

capitalists. On the abolition of slavery it was found necessary to obtain labourers from abroad, which accounts for the large coolie population for whose benefit the mission is carried on. These coolies are natives of India and China, but chiefly of India, who have been imported under Government inspection, as indentured labourers. They are bound to remain five years in the colony, and are then at liberty to return to their native country, or to make engagements for themselves as free labourers. If they remain five years longer they are entitled to a free passage to India, or a grant of ten acres of land. An average of about ten per cent. do return, but the number of permanent settlers is rapidly increasing. The great majority of the coolies speak Hindustani, and it is in that language that the Gospel is made known to them.

Our Trinidad Mission originated in a visit to that island by the Rev. John Morton for health some eighteen years ago, when he noticed that, while the Government took good care of the bodies of those coolies, seeing to it that they were supplied with wholesome food and medical attendance, no provision appeared to be made either by Church or State for their spiritual wants. On returning to Nova Scotia, Mr. Morton laid the facts before his Synod and asked them to institute a mission to the coolies. Full enquiry having been made, the Synod unanimously determined to take up the work, and sent Mr. Morton as their first missionary in the autumn of 1867. In 1870 he was followed by Rev. Kenneth J. Grant, and in 1873 by Rev. T. M. Christie. A fourth missionary, Rev. J. W. Macleod, was appointed in 1881. Miss Blackadder joined the mission as a teacher in 1876, and Miss Semple in the end of 1882. In 1882 Mr. Lal Behari, a converted Hindoo, was ordained to the office of the ministry, and is now actively engaged in the work.

The principal stations are four in number,—Tunapuna, San Fernando, Couva, and Princetown. (1) The first-named is situated inland about eight miles from Port of Spain—the capital of the island, which has a mixed population of about 35,000. The mission here was opened by Mr. Morton only a few years ago. It embraces out-stations at Caroni, Curepe and Arouca, shewn upon the map. Stated Sabbath services, weekly prayer meetings, and classes for teachers are regularly held at all these stations. It is in this district that Miss Semple teaches. There are five or six day schools, all well equipped, with some 200 scholars on the roll, and already 18 communicants. (2) Mr. Grant has his headquarters at San Fernando, a town of some five or six thousand inhabitants. His reports indicate steady and rapid progress. He is ably assisted by Mr. Lal Behari, above referred to, and also by Mr. J. W. Corsbie, a very clever native

teacher, as well as by Mr. George Sadaphal, a native catechist. Besides these there are eight teachers who meet weekly at the manse on Friday evenings, give in their reports, receive instructions, and on Saturdays disperse again, so that on the Lord's day eleven stations are supplied with religious ordinances in this district; the number of communicants is 113. (3) Couva was a few months vacant by the retirement of Mr. Christie on account of impaired health. This station is situated halfway between Port of Spain and San Fernando, and includes Esperanza, Exchange Village, Waterloo, Calcutta Village, shewn on the map. Besides these, a number of other places have been visited more or less regularly, and with good results. The number of communicants in good standing is 35, and the number of scholars attending the schools upwards of 250. It is to this station that the Rev. John Knox Wright, late of London East, Ont., has been appointed. (4) Princetown, it will be noticed, is connected by rail with San Fernando, from which it is distant eight miles. It was so named in honour of the two sons of the Prince of Wales who visited this place some years ago. This is Mr. McLeod's station, in the centre of the Savanna Grande district. Regular services are conducted at St. Julian, Jordan Hill, Pipero and Princetown, besides other places that are not named on the map. Prayer meetings on Wednesday evenings and fellowship meetings on Friday evenings, for mutual improvement, are well attended. Miss Blackadder superintends the Princetown school, on the roll of which are the names of upwards of 100 scholars. Connected with this station there are 49 communicants and eight schools, with an average attendance of 227. Altogether there are at the present time 36 schools in operation in connection with these four stations, with a daily average attendance of 1,059. The whole number of communicants is 215. The total expenditure in support of the mission for the year 1882 was about \$18,000, of which nearly \$8,000 was sent from Canada. The proprietors of estates contributed upwards of \$5,000, the Government gave \$2,500 to assist the schools, the balance being made up of donations, and about \$1600 contributed by the native churches.

It is easy to see from the above imperfect sketch that our Trinidad Mission is a very important and interesting one. It has been carried on quietly, but prudently, for about sixteen years, and has been crowned with a measure of success for which we should be devoutly thankful. So successful have our missionaries been, indeed, others have taken knowledge of them in a very practical way. A short time ago, the Presbytery of Demarara, which is composed chiefly of missionaries from the Church of Scotland, sent a communi-