

tributed towards the building fund. There are in this district eighteen schools, with a roll of 842, and an average daily attendance of 657. Miss Copeland who, aided by Mr. Corsbie and Miss Annie Olmel, taught the central school at San Fernando, reports an average for the year of ninety-nine. A gathering of 300 children at Christmas for examination and prizes, was most gratifying to all, and especially so to those who laboured through the year and now saw some of the fruits. The erection of a new school house at Barrackpore and repairs on seven others, together with outbuildings on the mission premises, obliged the missionary to close the building account for the year with a debt of £134, which, however, he hopes to pay off without applying to your Committee. The liberality of the native congregation has been still further manifested by agreeing at the annual meeting to raise during the coming year £150, or one-half the salary of the missionary.

PRINCESTOWN.

Although Mr. McLeod resigned the charge of the district, at the beginning of the year, he still retained the management of its finances, lived most of the time at Princetown, exercised a general supervision of the work, and reports its progress. Miss Blackadder, who for nearly ten years, has taught with much success the school at Princetown, had charge also of the Sabbath-school, and reports steady and cheering progress. Owing to loss of £25 to Jordan Hill School, through depression in the sugar trade; that at St. Julian had to be closed, and its support given to the former. The debt on the new church, \$324, was nearly all paid off, making a total raised in Trinidad for that object of \$1,800. Congregational collections have increased by £120, a special collection on Communion Sabbath amounting to \$70. Nine schools were in operation during the year with a total attendance of 386, and a daily average of 249, thirteen adults and four children were baptized, three couples married, and there are now seventy on the Communion roll.

DEMARARA.

Mr. Gibson, having spent some time in Trinidad, studying the language and the work, and at the same time giving aid, especially in the district of Princetown, left about the 20th of May for Demarara, to take up his work there. On his arrival in Georgetown he received a hearty welcome from Rev. Messrs. Slater and Ross. He writes: "Going as a missionary to the Coolies of British Guiana does not mean going to live in a country where there are only heathen. The hardships endured by those who have gone to labour among savage and uncivilized tribes can form no part of the experiences of missionaries to Demarara. In the parish of St. Luke's there are fifteen estates and on almost every-

one of them are several handsome houses. Mr. Gibson enters on his work among the thousands of Coolie labourers in Demarara with good prospects.

(To be continued.)

Formosa.

LETTER FROM DR. MACKAY.

Tamsui, March 22nd, 1886.

MR. EDITOR: A long time ago I wished to thank you very specially for having the faces of *A-Hôa* and *Tân Hé* to appear in such a valuable paper as the RECORD. I brought a copy with me to all the stations and said, "Now see if Canada loves you or no?" All felt so pleased and so honored that I only wish you could have seen their faces, for all the church loves these two brethren—"Honor to whom honor." I am glad too that you and also the F. M. C. agree with my views of a native ministry. Depend upon it, nothing else will ever evangelize this mighty empire. Unless men are more or less entrusted with work, they can't show the same interest, the same independence and freedom of thought, necessary for a healthy and robust church. *A-Hôa* went with me to the east coast and we were either under a burning sun or torrents of rain, but if the very heavens opened and poured down we would rejoice. On account of the French attack, baptisms were delayed until this trip. We visited 18 (eighteen) stations and I preached at every place, mostly in the open air and then baptized. In all, 1138 were admitted into the Church. Now I think I hear some say, "too fast," others, "already the Lord has blessed the French invasion for good," &c., &c. We should be very careful when trying to interpret Providence. God will bring *good* out of *evil*; the question is, when? Just in His own time. As far as I can see that time has not yet come in North Formosa. On the east coast it is just our regular work going on. Were it not for the French, we would have baptized in 1884 or 1885. Not a few died without being baptized. If you have any confidence in my judgment, any in my knowledge of North Formosa, and any in my regard for beloved Zion in this fair isle, then praise.