

Our New Hebrides Mission.

EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM REV. DR. STEEL,
OF SYDNEY, 28TH FEBRUARY, 1878.

HERE has been a fearful hurricane in the islands. Rev. J. W. McKenzie writes me that it has caused great destruction of property. The Mission premises in some places have been greatly damaged. There is a native famine, as the season had been very dry, and yams were poor. The destruction of bananas and other fruits has followed, by the hurricane. Mr. Robertson, who is with us in Sydney, is in fear about his premises. He and Mrs. Robertson and children are profiting by their change to this colony for a time.

We have not heard from the other Missionaries, and fear that they may have suffered from the hurricane. One of Her Majesty's gun-schooners sailed yesterday for the New Hebrides. I duly received the minutes of the General Assembly, as well as the RECORDS. I rejoice to see the progress of the work of the Lord among you.

ROBERT STEEL.

Trinidad.

THE following brief but comprehensive statement was printed for circulation in Trinidad.—

TO THE PATRONS AND FRIENDS OF THE MISSION TO INDIAN IMMIGRANTS, TRINIDAD.

At the beginning of the Second decade of our Mission, we beg respectfully to submit the following Report.

Ten years ago the first Missionary began to acquire the language, and opened a School in Iere Village. Seven years ago the second Missionary began his work in San Fernando, and four years ago a third settled in Couva.

At the outset, stern persistent opposition was offered to our work, both among the young and old. Now prejudices have softened, and opposition greatly broken down, even among those who have not accepted the truth.

For 3½ years not a Convert was baptized, and during the next few years comparatively few; but the number has been increasing from year to year, and during the year just closed 70 adults and 25 children have been baptized. These have been gathered out of every caste. Here it may be right to remark that many more, both adults and children, might have been baptized but for

the care which we feel it necessary to exercise in the matter of Christian instruction and in taking heed that those seeking baptism have no hopes for worldly gain for themselves or their children.

Five of our Converts now devote all their time as Catechists to preaching to the adults, and a number are engaged in our Schools, successfully teaching the young. Most of them either read or are learning to read the Bible in their own language. They attend Church regularly, abstain from strong drink, opium, and Indian hemp, and endeavour, by their industry, to support themselves and families. During the year their Church offerings amounted to \$600 which, with a bequest of \$150, make their total contributions \$750. Twenty-four couples have been married during the year. It is not pretended that all these converts from heathenism have proved sincere, nor can this be asserted of Christians in any land. But there has been no special discouragement whatever on this account.

In 1877 we imported \$200 worth of Bibles and other books from India, a large part of which has already been sold.

SCHOOLS.

Fifteen Schools have been in operation: namely, San Fernando, Marabella, Concord (north), Picton and Wellington, Canaan, La Fortuné, Jordan Hill, Mount Stewart, The Mission, Fairfield, Esparanza, Sevilla, Exchange, Perseverance, and Spring, with 694 on the Roll and an average daily attendance of 441. English is taught in all these Schools, except one—as English must be the future language of those who remain in Trinidad; but means are taken to teach them to read also in their mother tongue, so that a fair proportion of them can read Hindustani freely.

We have to acknowledge, with thankfulness, the interest taken in our work by the proprietors of Estates, and by the planters and public generally.

The following are Annual contributions to the work of this Mission—

Hon. A. P. Marryat	£35 0 6
John Cumming, Esq.	155 0 0
Wm. Burnley, Esq.	150 0 0
G. Turnbull, Esq.	150 0 0
John Spiers, Esq.	50 16 8
John Laumont, Esq.	75 0 0
Louis Preat, Esq.	20 0 0
M. L. nonon, Esq.	25 0 0
Messrs Charles Tennant & Sons	60 0 0
C. B. Pasley, Esq., M.D.	25 0 0

£765 16 8

Of this £300 is contributed for the support of a Missionary in Couva, and the balance for Schools.

Though not on the list of Annual contributors, we have to make special mention of