

## TRINIDAD.

LETTER FROM MRS. MACRAE.

Mrs. Macrae writes as follows to the W. F. M. Society, of Baddeck, C. B. :

*Princes Town, Trinidad,  
March 1st, 1887.*

MY DEAR FRIENDS,—Notwithstanding the many calls made upon me this is my first attempt at writing to a "Society," and I am rather at a loss to know where to begin. But I can tell you something about Princes Town (our own field), and the work there is to do.

First as to the town itself:—It is called Princes Town on account of the visit of the Prince of Wales' sons some years ago, before that it was simply called "The Mission." It has not by any means the appearance of a Coolie village, nor is it one. Although there are Coolie houses in nearly every street, yet there are a number of very pretty houses with the grounds about them beautifully kept owned by Europeans. Princes Town has the name of being one of the prettiest places in the Island. It is immediately surrounded by large sugar plantations. Near these are Coolie villages, and they also live on the estates in barracks. Each estate employs from 300 to 400 Coolie laborers, and some large ones more than that; and when I tell you there are six or eight estates in this district, you will have some idea of the number of people placed under the care of one missionary. The thought of having two or three thousand souls nominally under his care is to him sometimes an appalling one. But there is comfort in the thought that God does not expect impossibilities, and Mary was commended for having "done what she could."

There are seven schools in the district, one we started yesterday. We hope soon to have eight, as Mr. Macrae is very anxious to start another one, and is in town to-day trying to get assistance from the Government for that purpose.

The Princes Town school (just opposite our manse) is a fine large one with a daily average of about 70. It has been taught for the past nine years by Miss Blackadder, but soon after our arrival she was removed to Tacarigua in Mr. Morton's district to take Miss Sample's place. Jacob Corsbie, a Chinese young man, is now teaching the school. He is well edu-

cated and a sincere Christian, is doing very well in the school and also assists in the Sunday school. The other schools are in the outlying districts usually near or on an estate. A very important branch of the missionaries' work is to visit and look after these schools. To keep them all in working order and to keep the teachers (who are natives and naturally lazy) up to the mark is no light task.

They all come in on Saturday mornings, and Mr. Macrae gives them a scripture lesson and instructions in the different common school branches; both of which they very much need. But I must tell you about the school we opened yesterday. It is on an estate called "Cedar Hill," about five miles from here. Mr. McKenzie (the manager) and his wife were very kind and helpful. He hunted up some children himself yesterday morning, and has given orders to have them sent out of the barracks every morning.

The parents have a great many excuses and some are rather ridiculous. One woman said: "If I send my children to school it make 'em come bad; they learn English, then they will not respect their parents."

Rupandyal, the native teacher, said: "I have learned English and the Christian religion, and I still respect my parents." Which I thought was a very good way of answering her. Another woman said: "I will not send my children for they will have to be Christians and eat beef!"

Notwithstanding this we had eighteen, which we consider a very fair start indeed. The teacher has just been in, and said he had 20 this morning with a promise of more. He is one of the best young men, and is soon to get a nice little wife—a girl brought up by Miss Blackadder, who will be able to teach sewing in the school. Mr. McKenzie has offered them a nice little house near the school free of rent. So altogether we feel that the "Cedar Hill" School bids fair to be a success.

I think this is all I will say this time about our work. When you once get started it is not easy to find a good stopping place. We are both very well, and spend a part of each day studying the language. It will take some time and a great deal of patience to acquire it.

We have found the climate very pleasant so far, but this is the cool season. The foliage, fruit, and flowers, are beautiful,