

I beg to congratulate you on the auspicious Union, that, in the good providence of God, has been consummated among the Presbyterian Churches of the Dominion; and I sincerely hope that one of the first fruits of that Union, will be a revived interest in the New Hebrides Mission. Erromanga is an island especially yours. As near as can be ascertained the population is about 2500. Of these above 500 have placed themselves under Christian instruction; and never since I know Erromanga, were the prospects so encouraging as at present, and were other two good missionaries settled on the island immediately, the whole population might soon be professedly Christian. If 1000 are as many as a parish minister is supposed to be able to attend to in Scotland, surely 2500 are sufficient for three missionaries on Erromanga, every one of whom, in order to live, not to say work, must be "Jack of all trades" without, and his wife must be "Maid of all work within. While he must build his own house, and superintend and direct the building of his own Church: acquire a new language; be a minister, a teacher, a doctor, a translator of the Bible, and twenty other things besides. In addition to this he is expected to write letters and reports, that will arouse a sleeping church, and sustain among the most indifferent an unflinching interest in the work of his mission. Send us none of your transcendental men, who are afraid of hiding their light under a bushel, or tying up their talents in a napkin, by coming out here; although should you by mistake send us out a man who should rival John Williams, John Hunt, John Patterson, or David Livingstone, there is no fear but the world will in due time recognize his merits, as certainly as if he sat in the chair of Dr. McCosh, in Princeton, or stood in the pulpit of Dr. Talmage in New York, or were *primarius* professor of Theology to the now united Presbyterian Church in the Dominion."

#### TRINIDAD MISSION.

*Letter from Rev. Thomas Christie.*

DEAR MR. MCGREGOR,

I would like to write an interesting letter for the readers of the RECORD, and perhaps an account of almost anything out here would interest them, but most of the novelty has worn off. During the past few weeks we have had a prevalence of westerly winds which brings the miasma from the Mangrove swamps, so that there has been a great deal of sickness in this quarter. We ourselves have not suffered much, but our teachers have suffered considerably.

I had four sick ones on my hands yesterday. Three are better to-day, but I am afraid we will lose one, and he one of our best. For the past three weeks he has been confined to his bed. The doctor has pronounced his disease Pneumonia; and says he cannot recover. His name is Madhoo Sooden. He and his wife were the last two I baptized. I married them on January 15th, and baptized them on the 16th. He had been under instruction for several months previous and had always impressed me with his serious interest. His progress in acquiring the English languages was so rapid that, when, in December, I was in need of a teacher for Exchange school, I gave him the position, and he has proved to be a very successful teacher. He kept the school up well, brought the children together on Sabbath for Sabbath School, and went regularly to the Hospital to read to the sick. When he was first taken sick I brought him up to my house, and he has been living in a room in my yard, so that I am able to give him more attention than I would if he were on the estate. The situation of many of the free coolies here when they get sick is very pitiful. Whilst they are on the estate, everything in the shape of medicine and attendance has to be provided for them, but when they leave the estate, they, in many cases, have no one to help them in a difficulty. As they are gathered together from different parts of India, few of them have any relations in the Island. This man seems very grateful for anything we do for him, and all our teachers are very kind to him. He is only a young christian and he feels this a very hard trial to his faith. He was much interested in the story of the poor man who cried "Lord I believe, help thou my unbelief," and often he makes this prayer his own. Whilst we are very sorry to think of losing him, we try to leave it all in the hands of our All-wise Master, and our prayer is that the death of this one may be the means of leading the others to look more closely into their own hearts; that their piety may be deepened and their usefulness increased by death and eternity being brought so close to them.

The other teachers seem to be working faithfully and often under many discouragements. Madhoo Sooden was in the first instance brought to consider the subject of christianity by conversation with Juraman, the teacher in the Esperanza school, and the conviction grows upon me that much of our most fruitful work will be done by our teachers working among the people privately.

The services on Sabbath are usually well