

the 11th Dec. The average attendance was 18—on the roll 33. At first we taught every day in the week, but after July we gave a holiday on Saturday. The hours were from 8½ to 10 o'clock, and from 12 to 2. Only two knew their letters when they came, now three are reading in John's gospel. Another very promising boy would have been reading with them, but his mother died in October, and he had to stay at home to take care of a sick brother. His father promises to send him back when his brother gets well. Ten are reading in words of from three to four letters. Of the remainder some came lately, others have attended somewhat irregularly from the first. In writing they have used nothing but slates and pencils. Eight can make from memory all the letters, small and large, and write a fair round hand. During the last three months a young Hindu, about 23 years of age, has worked his task every morning and come to school in the afternoon. He was able to read words of two letters when he came. He is now reading in John, and writes very well. Religious instruction was communicated in the week day school as well as in the Coolie Sunday school which met at 8 o'clock. The attendance on Sunday was always smaller than during the week. This was caused partly by the visiting which is kept up among the coolies on Sunday, and partly because those at a distance would not come for one lesson, which was all we could give them. Others who were near however, often came to the Creole Sunday school and to public worship. Henry Martyn, a Coolie, had assisted in the school for four months. Since the first of August I have carried it on without assistance, and latterly during the illness of Mrs. Morton, I adopted largely the monitorial system. A good deal of our time and strength have been devoted to the school. But we felt from the first that something should as once be attempted on behalf of the children with a view to a general effort for their education. We found it pleasant work, and have been encouraged by the progress made by them. In behaviour they are very much improved. They have been taught truths which, if held fast and followed, will make them both wiser and better than their fathers. The progress made by them in speaking English has been very marked, and will of itself be a lifelong blessing to them. And I have learned almost as much Hindustani from them as from any other source.

THE LANGUAGE

offers considerable difficulty. There are few good pundits here, and the expense of employing one is far beyond a missionary's means. I have, therefore, made pundits of

the children and of every good natured coolie I conversed with. This is the more easily done as most of the coolies understand some English. One difficulty arises from the fact that the Hindustani is a composite language. The Urdu dialect, spoken by the Mohammedans, contains a large number of Arabic and Persian roots and phrases, while the Hindi, spoken by the Hindus, has very few, being almost pure Indian. The difficulty here is not so much that the Hindus do not understand as that they dislike the Urdu. The foreign words seem to excite their prejudice; and it is almost impossible to avoid the use of such words, especially in reading to them. On this account the best books which we obtained at considerable expense, were found to be useful only to a limited extent. We have, therefore, written to Britain in the hope of obtaining the Bible in Hindi, printed in the Roman character accommodated. In this character I can read the language freely, and this character I hope will supersede both the Persi-Arabic and the Nagari. It is easily learned by one who can read English, and it introduces only to good books, while the others introduce to the puerilities of the Koran and the disgusting songs of Hinduism. Besides reading the language, I am able to converse about common things in it, and tell a perishing sinner the way of eternal life. The pronunciation I have pretty well mastered.

The natives of Madras are not very numerous, and I do not think of learning their languages. The only thing I can do for them is to speak to them in English, which they seem to learn quickly, to try to get their children into school, and to those who can read, give the Scriptures in their own tongue. I distributed twelve portions of the Scriptures to Madras coolies during the year.

THE ADULTS

we found accessible, both men and women. Without entering into particulars which I have supplied in letters, I need only sum up. For some months I met the coolies in their houses, or by the road side, and held meetings among them as I could get them together. Toward the end of the year I held meetings regularly called for worship. On one estate we met in a very comfortable hospital, which was unused, and the attendance was about sixty. At other estates I held some pleasant meetings, but with smaller audiences. Three meetings have been lately held in the church here, with moderate success. On the last two Sabbaths of the year I held meetings at Plaisance estate, eleven miles from this while enjoying a change of air in that neighbourhood.

We have thus proclaimed the glad tid-