

THE FIRST NATIVE PREACHER IN OUR FOREIGN MIS- SION FIELD.

A private letter from Trinidad contains the following:—

"We had a meeting of Presbytery this week. It was an important meeting in this respect that we licensed the first native preacher among the Coolies. Lal Behari, one of Mr. Grant's catechists and a very excellent young man, is now a regularly licensed preacher of the Gospel. In three months we meet for his ordination. He is in the meantime to be appointed as assistant to Mr. Grant."

The licensure of Lal Behari marks an epoch in the foreign mission history of our church. It is about thirty-five years since we broke ground in the New Hebrides. From the first, native agency has been successfully employed, native teachers but recently converted from the lowest heathenism and barbarism, and knowing but the first principles of christianity often exhibiting a self denying zeal and devotion truly praiseworthy, and proving most efficient helpers in the work, yet in the South Seas the converts are, in a measure, but grown up children in intellect and judgement. In Trinidad we have a different people. Though not christianized, they are in a measure civilized. They have keen minds, and some of them are educated, and when christianized are fitted to take and fill their places in any department of life and work.

Lal Behari is one of the early converts of this mission. He has for a number of years been Mr. Grant's right hand man in the San Fernando district. He together with Joseph Annajee has received a systematic and thorough course of christian instruction. The Presbytery prescribed their studies and held examinations from time to time on the given subjects. Their course of study has been at the same time one of practical work. The theoretical and the practical have been well combined and Lal Behari has now been licensed as a regular preacher

of the gospel. With his zeal, and his knowledge, both of native character, of the Hindoo language and religion, and also of christianity, and his long training in evangelistic work in company with Mr. Grant, he will no doubt prove a most efficient minister to his fellow countrymen and a valuable addition to our missionary band in Trinidad.

Joseph Annajee who for long gave good service to Mr. Morton at Princetown and who has been so helpful to Mr. McLeod since his settlement there, who is we may say a fellow student of Lal Behari will probably be licensed so soon as Presbytery can make it convenient.

Let this new departure, this new fruit of our labor among the heathen, stimulate us to more vigorous and earnest effort in prosecuting our Foreign mission work.

THE TRINIDAD MISSION.

BY REV. A. FALCONER.—No. 3.

In his first annual report, Mr. Morton writes as follows:—"We have spoken 'this word' unto them. Some have opposed it—some made light of it; some have heard it gladly, and said, 'It is good.' A few have cursed us, some blessed us and many flattered us." But our mind is to go on cheerfully leaving the result to Him who hath said, 'Son of man speak My words to them—whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear.'" Is not this the experience through which missionaries in general, must at times pass?

Scarcely had Mr. Morton been fairly settled down to his work in Trinidad, when we find him appealing for another labourer. He felt, as he looked over the field, that it was all waiting occupancy, and that it was impossible for him to operate upon it successfully, single handed. What was one missionary among 30,000 people! The Church had set its hand to the work of converting the Coolies, and must go forward. As the result of Mr. Morton's appeal, seconded by the advocacy of the cause in person, by the Rev. Mr. Lambert of San Fernando, before the Board, steps were taken to secure a second missionary.

At this stage we find the church taking a new departure, in the way of securing