

GENERAL REPORT.

OF THE PRESBYTERIAN MISSIONARY SOCIETY
BRITISH GUIANA 1888.

We cannot say that the financial cloud which has for so long overshadowed our Mission has been removed. At the present moment, the Council is in no better a position financially than it was twelve months ago. We cannot see our way before us to defray the expenses, either of the General Mission, or of the West Coast Mission, and this condition of affairs is causing the Council very grave anxiety.

We dare not contract any more than we have done the number of our agencies or the area of their operation without doing deadly injury to the interest of our church, reflecting discredit on its name, and retarding to a certain extent the onward progress of the Kingdom of Christ. And that be far from us.

How much is it to be wished and hoped for that the present prevailing apathy regarding missions in general and our own mission in particular, may pass away, to be succeeded by a warmth and interest in both, hitherto unknown.

During the past year, the Council have to report no signal instances of missionary success. They can chronicle nothing beyond the ordinary routine of missionary work. It is the day of small things with us, as yet, but let no man despise that day. The day of great things maybe at hand.

The principal event to break the even tenour of the operations of the Society was the arrival in the colony of the Rev. K. J. Grant, a missionary in connection with the Canadian Presbyterian Church, stationed at San Fernando, Trinidad. Mr. Grant was commissioned by the Board of Foreign Missions of the above named Church to visit Demerara, and to inquire into the working of our Indian Mission here, to ascertain the cause of the Mission Council's financial embarrassment, and to do his best to forward the work generally. Mr. Grant came among us burning with zeal in his Master's cause, and endeavoured to stir up both Church and Council to a sense of their responsibility. In pursuance of this object, he preached in both the town Churches, and addressed two Sunday Schools.

But to ascertain the condition of the West Coast Mission was one of his objects, and so he hastened to the West Coast, to

examine the Schools at Tuschen, Uitvlugt and Argue, the three centres of work at present carried on by Rev. J. Gibson.

On the 24th September, at a meeting of Council of the Presbyterian Missionary Society, Mr. Grant was present, when the following resolution was unanimously passed. "That the West Coast Mission shall be carried on in its integrity as heretofore; and the Council pledge themselves to do their utmost, to relieve their Missionary's mind of all distracting uncertainties and to enlarge, if possible the sphere covered by the Mission." The Council encouraged the formation of Ladies' Missionary Societies; and Mr. Grant and Mr. Slater were requested to visit Berbice and to plead the cause of our Missions there. This visit was duly accomplished, meetings were held in three out of four of the parish churches and a Ladies Missionary Society was formed, which has met with a large amount of success, and been the means of raising a considerable sum in aid of our Missions.

The Council met again on the 29th September 1887, at which meeting the Rev. K. J. Grant was again present. At this meeting the arrears due to the Rev. J. Gibson were paid over to him.

It is to be hoped that, the results of the visit of so distinguished a Missionary as Mr. Grant may not be evanescent but that permanent good to our Mission may flow therefrom.

WEST COAST MISSION.

1. We do not think that this Mission is receiving on the part of the Church, that attention and that support which it undoubtedly deserves. It is our only Mission to those East Indian Immigrants, on whom the prosperity of our Colony so much depends. When we call to mind that there are 80,000 of these poor dusky children of the East, living in our midst, and that our church maintains only one Missionary and one Catechist, we may well be humbled to the dust. The field of foreign Missionary enterprise is brought to our very door, and we are too given to sloth and indifference to our brother's welfare to bestir ourselves to minister to his spiritual wants.

Up to the time of Mr. Grant's visit to this Mission last year, there were three centres of work, *Tuschen*, *Uitvlugt* and *Hague*. But the night before Mr. Grant visited *Tuschen*, a fire entirely consumed