

# THE Children's Presbyterian.

## THE TRINIDAD MISSION.

Letter from Mrs. Morton.

Tunapuna, Trinidad B. W. I.  
March 22nd, 1885.

My Dear Friends:—

Time slips away so rapidly in these latitudes that without reference to my note-book I could hardly believe it to be nearly two months since I wrote you.

The Easter holidays are just over; they brought some interruption to our routine work, and yet we were none the less busy. The Trinidad Presbytery met at Tunapuna on Good Friday. Twelve ministers and two elders were present. They assembled at nine o'clock; some went home at four, while others proceeded to Arouca to assist Rev. Mr. Dickson with his missionary meeting which is held annually on the evening of Good Friday. All the travelling was done by train—not at all apostolic, is it?

Miss Blackadder was with us for a week; she is looking well and bright and cheerful as usual. Miss Semple is comfortably settled in her own house at Tacarigua; our largest school is thus well provided. Miss Hilton has taken Miss Semple's place in the Tunapuna School and lives with us, Bankha, or John Dharm, well known to some of you is in charge at Arouca; his wife Suggeeah teaches the sewing, rather imperfectly, no doubt, but the discipline of teaching is of advantage to herself.

I have some encouragement in my S. S. Class. It does not seem much to be able to say after more than three years labor in this class that I have six women sufficiently interested to attend pretty regularly, with enough Scripture knowledge to answer a number of questions, and brave enough to speak out what they do know; and yet this is all the fruit I can see; there are a number of others who come and go and no doubt receive some benefit; the regular attendants are in the habit of making appreciative remarks upon the lesson, which

may sometimes strike home to a sister's heart more than the words of the foreigner.

Miss Semple has a large Sabbath School at Tacarigua; she is greatly in want of Hindustani teachers; I long to assist her, but my day is occupied from half past ten till six, with only an interval of an hour at Arouca and Tacarigua.

I go to the houses and coax the women to come into the service, not always very successfully either; I grieve to say that they sometimes hide themselves about the time I may be expected to appear, or plead pains and aches that have not a shadow of existence. There is one very near the school-house who has never attended but two services; she is not opposed to us but only indifferent, and has a family of nice children some of whom attend our school. Mr. Morton and myself exhausted all our efforts on her; we then let her alone for a long time, but about three months ago I determined to ask her every Sabbath to come to church. She must be tired of hearing me say in a cheerful tone, "Well Mongerie are you coming to-day?" Her stock of excuses is getting low and worn out. If she tells me in a deprecating way that the children have gone, I say "Tho' the children eat, your hunger will not be satisfied." If she says she has to cook I tell her "Perhaps the Lord may deprive you of food if you make it an excuse for not worshipping Him." Last Sabbath a ray of hope dawned upon me; she said she had fully made up her mind to come but her feet and her chest pained her, and she would not be persuaded that they might not feel any worse sitting in church than under her own cow-shed. I have stated this that you may understand some of our difficulties.

One of the estates I visited in Bonair; one day as I was sitting on a box under a shed talking to some women there, a tall Hindu with very little clothing came toward me, offering me a handful of mixed spices and gesticulating in a manner that led me to suppose he must be dumb;