

men would be no burthen to the Sabbath schools of Halifax, or St. John, of Pictou, or New Glasgow. Either of these groups could assume one without greatly diminishing their ordinary gifts. Truro Congregation and Bible Class could take one, or if this were rather heavy, Truro and Onslow in harmony could bear the burthen. The young people in the congregations of Stewiacke Valley could by union assume one. We believe the same could be done by the Sabbath schools of Richibucto and Chatham, and again by those of St. John's and Harbour Grace, in Newfoundland, and other groups could be easily selected, such as Maitland, Noel and Kennetcook,—Wind sor, St. Croix and Newport,—Shubenacadie, Gny's River and Elmsdale, or the four congregations of Lunenburg.

We have named the Sabbath Schools, because we wish the young people to have the honour, and as we, in all sincerity, *anticipate many applications*, we pledge in advance the privilege to those who first make request for it. Those who *hesitate too long* in coming to a decision, will likely miss the present, and have to wait for some future opportunity.

Letters were read from Rev. Mr. Christie of the Trinidad Mission which were ordered to be published as well as the Reports just read, and letters from Mr. Morton, and from Rev. Messrs. Annand, McKenzie and Murray of the New Hebrides Mission.

The Secretary was directed to acknowledge receipt of all these letters, and to assure the Brethren of the sympathy affection, and prayers of members of the Board. Rev. D. B. Blair then engaged in special prayer for our missionaries, their work, their converts, and their helpers, with thanks to God for goodness and mercy during the year past.

TRINIDAD MISSION.

Letter from Rev. Mr. Christie.

Couva, February 24, 1874.

Dear Mr. McGregor,—Since writing you by last mail we have settled in the locality to which we were appointed. It is too soon yet for me to say much about the work, and this time I will merely attempt to give some general idea of the surroundings.

Trinidad is about the size of P. E. Island, but differs in shape, being almost square—about 50 miles from N. to S., and 35 or 40 from E. to W. The west side of the island is the most important portion at present, as it is the part in which there is most cultivation. This side faces the Gulf of Paria, which separates it from the continent of South America. At the N. W. corner of the Bay is situated Port of Spain, the capi-

tal of the Island, a city about as large as Halifax; at the other end of the Bay, about 35 miles distant, is the town of San Fernando, where Messrs. Grant and Morton reside. It is a town of about 6000 inhabitants. The district of Couva to which we have been appointed, is about one-third of the way from San Fernando to Port of Spain. There is daily connection between the different places by means of a steamer plying up and down the coast. During the dry season there is a very good road, which however, in the rainy season, is almost impassible, on account of the mud. The soil here is generally clayey, and stones are very scarce, the gravel which has been put on some parts of the roads, having to be brought at great expense from San Fernando.

Couva is considered the most fertile district in the Island, and the estates here generally yield a good profit. Sugar is the principal crop, but back a few miles on the Montserrat Hills there are large plantations of the Cacao plant, from which chocolate is made. There are eight Estates here connected with the mission. There is one school on Esperanza taught by Annajee, a converted Brahman, for the children from that estate, and from Phoenix Park and Providence, on Exchange for Exchange and Camden, and we hope soon to start one on Sevilla, for Sevilla, Brechin Castle and Rivulet Estates. There was a small school on Sevilla up till the beginning of the New Year, but it has been thought best to give it up for the present, as we have no suitable room; but the manager has promised to put up a school-house in the course of two or three months. Couva is generally very flat and in some parts is considered very unhealthy. This especially is the case on the Estates lying near the shore, which is fringed with mangrove swamps. From these there arises a great deal of malarial poison, which renders the nearest Estates very unhealthy. Places, however, a short distance from the shore, say a mile or two, are seldom troubled with malaria, except when the wind blows from the West. Happily the prevailing wind during eight months of the year is the Trade wind, which blows from the East, and generally very strongly. During the remaining four months which include the greater part of the rainy season, the winds are variable, and consequently no part is as healthy. The place in which we are now living, Exchange Village, is usually free from fever during the greater part of the year.

For the present we have rented a small new cedar house, but although it is a house of cedar it only contains two rooms, a closet and a little room 6x8, which is used as a kitchen. We hope before six months to settle in our permanent home. Mr. Burnley the proprietor of Esperanza Es-