

giving you some information as to how the good work progresses in this corner of the Master's vineyard, but have hitherto been kept from doing so, from the consciousness that I had nothing very interesting to communicate. We have much reason to feel grateful for the excellent health, which both Mrs. Lambert and I have enjoyed since coming here. With the exception of a very slight attack of fever, which I had a fortnight ago, and which confined me to the house for three days, both of us have enjoyed uninterrupted health. We have reason to feel grateful also for the fact, that while cholera has been, and is still making sad havoc among the inhabitants of some of the other islands, we have hitherto been exempted from it. I have heard it stated that some of our medical men are of opinion that the fact of Trinidad lying out of the hurricane range, renders it less probable that it will visit our shores. May the good Lord hide us under the shadow of his wings, until these calamities be overpast. In the end of June we had a day of humiliation, on account of cholera. The attendance on that day was the largest we had since coming to Arouca. We had a collection for the sufferers in Barbadoes, and raised 15 dollars, a very creditable sum, considering the circumstances of our people. Our audiences on Sabbath, up to the commencement of the rainy season, continued pretty much the same as when I first wrote; now they are smaller, and we have usually from 50 to 70 in the forenoon, and from 100 to 130 in the evening. To many, such an attendance may seem very small, and yet to those who are intimately acquainted with the state of matters here, I have no doubt it would seem encouraging.

Your missionaries in this island labour amid greater discouragements, and have much greater obstacles to contend with than their brethren in Jamaica. Popery holds in bondage more than one-half of the population, and exerts a blighting influence indirectly upon those who make no profession of religion at all. Though I believe there are comparatively few in this neighbourhood of those who adhere to the Romish Church that know anything of its doctrines, yet to the negro, naturally fond of show, its forms and ceremonies are much more attractive than our simpler form of worship. Scarcely a week passes but we have something to remind us that we are living in the midst of a popish population. On days of special religious services we have a flag hoisted over the gate of their chapel—an extra ringing of bells—and invariably a plentiful firing of guns, though what connection this can have with special religious services, it is difficult to perceive. On the evenings of such days, sounds of music and dancing are invariably heard in some of the negroes' houses—even Trinity Sunday was not an exception to this statement. When we think for a moment of how popery adapts itself to the inclinations of the depraved human heart, it is not to be wondered at, that among an ignorant population such as this, it should find many admiring followers. On first coming here we used to have many of the Romanists, especially on the Sabbath evenings, but the priests hearing of this, warned the people from the altar not to come, and threatened to give no absolution—no visit in sickness—and no funeral to those who did attend our meetings. Any who do attend now do it more secretly; still there are a few who attend our evening school very regularly. Our efforts to get the children of Romanists to our Sabbath school, or Wednesday class, are met with the excuse, that the Abbé would quarrel with them. There are many families living in the immediate neighbourhood of this class, who are as ignorant as any in the heart of Africa, and who are much less accessible. They were christened in the French church—that's all they know or care about the matter; and they seem deeply impressed with the idea that, it would be something fearfully wicked to leave the church in which they were christened. Knowing that the negroes generally are said to be fond of money, I sometimes wonder how so many of the people here cling to the Romish church. Eight, ten, or twelve dollars is not an unusual sum for the services of a priest at a funeral of a comparatively poor person. And what are