

LETTER FROM REV. K. J. GRANT.

SAN FERNANDO, Trinidad,

Nov. 11th, 1892.

To the Editor of the RECORD :—

YOUR circular asking for Mission news is just to hand, and as I returned to-day from visiting the Indian Mission stations in Grenada I will give you a few facts.

Grenada is nearly 100 miles north of Trinidad; formerly the staple production was sugar; for 20 years the sugar cane has been gradually superseded by cocoa, nutmegs, and fruits of various kinds. The present cultivation does not require so many laborers. There are about 2,000 East Indians in the island, settled chiefly in four or five districts.

The Rev. James Muir, Minister of the Established Church in St. George's, was desirous of doing something for the Indian population and applied to me for teachers about eight years ago. A start was at once made and all concerned felt much encouraged.

Four years ago Mr. Muir's successor, the Rev. Mr. Rae, took up with youthful zeal, not only the work of the English-speaking congregation, but also the superintendence and extension of the Indian work. More teachers were called for and now a vigorous and most encouraging work, teaching and evangelizing, is in progress there at independent stations.

As I had but nine days for the visit, and knowing the ground, and the fatigue attending long journeys in the saddle, I took one of our students of the first class, Ujagarsingh, who rendered me excellent service.

(1.) *Tuileries*—the most distant and the least important, was visited by my assistant alone.

The school and Sabbath service are held in the basement of a dilapidated building where donkeys, goats, and other quadrupeds claim a part of the accommodation allotted to the school. As at home, an inviting room is a drawing power, and not until a better building is provided can we hope for success, and yet 20 children and as many adults under instruction afford encouragement.

(2.) *Belair*—is an important station. Here the Mission has a suitable house for instruction and worship, and also a small dwelling for the Catechist.

St. Andrew's Church, Pictou, N.S., has given the work here a great push. Scores in the district are living proofs of the good done by the generous gifts of Pictou friends.

At 2 p.m. Thursday, 50 left their fields to hear the word of God.

Then followed an enquiry into a certain charge against the catechist for being found, as alleged, in the plaintiff's house at a late hour at night for unlawful purposes. Some ten witnesses appeared to substantiate the charge, yet in view of all

the circumstances, the improbabilities, and the conflict in testimony in essential features, I concluded that that the whole thing was a pure fabrication, and I afterwards found that others who were intimately acquainted with the whole case, were of the same opinion.

Our Lord sent the preachers forth two and two, and this case suggested certain reasons to justify the wisdom of the course adopted.

The Catechist was evidently seized outside and gagged by the plaintiff, and then dragged into the house and then a cry was raised which brought the neighbors together who could only testify to the fact that they saw the catechist in the plaintiff's house, and in his custody.

(3.) *Samaritan*—is the first station in time and in importance. The vine that is now filling the land was here first planted.

We had service on Saturday, and again on Sabbath, from 9 to 12 noon. 150 were present. 54 adults sat reverently at the Communion table. When in the Colony before the arrival of the present pastor, the deed of land, as a gift, was executed. Mr. Rae, when he came, put up the present spacious building. Our audience filled the room. The sustained attention given, with the reverent mien, recalled an Earltown Communion that I attended in 1855, the memories of which are distinctly before me.

In Trinidad I have seen much to cheer, but the whole bearing of my audience on the 20th was something to be treasured up. An elder of fine physique and mature years moved round with great gravity, seating communicants orderly to prevent any disturbance later.

After the fifty children, not all East Indians, met in Sabbath school. I spent a half hour with them. Their answers to questions proposed were good, and the singing most creditable. The teacher here is a West Indian and was in my service in Trinidad. The school is a valuable aid to the Mission.

(4.) *Gourgave*—ten miles from Samaritan, was next visited, and at 4 p.m. I dispensed the Sacrament there. Here the mixed audience numbered 70, about 40 East Indians of whom 22 received the communion.

It is quite impossible for Mr. Rae, whose special work is in St. George's, to give the Mission the necessary attention. He wishes an ordained native agent to superintend the whole work, and his mind and some of his people, also are directed to Mr. Chas. Ragbir of our Mission, now in the United States. To secure his service, the people will give £50 sterling and Mr. Rae will apply to the Colonial Committee of his own church for £100, the Missionary to provide his own house and horse.

I sincerely trust that Mr. Rae may not be disappointed in his appeal to his church, and I would bespeak for him the continued support of old friends, that school work may be carried on with sustained efficiency. Like St. Lucia Mission, the Grenada Mission finds its parent in Trinidad. All praise to the ministers who have so nobly taken up the work, and yet without our agents their efforts would have been unavailing.

Yours faithfully, K. J. GRANT.