

Trinidad Mission.

LETTER FROM REV. KENNETH J. GRANT.

San Fernando Aug 7th 1888.

AT four yesterday morning, with a native helper Tulsi Maharaj, I left for Fyzabad, and having spent the day in visiting three stations, and baptizing three adults, we returned home at eight in the evening. An occurrence at one station on the day previous was reported to us that may be worth recording. Christian parents had made a marriage feast for their daughter who had been married in San Fernando a week ago. Invitations had gone forth to Christian neighbours, and when all things were ready, a member of the family went out to call those who had been bidden. In the interval a general understanding had been arrived at, that the invitation should be declined, because the family had recently attended a feast given by a heathen neighbour. Now these feasts are usually given in honour of some Deota or Devi, and those who attend them are supposed to do homage to the deota named. J. and his family solemnly declared that they had gone, not as worshippers, but as friends; that they eat the food, not because it might have been placed before an idol or some imaginary being, but because it was good and they liked it. Strong views however were held and presented in language yet stronger, by the neighbours, and no declaration of innocence would be accepted. What was to be done, the feast was ready, but there were no guests. The family then resolved and set out to call Christians from another station, who knew nothing of the dispute, and consequently, no conscience, however weak, had been defiled. The invitation was immediately accepted and before the shades of evening gathered, the house was filled with guests, and the counsel of strangers having prevailed, some of the neighbours joined them too, and on to the midnight hour, hymns were sung, the Scriptures read, prayers offered, the breach healed, and brethren parted in peace.

Homeward bound, we had an evening service at a prosperous station, Oropouche, now under the care of Joseph Annagee, who is doing a good work in that district. A candidate for Baptism awaited us. On several occasions, during the past four years he was almost persuaded, but he was hindered. Obstacles external and internal influenced him, but a month ago he appeared to triumph over the fear of man, his fetters were broken, his tongue loosed to speak for Christ and pray to him, and I need not say that it was with peculiar gladness of heart we welcomed him to our little Christian company. We have now added to our roll of baptisms 121 since the beginning of this year.

COUVA, TRINIDAD. — This is the station in which Rev. J. Knox Wright laboured successfully for four years, and from which he was obliged to retire on account of his wife's health. The Foreign Mission Committee have been advertizing for a successor to Mr. Wright in this important field for a length of time without, as yet, any response. Among the many young men who are said to have offered their services as missionaries to the heathen, is there not one willing to go to Couva? The foundation of a hopeful mission has already been well laid. It is an advantageous opening in many respects, and it should not remain much longer vacant. The idea seems to have got abroad that the climate of Couva is unhealthy. The Rev. Alexander Falconer of Pictou, in a recent letter to the *Halifax Witness*, states that after several years residence in Trinidad, he is prepared to say that Couva is "a fairly healthy district." That while it may be subjected to certain diseases common to, or more prevalent in all tropical climates, with ordinary precautions and the occasional change of climate to which our missionaries are entitled, "there is no reason why a man who enjoys good health at home, may not enjoy equally good health in Couva." It is to be hoped that the committee will not have to wait much longer for their man.

THE NEW HEBRIDES SYNOD.

The Synod met on the 28th May, in the School House, on the little isle of Tangoa, Santo, Mr. Annand's station. The Missionaries present were: Revs. W. Watt, Joseph Annand, R. M. Fraser, A. Morton and J. D. Landels. Mr. Morton was appointed Moderator. Intimation was received of the appointment and ordination of Rev. A. H. Macdonald as a missionary to the New Hebrides, by the Presbyterian church of Victoria. The Synod was asked by the Victoria church to select a sphere of labour for him. Mr. Macdonald was appointed to a station on one of the islands of the north east coast of Malekula, near Port Stanley, and a deputation was appointed to assist in his settlement. The course of the "Dayspring" for the ensuing year was determined. She will sail as usual from Sydney, on the 1st April. It seems probable that merchant steamers will call at several ports with some regularity during the year. It is therefore the opinion of the Synod that a missionary steamer to ply among the islands would be the most serviceable and economical way of meeting the requirements of the mission; the steamer to carry passengers and freight when practicable. Dr. Gunn was appointed to take the oversight of Aniwa, during the absence of Messrs. Paton and Watt,—should the Free Church F. M. Committee consent. The Free Church has made a grant of £400 sterling, to enable the Tasmanian church to send another missionary to Epi. The Synod