

INDIAN WORK.

(The Committee regrets that no official letters have been received from the French, Indian, or Chinese work, for this issue. A friend has kindly furnished the following from a letter from Miss Spence).

PORT ESSINGTON, May 27th, 1892.

Dr. and Mrs. Boulton reached here a few days after my arrival. In the meantime I had busied myself visiting the sick, dealing out simple medicines, washing their sores, making poultices, etc. I would have had some difficulty had it not been for Miss Tranter (teacher) who understands the language and who rendered me valuable assistance till the Doctor arrived. We have a nice little church in this place and the services are well attended. We have on Sunday, at 7 a.m., prayer meeting; at 11 a.m., preaching; at 2.30 p.m., preaching and Sunday School, and at 6.30 p.m., preaching. Monday evening, class meeting; Tuesday evening, preaching; Wednesday evening, Band of Workers' meeting; Friday evening, prayer meeting; Saturday evening, choir practice. So you see our time is full. I like the Indians very well. Some of them take an active part in the prayer and class meetings; before one is done speaking or praying another begins. I think they would do credit to some of our eastern services. But where the light of the gospel has not penetrated, they are living in a deplorable state. We find several families living in one small room, and oh! the filth and degradation, scarcely a place but has some one sick, and perhaps several sick in the same house, and here they practise their heathen rites. They will rattle an immense rattle-box to scare away the evil spirits, but if they see us coming they will hide it. Sometimes we see their rattle-box and they appear quite confused. There is a little boy in the hospital who may not recover. They have been practising the rattle-box business over him all winter. I hope for the sake of our work here that this boy may get better. . . . I hope the members of the Women's Missionary Society will pray for Dr. Boulton's work on the Pacific Coast, as they have in the past. I do not think there is a people on the face of the earth who need the united efforts of God's people more than the poor Indians.