

French have established a military post at Fila Harbor, on the side of Efate where our own Missionary, Rev. J. W. McKenzie is laboring.

DEMARARA.

Rev. J. Morton, of Trinidad, when on a visit home a few years ago brought before the Assembly the great need of mission work among the Coolies of Demarara. The result was that Rev. J. Gibson was appointed, his salary to be paid, half by the Presbyterian Missionary Society of Demarara, and half by the Western Section of our own Church, the field as it was so near Trinidad, to be under the charge of the Eastern Division of the Foreign Mission Committee.

Some months since a letter was received from Rev. George Stephen, Secretary of the Pres. Miss. Society of Demarara, containing the following resolution:

"Owing to the agricultural and commercial depression in this colony, the Presbyterian Missionary Society is unable for the present to pay the stipulated amount, \$960, of the Rev. J. Gibson's salary, and asks whether the Board of Foreign Missions is disposed for a time to increase their annual grant by £100 (\$480.)"

Before any action was taken, however, the following letter was received, which is very cheering inasmuch as it shows at once the progress of the work and the liberality which that progress has called forth.

GEORGETOWN, BRITISH GULANA,
June 22nd, 1886.

Since I communicated to you the dark prospects of the Mission to the Coolies, looked at from a financial point of view, the Council of the Presbyterian Missionary Society has been gratified by receiving from the authorities of two Estates embraced in the field of operation of the Society, the sum of \$480 towards Mr. Gibson's salary. The Council confidently reckoned on receiving substantial support from nine large estates, but these two are the only estates which have as yet contributed. Were the circumstances of the Colony to improve, as we expect they will do, no difficulty would be experienced in fulfilling our part of the contract. And it is hoped that the example set by the estates above mentioned will soon be followed by others.

The Council is therefore disposed to look more hopefully on the affairs of the Mission.

It will be gratifying to Board of Foreign Missions to be informed that it was in a great measure owing to the tangible results already effected by the Mission that the above contribution was given.

Very faithfully,
GEORGE, STEPHEN, Sec. P. M. S.

Extracts of Letter from Mr. Gibson.

ST. LUKE'S MANSE,
WEST COAST DEMARARA,
Sept. 1st, 1886.

Dear Mr. Scott:

Our work is going on much in the same way that the Annual Report would naturally lead you to expect. The only serious obstacle in carrying on the Mission is the continual dullness in the sugar market. There is every prospect of a large crop and a few shillings of a rise in price would turn the current in our favor. The outlook (of the market) is, however, dark and discouraging, but we have met with liberality that could scarcely have been expected at present.

In my Annual Report I stated that a suitable building had been set aside as a school for two adjoining estates, and a grant of \$25.00 (twenty-five dollars) per month made for a teacher. My catechist undertook the management of the school and in this way the Presbyterian Missionary Society of the West Coast was entirely relieved of all responsibility outside the payment of their half of my own salary. The School was opened in the middle of February, with a daily attendance of 45; 26 boys and 19 girls. On the first of June the Hon. Wm. Russell, the attorney of the estate on which the school was opened, wrote me expressing his great satisfaction with the results of the school, and his wish to have similar schools in all the estates.

My troubles and my blessings never come singly. Mrs. Stephenson, the owner of Philadelphia estate, the extreme limit of the parish to the West, had already promised an entertainment in behalf of the mission. The 10th of June was fixed upon for this meeting and the programme of music and recitations entirely provided by Mrs. Stephenson. The proceeds, after paying all expenses, amounted to \$80.00. This money I kept for the benefit of my schools, and will tell you immediately how