

hammadans, and I believe they felt themselves in the grasp of the truth. Had they seized it as firmly as it seemed to seize them they would not have hesitated as they did, when urged to act up to it. It was 2½ o'clock P. M. when I reached Iere, and Thomas was only waiting my arrival to ring the bell for English service. That over there was time to eat a morsel of bread before the Coolie service at 4½ o'clock.

After the Coolie service there was some conversation, asking and answering questions, and several applications for books. When these had been attended to and dismissed, the sun had set. Six miles and a half on saddle brought me to San Fernando to dinner at 7½ o'clock, P. M.

GENERAL REMARKS.

The next day I found that Mr. Grant who left home when I did, did not return to breakfast till one o'clock. It is thus our Sabbaths are occupied, it is thus that in rooms and under galleries and trees as well as in churches we seek to preach the Gospel. Often it is to small groups, but I prefer a small interested audience to a crowd of curious listeners.

As comparatively few of the Coolies read, and of those who do scarcely any can with any propriety be called educated, it might seem that any questions they might ask would be easily answered. It is not so. They are wonderfully acute and metaphysical and considering their lack of special training one is often astonished at their intellectual dexterity and prowess. In dealing with intelligent Mohammedans the missionary requires to be thoroughly prepared to meet their arguments against the genuineness and authority of the Scriptures, and particularly of the New Testament, at every point. This is necessary to hold one's ground. Much more is necessary when the authority of the Koran is to be assailed. In dealing with Hindoos the ground is to some extent changed, for they do not take offence at the doctrine of a divine incarnation, and so they often listen to the Gospel without offering a single objection. When however they meet one in controversy they exhibit much readiness and a metaphysical acuteness beyond even that of the Germans.

PRAYER TO THE SUN.

Tuesday (March 19th) I spent in Couva, visiting Soodeen's school, and holding two services in hospitals. At the close of one of the services one man referring to what I had just been saying, asked "Why then does not the ulcer on my foot get better, for I have prayed constantly from day to day." I asked, "to what have you prayed? to the Sun? He answered "yes." I then showed

him the sin and folly of such conduct, when he smote on his breast, saying "alas, alas, woe is me!"

A STUMBLING BLOCK.

Yesterday, Sunday March 24th, Thomas told me that a young man had bought a copy of a tract called Dharma Tula—religion weighed. In the afternoon I called on him to ask how he liked it. He expressed himself highly pleased with it; but asked with evident incredulity if that was a correct account of our religion. I answered, certainly. "But," said he, "no one among either the Salihs or Creoles live up to it." My answer was, that is not the fault of the religion but of the people. You must judge of the religion by the revelation of it in God's Word, not of the wicked lives of those who have no more of it than the name. "But," he said, "the book speaks against the use of strong drink and all Christians use it." I said, "no, not all, for I do not." He answered, "certainly your honor does not, but your honor stands alone." Strong drink is the reproach of Christians even in the eyes of the heathen.

POWER FROM ON HIGH WANTED.

Yesterday after the Coolie service at Iere I asked a leading man who was present if he believed what had just been read and explained, namely, that Jesus Christ was constituted our great high priest by the oath of God, and that he was the only way of access to God. He answered, "that word is not man's word but God's, and I must believe it." I replied, "you hear it with the ear and believe it with the understanding, but why do you not embrace it with all your soul and become the disciple of Christ." He answered, "when God moves my heart to do so, I will." Here then is a half-taught heathen—and there are a number such—recognizing the necessity of a divine persuasion. Let friends at home cry earnestly that the Holy Spirit may move their hearts to embrace the truth.

A TREASURE.

Two weeks ago we received a box of books direct from Calcutta by a Coolie ship. They were ordered some 9 months ago through Dr. Duff. You can scarcely imagine with what anxiety we waited for these books, and every week Coolies were asking for them. We rejoiced over the box as over great treasures, while Bibles complete and in parts, and excellent tracts and catechisms were drawn forth to the light.

Yours, very sincerely,

JOHN MORTON.