

do not value them. Perseverance, however, is sometimes crowned with success. In one of my schools, we had a clever lad enrolled, who scarcely put in an appearance in the month. The teacher could rarely see him. One day I arrested him; it was a real arrest. As I led him to the school-room, he made such fair promises that I thought I could entrust him to go alone the rest of the way, as I wished to speak to some other parties. No sooner did he find himself relieved than he shot like an arrow into the cane field. Pursuit was out of the question. I felt annoyed at the urehlin. However, next morning, ere all the stars had disappeared, I had driven two miles, and found little Gungua fast asleep on the floor in his dirty capra. The father was willing that he should go to school, but his mother vociferated violently. I led him to the school room; and, as the school opened a little after sunrise, I had not long to await the other children. All agreed that he should be punished, but I ruled otherwise, and adopted measures quite novel to poor Gungua. He was subdued. Since that day he has been most attentive, and none give more encouraging promise than this boy.

A few days afterwards, on a neighbouring Estate, two boys were absent; getting a hint of their whereabouts, I went in search, and found them, each doubled up like a ball, in a barrel. I mention these instances that your Board may understand that a very trying and discouraging part of our school-work, is in getting the children together.

Difficult as it is, in some cases, to secure the boys, it is almost impossible to get the little girls. In the schools under my care, I can point to only three girls who have persevered; and these can now read the English Scriptures pretty well. In July, Mrs. Grant tried to induce the little girls to come to our house, by promising them little dresses; and, as long as the needle-work lasted, the experiment appeared hopeful, and about ten little girls came regularly for two months, but when the dress material was exhausted, the children withdrew.

Farther, it is proper to remind your Board that the small pox affected all our schools, but San Fernando, very seriously. When this epidemic visited San Fernando, the children from neighbouring Estates were generally withdrawn; and, after it spread over the town, it spread over many of the Estates. At least two thirds of our school children took the disease. Comparatively few Coolies died. The low death rate may probably be attributed to their simple diet—ablutions and anointings. Yet, the time occupied in services and sacrifices to avert the disease, in thanksgivings for recovery, and in offerings to the

spirit of the departed, in case of death, particularly with Musselmans, which lasted for forty days, all combined in bringing our school to a very low state indeed, as the figures in the annexed schedule indicate. Notwithstanding, the progress in our several schools is marked; and the public estimate of our annual examination may be gathered from a recent issue of the *Port of Spain Chronicle*, which I forward.

RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION.

Religious instruction is given daily in Estate schools; but we have not the same liberty in the San Fernando school, as it is aided by Government. During the first 6 months of the year, the children were called together half an hour before meeting for secular instruction. The Inspector of Schools feared that it might raise a much vexed question, and advised us to discontinue. We accepted his advice the more readily, as our new church was about ready; and since that time, the children are brought together every Sabbath morning at 8 o'clock, and every Tuesday evening. Instruction is given usually every night of the week, save Sabbath, by Mr. Morton or myself, in the church, to young men.

The Sabbath School taught by the wives of your Missionaries, aided by young men of the Scotch Church, has succeeded very well. Seventy pupils have been enrolled—about one-half are Asiatics; fourteen possess the Bible, and read very well; and their conduct is quite equal to what is found in well-conducted schools at home.

Immediately after Sabbath School, with one of our young men, I drove to an Estate, sometimes holding a short service on two Estates, and then returned at 2 o'clock, the hour for service in the church. This service has been in charge of Mr. Morton, aided sometimes by myself; at other times by one or two of our young men. For the first few Sabbaths after opening the church, there was a large attendance; when the novelty passed, many ceased coming. We had reason to suspect the existence of a secret, yet active opposition that kept back many who were inclined to attend. For several Sabbaths, there is a manifest reaction. The number has increased, and the average is now from 50 to 60. The attention is always well sustained, and the interest taken in the service, and the inquiries after it, are quite encouraging.

Sometimes Chinese attend; and occasionally I take them to a private room, and, aided by an intelligent Chinese lad as Interpreter, whom we have engaged as a Monitor in our school for the next year, I endeavour to impart to them some knowledge of the way of Salvation. We hope soon to do more for the Chinese.