full 2,000 persons present. As soon as the necessary arrangements had been made the day began to dawn, and, certainly, a more beautiful scene could hardly present itself to the eye. The mountains appeared in awful grandeur, the ships reposing peacefully in the harbour, the sea beautifully smooth, and the coast, thronged with orderly spectators, produced a solemn, yet delightful frame of mind, which I would desire ever to feel, and in which all present seemed to participate. Not only did we all feel that we were attending to an ordinance of God, but nothing, that I know of, occurred to produce a smile in the most thoughtless spectator. Every thing was "done decently and in order." After the administration of this ordinance, which oc-

cupied me just forty-five minutes,* we proceeded to the chapel, where we held our morning prayer-meeting, at which I gave an address to the newly baptised persons, on the privileges of communion with a Christian church. At our usual morning service I preached to the people from Acts xxvii. 23,—“Whose I am, and whom I serve.” We were excessively crowded, yet the greatest attention was manifested to the word. In the afternoon, at the Lord's table, I received the persons previously baptized; and our Lord and Master, I doubt not, was present. We all felt the great obligations under which his love had laid us. In a peculiar manner I felt the mercy of God towards me, in sparing my life, sustaining me under the painful dispensations of his providence through which I have passed, and raising me up again to labour successfully in his vineyard; and to make me know as a matter of experience, what I have long believed as a truth, “They that sow in tears shall reap in joy.”

At Oracabassa my prospects are very pleasing: I have just opened a day and a Sunday-school. We are in great want of books, &c., for them.

I have been supplying Bagnal's Vale whenever I could steal a Sabbath from the other stations. At present I preach in a trash-house, on a sugar estate; but hope soon to establish a school, and to see a chapel in progress.

Through mercy my health continues good, although I find travelling in the scorching sun, rain, and the evening dews, as I am frequently obliged to do, tries me very much, and obliges me, after such labours, to keep myself very quiet for some days.

CONTRIBUTION FROM RUSSIA

TO THE
BAPTIST MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

In the list of contributions published in the Missionary (Eng.) Herald for February, we notice £9. 9. 5. from a Christian community in southern Russia. It was forwarded to the treasurer by Mr. C. C. Tauchnitz, of Leipzig, who writes, under date of Dec. 7, 1839, as follows:

You are aware that German Mennonites have formed several colonies in the south of Russia. The largest of them, near the river Molotschna and the sea of Azof, now con-

* So that twelve persons could baptize three thousand candidates, “decently and in order,” in *One hour and thirty-eight minutes!*—EDITOR.