

Demerara.

REV. JOHN GIBSON'S REPORT.

FOR THE YEAR 1887-8.

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 Uitvlugt and DeWillems 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 Lincoln did the work of teacher and catechist. In October an additional teacher and two monitors were employed and the Catechist now assists in bringing out the children and gives religious instruction one hour per day. The daily average since the new teacher was engaged has been 102. A treat was given to the children on Christmas eve, several ladies kindly assisted in making 160 garments which were distributed among the most deserving. The whole grant of \$25. per month was paid to Abraham Lincoln until October. Since the 11th of October A. W. Estwick, teacher, has received at the rate of \$20.00 per month and the remaining \$5.00 have been paid to the monitors and catechist. The catechist will henceforth depend entirely upon the society. There has been the greatest difficulty in meeting former demands, the support of the catechist will be an additional expense for which no additional means are available. Our thanks are due to the Canadian Church for a donation of \$60.00 sent to assist in this object.

The Tuschen and Zeelugt school was

open until September 10th when in consequence of the destruction of the Tuschen House by fire the building was required for the Manager's residence. The total number on the roll was 162; 97 boys and 65 girls. The daily average was 62. Until the amalgamation of Tuschen and Zeelugt in April the grant was \$25.00 per month. Tuschen paid \$12.50 for the month of May, subsequently, the teacher was paid on the estate at the rate of \$25. per month. We sincerely hope that the proprietors to whom we are so deeply indebted will soon be able to re-establish this school.

The Hague school has been continued through the kindness of the manager who has paid the teachers salary. Jankee is still in charge as teacher. He has given much satisfaction in teaching, and made marked progress in his own knowledge of Scripture. The total number on the roll was 107; 73 boys and 34 girls. The daily average was 44. A treat was given to all the children in January, at the same time 42 boys and 28 girls received garments made by ladies on the Coast.

Sabbath services were conducted at Hague, Uitvlugt, and Tuschen. Latterly, an afternoon service has been held on different estates as opportunity afforded. The International Sunday School Lessons were taught as previously and the Golden Texts committed to memory. After the regular service at Uitvlugt, the adults remain for a Hindu Bible Class, 24 members of this class read fluently. There is an English Bible Class for the larger children. Twelve persons have been baptized, 8 adults and 4 children. The total number of baptisms since the beginning of the work in June 1885 is 53; 39 adults and 14 children. During the year 10 names have been added to the communion role. The present number of communicants is 37. Two marriages have been performed. The collections for all purposes amounted to \$56.07. Eleven estates and twelve hospitals have been visited, when portions of Scripture and religious works were read and short addresses given on the nature of God, Man, Sin, and Salvation. The patients in the hospitals are specially attentive, and fully assent to our words. Interesting discussions have been held with Hindu and Mohammedan teachers. A growing desire for Christian literature is one of the most gratifying features of our work. Since the arrival of our last stock of books from