

This is the time of year for renewing subscriptions for papers. The first duty of every Presbyterian family is to take their Church Record. After that comes the choice of periodicals—almost innumerable, monthly, weekly, daily, and among them the MARITIME PRESBYTERIAN, small, 'tis true, and very cheap but always full of something that will do good. Try it for the next year.

TRINIDAD.

LETTER FROM REV. K. J. GRANT.

SAN FERNANDO, Oct. 6th, 1886.

Dear Mr. Scott :—

In a recent issue of the MARITIME I observed this statement "In Boston one thousand barbers have asked the Board of Police to put the Sunday law in force against the whole fraternity." It may be of interest to some of your readers to know the Indian and Chinese Shop-Keepers in this town who by law were allowed to open till 9 a. m. voluntarily agreed amongst themselves in December last to close for three months from January 1st. After two months trial they were so well satisfied with the new arrangements, that a meeting was held early in March and our Borough Council was petitioned in the matter and a law has been passed making it illegal to open for ordinary business at any hour on the Sabbath. Great credit is due to our Indian and Chinese friends for the heartiness which they showed in this matter. Our town is now as quiet as any town or village in Canada on the Lord's day. When we first came here shops were open the day throughout, and for seven days every week. We agitated, and as a consequence a forgotten statute which required all places of business, to be closed from and after nine a. m. was revived. Recent action is a step in advance for which we are thankful. Remembering too the vigorous opposition to the movement 15 years ago and the ready and general concurrence now, we infer not only that the law of the Sabbath but that Christian truth is gaining ground.

At present we are having special services in some of our country districts and with special encouragement. At Oropouche where where we admitted 21 persons three weeks ago, many more are inquiring. Doubtless the truth is gaining power over these people.

Miss Copeland's school is really very successful, we recently added to the teaching staff.

For a month we have been anxiously looking for Mr. McRae. The field is wide, the labourers are few. May the Lord give, and very soon, a bountiful harvest.

Yours very truly,
K. J. GRANT.

THE NEW HEBRIDES.—The following resolution was passed by Synod and directed to be sent forwarded to the British Government.

"That we the members of the Presbyterian Synod of the Maritime Provinces have heard with surprise and alarm of the increasing aggressions of the French Government by establishing garrisons on several of the Islands and this they have done in open violation of an agreement with the British Government by which the neutrality of these islands was guaranteed; that this action of the French Government, judging from past experience of their proceedings elsewhere, will ultimately lead to the expulsion of our missionaries and throw these islands back into a state little better than their original barbarism, and destroy the results of half a century of expense and loss of life, making the future prospect hopeless. In view of these circumstances this Synod would express its strong indignation at the action of the French and would appeal for protection to her Majesty's government, and call upon our people for earnest prayer that our missions may be preserved from this impending danger."

AUGMENTATION IN THE EAST.—The amount asked for by the Maritime Synod last year for the Augmentation Fund was \$10,000, for this year \$9,000, one tenth less.

Last year the whole amount to be raised was allocated by Synod among the Presbyteries, and by Presbyteries among the congregations. Of the 175 congregations that were thus asked for a definite amount, 119 gave all they were asked for, a few of them even more; 37 gave amounts smaller than they were asked for, while only 19 failed to give, and of these nearly one half were vacant, so that there were only about ten congregations within the bounds of the Synod who had not a definite share in this work. 6 of these 19 did nothing for it the previous year.

One point that should be carefully kept in mind by those who are asked to give to this Fund, is that the congregations receiving aid have to give liberally in the way of self support before any help is given them. The interests of the fund are in this way carefully guarded, and those who give to it can rest assured that what they give, will, as far as is possible, be expended wisely and well.