

REV. K. J. GRANT'S WORK FOR 1892.

FROM HIS TWENTY-SECOND ANNUAL REPORT.

San F'do, Trinidad, Dec., 1892.

AT the beginning of the year the northern section of this district was assigned to Mr. Coffin. He was at all times ready to aid in the English work of the town also, but his presence was specially valuable in the closing of the year, when indisposition interfered not only with my ordinary work, but with the winding-up of the year's accounts. I am much indebted to him.

Mr. Ragbir left with his family for the United States in May, and negotiations are now in progress for his settlement in Grenada on his return, a few months hence.

Recently, at the request of the Rev. James Rae, of the Established Church of Scotland, and minister of the Presbyterian congregation of St. George's, Grenada, I visited his mission stations. At one I preached to 150 people, and 54 sat down at the Communion table. At a second, 70 were present; of these 22 were communicants. At a third, 50 were present, and at a fourth 25.

To secure Mr. Ragbir, the converts will pay £50 in the first year, with the full expectation of a gradual increase, and at the request of Mr. Rae I accompanied my report to the convener of the Colonial Committee with a request for aid to this prosperous work.

When speaking of outside work, I may state on behalf of my ordained assistant, Babu Lal Bihari, who is always reluctant to write, that he, under appointment of our Mission Council, visited the mission stations in St. Lucia in February, and on his return submitted to the council a highly satisfactory report.

The work in the southern section of my district devolved chiefly on Lal Bihari, and he carried it forward with constant application and vigor.

In former reports I spoke of this district as naturally divisible into eight sections, and each section to form an independent congregation under a native pastor. To this end we are constantly working. The Church in San Fernando, which embraces the Central station, has implemented its engagements in the matter of salary by paying seven hundred and twenty dollars.

As an indication of the disposition to assume responsibilities, I may mention that Ujagar-singh, the catechist at Oropouche, recently convened a meeting at that place. The out-stations of Rusillac and Fyzabad were well represented; and, after deliberating, they resolved to get better lamps and seats for the church in which they met, to purchase a bell for Rusillac, and to get additional seats for their meeting-house at Fyzabad—they themselves to meet all costs without encroaching on the Sabbath collections, and a committee was appointed to carry out these improvements. This is the most independent action yet taken by any of the country sections, and we

believe it is due in some measure to the spirit developed through the systematic training of the year closing. Unquestionably the growing efficiency of some of our helpers is marked.

Services are conducted at 22 regular stations every Lord's day, and at quite as many more smaller places. Hospitals are accessible on every day of the week to our agents, if they have time, to go to read or speak to the people, and every liberty is given them to go from door to door on the estates in carrying on evangelistic work.

Sabbath school work receives much attention. Our largest school at the central church numbers about 200, with 24 teachers, principally East Indians. We import Sunday School Helps at a cost of about \$80 a year, which are sent out to all the country schools, and through these a uniform course of instruction is secured to the whole district. The Sunday school collections met not only the cost of these Helps, but provided a Christmas treat for hundreds of children on the Mon Repos Savannah, and enabled us to remit £5 to the B. & F. Bible Society. During five months' absence of Mr. T. Geddes Grant, secretary and treasurer, the work was carefully attended to by Mr. A. Sammy.

In point of interest, probably Union Hall Sunday school comes out next to San Fernando. Miss Kirkpatrick superintends and directs. She is assisted by two or three who accompany her. At the close of the school adults meet for worship. The service is always conducted by a catechist, and for the full attendance at both services we recognize our indebtedness to a young gentleman on the estate, who shows his interest by coming in as a hearer. The estate feels the happy influence of his presence.

The Christian Endeavor, started by Mrs. Geddes Grant, is doing excellent work. In her absence Miss Kirkpatrick, who always co-operates, sustained the meetings most efficiently. I would not on any account dispense with this agency, which is doing so much good.

School work has been conducted in 17 schools. Twelve of these were assisted by Government, but two having fallen below the legal requirements, were closed in April. The total attendance at these schools during the year was 1,248, the average 541.

The excessive rainfall of the year seriously interfered with school work.

Miss Kirkpatrick, who entered on her work here at the beginning of the year, has shown herself a model missionary teacher.

In January, at a new site on Picton estate, Picton and Wellington schools of our mission, and an Anglican and R. C. school at Diamond, were merged into one Government school. Mr. Cumming, an early and faithful friend of our mission, placed Picton school-house at our service, and at a cost of £75 we had it removed, renewed and enlarged, and this outlay is gradually