

Monthly Letter Leaflet

WOMAN'S FOREIGN MISSIONARY SOCIETY
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA
(WESTERN SECTION)

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FOREIGN LETTERS

FROM MRS. J. K. WRIGHT.

COUVA, TRINIDAD, August 2, 1886.

Excuse my not having written before. Mr. Wright told you when he wrote that we had no servants.

You might wonder at this; but it is not at all an unusual thing for cooks, nurses, etc., here, when they have finished one month's work and got the wages, to feel that they are entitled to take a time for rest and pleasure; so they go off at perhaps a moment's notice, and leave us in the lurch.

The problem of servants is a difficult one in this island. The coolies, both men and women, prefer field labour.

The Creoles live so loosely that if the young men labour, the girls know that they have no need.

You sometimes hear a good deal about the trials of missionaries' wives in the mission field; this is a real trial to anyone who strives to hold up the hands of her companion by attending well to household arrangements. As to other labours and trials, letting alone those which are incident to dwelling in exile, afar from home and friends in a trying climate, I have seen enough to convince me that many of the wives of home missionaries might with advantage change places with those in the foreign field.

I know that there is a tendency sometimes to feed a craving that there appears to be in the minds of some at home, for details of outside labour on the part of missionaries' wives which are of necessity limited. The missionary's wife may help her husband by sympathy, and even counsel sometimes, but she cannot, from the nature of things,