

## Trinidad.

## DEATH OF REV. J. W. MACLEOD.

REV. JOHN W. MACLEOD, for five years missionary at Princetown, Trinidad, passed away to his rest April 1st, 1886. It has occurred to me that the following might be of interest and profit to your readers:—Mr. Macleod, on coming to Trinidad, set himself to understand clearly the lines on which the work had been conducted, and the reason for whatever appeared otherwise than he had expected. Enquiries were freely made and advice freely asked. In course of time this ceased, and later, we who knew him from the first came, in turn, to look to him for advice in matters of doubt and delicacy, and to modify our course in deference to his calm judgment. I think there is a lesson in this for young missionaries and ministers. The spirit that is willing to learn will soon be allowed to teach. Mr. Macleod was extremely careful about all money matters. He was so from the first, and the uncertainty of his life seemed to increase this carefulness. His new church was finished in October, 1884. Without waiting till the end of the year, he asked me to audit all the accounts.

Speaking of *Books*, he said:—"I read, when young, Bunyan and Doddridge and Boston, and I have no doubt God's Spirit blessed them to me; but they did not altogether meet my case. It was Dr. Hodge's 'Way of Life' that first made the way of salvation clear to my mind." At another time, he said that 'The Philosophy of the Plan of Salvation' had been of great service to him. This little book was also of great service to myself. Of devotional works, he said:—"A good many of them do me no good. I just throw them aside for my Greek Testament. One seems to get so near the root of the matter there, it is refreshing. But I like the works of Dr. Matheson." And when he could no longer use his Greek Testament or any heavy book, he kept a copy of "My Aspirations" within reach.

Once, in the stillness of the midnight hour, he said to me:—"I was nine years preparing for the work of the ministry, and only five years in the service. But I am not sorry. And very happy years they were, as I look back. Sometimes I seemed

to be doing very little or nothing at all. But I see now that a good work was going on, and I see clearly that this Hindi work has done great good in all the districts—great good at which we may well be glad." At another time, he asked me what I thought fitted to satisfy the soul as to the certainty of salvation. I replied: "The conviction that when nothing else could, faith in the Lord Jesus brought me peace and changed the whole bent of my nature." "Very good," he said, "but I was not thinking of that. I was looking to the promise of God to give eternal life to the believer. Is not that sure? The evening before he died we received letters from Rev. E. Scott, as Secretary to the Foreign Mission Committee, giving us the cheering prospect of a new missionary for Princetown. During the night I thought he was dozing when he said, "O, I am so glad at that good news." "In the letter?" I said. "Yes, in Mr. Scott's letter, about a missionary for Princetown, and I hope he will be greatly blessed. Very pleasant has our intercourse been, all these five years, and you will miss me; but I hope you and he will grow to like each other."

A few hours before he died, I read to him the 14th chapter of St. John, commenting on some of the verses. After speaking on the words, "Because I live ye shall live also," he said, "How good and sure that is!" and repeated the text with much earnestness.

The first intimation we had that his end was very near was his remark to his wife, "Bess, it is getting dark." I then asked him if he had anything that he wished to say. He replied:—"I want my wife to bring up my children in the fear of God." These were his last words; and are they not fitted to touch the hearts of Christian parents? Will they not be a precious legacy to his widow and two little boys?

Mr. Macleod was greatly respected, and will be sincerely mourned by his attached congregation and his brother missionaries.

He was carried to the grave and lowered into it by Rev. Lalbihari, by Joseph Anna-gee and C. C. Soodeen (two of his elders), and by teachers—all converts from Hinduism. We laid his body in our allotment of the new Tunapuna cemetery, thus consecrating it forever as our Christian burial place.

JOHN MORTON.