

A large item in the income of the mission in Trinidad is the amount given by the government of Trinidad for schools under the supervision of our missionaries, and by the Estate-owners, for the support of missionaries, and by the native converts, the whole amount thus given in Trinidad last year, amounting to more than was sent by our Church to that field. For the last two or three years, about half the expenses of that mission has been contributed on the field.

Taking both sections of the Church it will be seen from the statements given in another column that while the giving for Foreign Missions has been larger than ever before it is not yet quite large enough to meet the claims upon it. The demand and success of the work in the mission field both call for a heartier response on behalf of Foreign Missions.

In the Island of Trinidad alone we have about 60,000 immigrants from India. An India in miniature, with this exception, that in Trinidad the bonds of Casta which hinder to such an extent the work in India, are broken. And the people are much more accessible. Many of these people remain in Trinidad and will constitute a permanent church there, many of them when the term of years for which they came to labor has expired, go back to India, and taking with them the gospel which they have learned, are practically missionaries among the millions of that land. This one element, the influence of returning emigrants upon the future of India, while not a very conspicuous agency, is one of the things that will play no small part in leavening that mighty Empire with freedom, knowledge, and Christianity.

The report of the Mission Council in Central India as given in this issue brings vividly before the church that the harvest is plenteous and the laborers few. But one missionary for every million and a half of people! Five missionaries among eight or ten millions! What are these among so many? Surely the church should give herself no rest until she has set in every considerable town or city a light in their darkness.

The Presbyterian Church in the United States, North, has for some years had a heavy burden of debt in its Foreign

Mission Fund. They are now rejoicing over the removal of that incubus. This has been accomplished in two ways. First by an earnest effort in the way of larger giving, and, secondly, by a way that is not so much a matter for congratulation but which, though done with regret, seemed necessary, that is, lessening their expenditure. The diminishing of the grants to the different fields was keenly felt, both by the workers abroad and by the Church at home, but it seemed imperative, and now that Church starts another year of mission work with a clean sheet.

This same church has another cause for joy. One of its mission fields is in Siam, and both the King and Queen of Siam have recently shown great interest in both the school and hospital work, giving substantial aid and, what is of more importance in such a country, their hearty and cordial good will and wishes, fulfilling the prophecy that kings shall be nursing fathers and queens nursing mothers to the church. The missionaries in Siam are in great joy over the bright prospects of their work.

#### FRANCE IN THE NEW HEBRIDES.

The Free Church of Scotland monthly speaks of the French aggressions in the New Hebrides as follows:

"We learn from Sydney that the French continue to strengthen their position in Fate or Sandwich Island, and that the Mariste priests have renewed their aggression. The Government agent of a labor schooner reports:—

"When in Port Sandwich on 9th December the French officers told me they were about to erect forts for the protection of the port—one at the north head, one at the end of the harbor facing the entrance, and one near the company's store; also, that the number of soldiers was to be increased to two hundred and twenty, and new barracks were to be built. Whilst in Uruparapara, on the 8th January, the natives reported that a French warship had been there and had pegged off land near the entrance to the harbor, on both sides of the heads, on which it was said they intended to erect small batteries. Whilst at Port Olroy, Sauto, the French despatch vessel *Gnichen* came to an anchorage and landed a white missionary priest. I boarded her, and