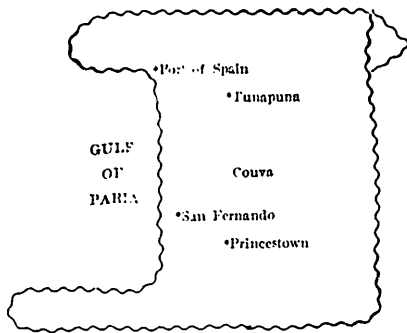


OUR TRINIDAD MISSION.



OUTLINE OF TRINIDAD.

Question.—What is Trinidad?

Answer.—One of the West India Islands in sight of the N. E. Coast of S. America.

Q. How long is it?

A. About fifty miles N. and S. by thirty miles E. and W.

Q. What are its physical features?

A. Partly flat with three ranges of rugged hills running across it East and West.

Q. What are its chief products?

A. Sugar and Cocoa, with spices and tropical fruits.

Q. What is the population?

A. About 225,000.

Q. What is their nationality?

A. About 80,000, or more than one third, are immigrants from India, while the other two thirds are chiefly colored, with a few from different European countries.

Q. What are the chief towns?

A. Port of Spain, the capital, with about 40,000 people, and San Fernando, with over 8,000.

Q. Who discovered Trinidad?

A. Columbus, in 1496.

Q. What name did he give to it?

A. La Trinita, in honor of the Holy Trinity, hence the name Trinidad.

Q. Why did he give it this name?

A. From its three ranges of hills, whose tops are first seen far off at sea.

Q. How long was it held by the Spaniards?

A. For about 300 years, until taken by the British in 1797.

Q. When was it finally ceded to Britain?

A. In 1802, at the treaty of Amiens.

Q. How did the planters work their Estates in those days.

A. With slave labor.

Q. When was slavery abolished in the British West Indies?

A. In 1838.

Q. What did the planters then do?

A. They began to import laborers from India.

Q. Why did they not hire the negroes?

A. They were too indolent to work steadily unless compelled.

Q. When did the first laborers come from India?

A. About the year 1840.

Q. Under what conditions do these people come from India?

A. They get a free passage to Trinidad if they will work on estates there for five years at a certain rate of wages.

Q. What can they do at the end of these five years?

A. They may return to India, or serve for another term, or do anything they choose.

Q. What do they get if they work for another five years?

A. They get a free passage back to India, or a piece of land in Trinidad, if they wish to remain.

Q. How many remain?

A. Probably about 2000 arrive each year from India, and about half of them remain, so that with the children growing up they are fast increasing.

Q. To whom is our mission in Trinidad?

A. To these people from India.

Q. Who began this mission?

A. Rev. John Morton.

Q. How was he led to it?

A. In 1865, thirty years ago, when he was a young minister in Bridgewater, N. S., his health failed and he went a trip in a sailing vessel to the West Indies, and saw these heathen people with none to help them.

Q. How long since they had begun coming?