

Always Some One Below.

On the lowest round of the ladder
I firmly planted my feet,
And looked up at the dim, vast distance
That made my future so sweet.

I climbed till my vision grew weary,
I climbed till my brain was on fire;
I planted each footstep with wisdom—
Yet I never seemed to get higher.

For this round was glazed with indifference,
And that one was gilded with scorn,
And when I grasped firmly another
I found, under velvet, a thorn.

Till my brain grew weary of planning,
And my heart strength began to fail,
And the flush of the morning's excitement
Ere even commenced to pale.

But just as my hands were unclasping
Their hold on the last gained round,
When my hopes coming back from the future
Were sinking again to the ground,

One who had climbed near the summit
Reached backward a helping hand;
And refreshed, encouraged, and strengthened,
I took once again my stand.

And I wish—O I wish—that the climbers
Would never forget as they go,
That though weary may seem their climbing,
There is always some one below.
—Ella Higginson, in Sabbath Recorder.

Facts from Trinidad.

BY E. A. M'CURDY.

It occurred to me that probably enough of your readers may feel sufficient interest in "The Land of the Humming Bird," to secure from you a welcome for the latest available information respecting the origin and religious beliefs of the people who have made Trinidad their home. The census of the colony for 1891, has been published recently and it contains a few facts and figures, which, I think, claim the attention of Canadians and especially of those who take an interest in the Canadian Mission to the East Indians of this island.

The population of Trinidad two years ago was 200,028, of whom about one quarter reside in and near the capital, Port of Spain. During the past thirty years it has more than doubled, the increase since 1861 having been 115,600, thus showing that Trinidad has been one of the most prosperous of the West India Islands. Of the increase of 46,900 which has been effected within the past ten years, more than three-fourths has been the result of immigration, two-thirds of which consists of East Indian or coolie immigrants.

But little Trinidad is too ambitious to be satisfied with receiving her inhabitants from any one race, or from any limited number of nations. It may be doubted, indeed, whether any other country of the same size on the face of the earth has such a heterogeneous population as this little island. Originally settled by the Spaniards, who, towards the close of last century, introduced large numbers of French people from the neighbouring islands, it was taken one hundred years ago by the English, who, while slavery lasted, brought large numbers of negroes either direct from Africa, or from the other West India Islands, and since the abolition of slavery have imported East Indians to such an extent that they number nearly one-third of the whole of the people. Our population has been accurately described as "a motley aggregation of Africans, Asiatics, Europeans, and a few individuals of Indian or American blood together with their mixed descendants." H. I. Clarke, Esq., the Government statistician, after quoting the following description from a recent article in "The Theologue," Halifax, ethnologically, Trinidad may be viewed as a microcosm

having among its people representatives of almost every nation under Heaven," adds "Whatever may have been the writer's convictions in regard to the absolute accuracy of this pithy description, it is not likely that many of his readers believed it to be so accurate as to render even the qualifying "almost" hardly necessary. Yet such is really the case, for in the population of the colony the following countries are all more or less numerously represented; Europe, Asia, Africa, America, and Australia," and then proceeds to specify sixteen different countries of Europe, ten of Asia, eight of Africa, fourteen of North and South America, and two of the provinces of Australia, as having some who were born in those countries, living in Trinidad. A short time ago a friend fell in with seven men on the wharf near his place of business, and in a few moments found that these seven men represented five different nationalities. Among this strangely mixed population Great Britain would find 943 of the sons of her soil, and Canada ninety-five of hers.

The differences of religious creed and worship are scarcely less marked than those of nationality. One very striking feature of the situation is, that, while forty years ago the non-Christian portion of our population numbered only 4,545, and formed but 6.36 per cent of the whole people, it now numbers 64,374, and forms 32.19 per cent., or nearly one-third of the total population. This is accounted for by the large immigration of Hindoos, Mohammedans, and Buddhists from India and other Eastern countries; and the fact ought to be a most interesting one, especially to those of your readers who are members of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, since the chief part of the work of giving these people the Gospel has fallen to their missionaries, so that an intelligent observer of the situation might well feel disposed to ask, Who knows that, so far as Trinidad is concerned, she may not hence "Come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"

Of the Christian communities, the Roman Catholic Church, with her 73,590 adherents, stands first in point of numbers; the Church of England, with her 47,095, second; the Wesleyans, with their 6,326, third; the Baptists, with their 3,942 fourth; the Presbyterians, with their 3,363, fifth; and the Moravians, with their 851, sixth.

With respect to proportionate increase, if the census may be relied upon, the above mentioned order has to be pretty nearly reversed. In this respect the Baptists take the lead, with an increase during the past forty years (the last religious census having been taken in 1851) of 779.9 per cent; the Moravians follow with 268.4 per cent.; the Presbyterians come next with 230.7 per cent.; the Church of England next, with 189.9 per cent.; the Wesleyans next, with 152.2 per cent.; and the Roman Catholics last, 68.8 per cent. It is a rather curious fact that the three churches which are at the head of the list in proportionate increase, receive no aid from the public treasury; the Moravians, because they were not represented here in 1871, at the time when concurrent emolument was adopted as the policy of the Government; the Baptists and Presbyterians, because they refused to accept what was offered them; while the three at the foot of the list have received £10,000 per annum from the public funds.

As regards education, while there has been vast improvement within the last thirty years, the single fact that, of 40,000 children of school age who reside in the island, less than one half are in attendance at any sort of school, is sufficient to indicate that we are still far enough from having attained any worthy ideal. Progress along educational lines is painfully slow, though the Government spend large sums every year in addition to what is done by voluntary effort on behalf of private and assisted schools.

Port of Spain, June 28, 1893.