

present but about fifteen of them were from Madras and would not understand much that was said. A number of creoles had come in and so a hymn was sung and prayer offered by Mr. L. in English. After a few introductory words addressed to the Coolies in their own language, we engaged in prayer; and I took for my subject John iii. 16. They behaved very well—kneeling at prayer with their hands brought together and listening attentively to all that was said. Of course I must have spoken some very incorrect Hindustani, but the Coolies all do that, and they said they understood me. Preaching to them is very different from preaching to people at home. Speaking of the “only begotten Son,” you would probably never dream of telling your audience that God had no daughters, no brothers and sisters—but one only son. And yet this is quite necessary here. I have been asked how many daughters God had. One day two Coolies, in my hearing, began to contend as to whether God had three brothers or four. They were about to appeal to me, when one of our scholars, in a tone that indicated great contempt for their ignorance, assured them they were both wrong—that God had neither brothers nor sisters.

Before concluding I told them where I came from and what was my object here. They seemed pleased, and Mr. Newton, the Estate Attorney, asked them if they would like me to come back again. There was a cordial assent to this, and so I promised to come as often as I could. There were a number of Mohammedans present and three babujees, only one of whom could read. And although I allowed them at the end to ask some questions, and they did so, no opposition was offered to what I had said.

#### COOLIE CUSTOMS.

A Coolie, who died some months ago, had \$224 in the Savings' Bank. When ill I induced him to make his will, because his friends were very much afraid they could not get it. Not content even then, they carried him to Port of Spain to draw it himself. But he was so very ill they would not pay it at the Treasury lest the other coolies should forcibly put him out of the way. He was carried to the hospital and died there. The friends and executor went to Port of Spain but could not make any progress in their business. On their return as I could not go myself I gave them a letter to Rev. Geo. Brodie who kindly assisted them and they have now received the money and ornaments of the deceased and a title to his real estate. They seem very grateful to both of us, for they think that but for us they would not have got the money. When a man dies the Hindus make a feast, or dinner. Many of them

believe that the blessings of the glad hearts at the dinner in some way do the dead man good. I talked to the friends and others on this subject. The aged Hindu above referred to, was one of the legates and a leading man among them; and I am quite confident that he and others believe that when a man dies his soul goes at once to heaven or hell and is either beyond the reach or the need of help. But they said it was a social custom and they would be considered mean if they did not do so; and that the dinner must be according to their means. The preparations were extensive. They had two barrels of flour, several four gallon tins of ghee (clarified butter) a bag of rice and other things in proportion. The baking was done on Sunday and on my afternoon rounds I looked in on them in the midst of the bustle. Between thirty and forty men were according to a division of labour, manipulating the dough until in the shape of very thin cakes it was thrown into a pot or rather boiler of boiling ghee and in a few minutes came out ready for use. On Monday morning the materials for Sahib's dinner were sent. They consisted of flour, butter, vegetables, sweet oil and a quantity of rice, with a present of five shillings sterling for Agnes our little girl. The coolies' dinner took place on Monday at 12 o'clock. The guests were numbered by hundreds. But it was all over and everything quiet by four o'clock in the afternoon. Their feasts at night are generally very noisy and kept up late.

#### CRIME.

At the last sitting of the Supreme Court two coolies were found guilty of murder and suffered the extreme penalty of the law on the 30th ult. The persons murdered were in both cases women, and jealousy the cause. The court sits quarterly and there is almost always one or more coolies condemned and executed.

We were glad to receive the *Records* by last mail. Through the kindness of James G. Allan, Esq., of Locke's Island, we had received the *Witness* containing an account of the meeting of Synod, a week or two before the *Records* came to hand. We would now rejoice very very much to hear that another missionary had responded to the call of the church and would shortly join us.

#### TEACHERS.

*Port of Spain Oct. 6th.*—To-day we had a pleasant meeting of Presbytery in this place. In reference to the Board sending a European teacher here, the Presbytery would not advise it. If married the expense would be nearly as great as that of an additional missionary; and if living at Iere Village there would arise the difficulty of house accommodation. It appeared to the