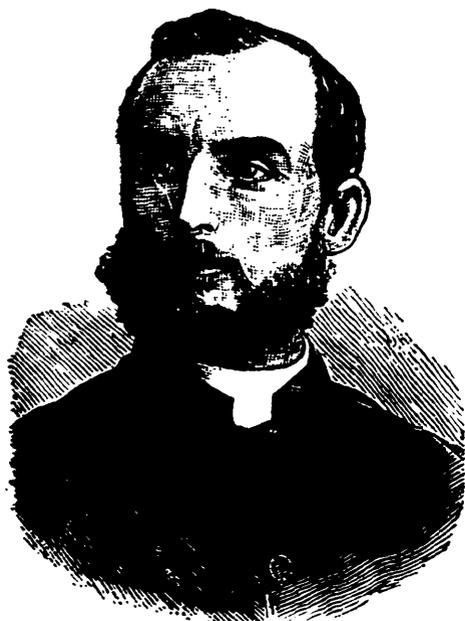


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Rev. John Morton.

OUR pioneer missionary in Trinidad is a native of the county of Pictou, Nova Scotia. He was a graduate of the Presbyterian College, Halifax. Shortly after his licensure by the Presbytery of Halifax, in 1861, he was called to Bridgewater congregation, then in the Presbytery of Halifax, where he was ordained and inducted on the 5th December, 1861. Bridgewater congregation at that time embraced a number of distant stations, and the pastor had to drive a great deal over bad roads in rough weather in order to keep his appointments.

Mr. Morton was always punctual in his work, and he was never known to fail in supplying a station at the expected day and hour. His labours in a field so extensive told injuriously on his health. Bronchial trouble was developed which threatened serious consequences, and acting under medical advice, he spent the winter and spring of 1864-5 in the West Indies on furlough. Providence led his way to Trinidad, where he noticed the large numbers of Coolies, chiefly from the East Indies, engaged on the sugar estates. He found that there were then about 20,000 on the island of Trinidad, very many of whom would reside there permanently; and more were coming from India every season. He found that all were under the influence of Oriental superstition, and utterly ignorant of God and the Gospel. There were Presbyterian, Episcopalian, Methodist, and Baptist churches in Trinidad, but there were no special efforts to evangelize the Coolies. Mr. Morton, by letters, and by addresses after his return brought the condition of the Coolies before the Presbyterian Church of the Lower Provinces. It appears that the United Presbyterian Church of North America had opened a mission in Trinidad and owned premises at Jere Village. The station was not occupied however, and the Mission Board of that Church offered the buildings to the Board in Nova Scotia. The Presbyterian ministers in Trinidad of the U. P. Church of Scotland, cordially invited missionary effort. A good deal of trade is carried on between Nova Scotia and Trinidad, and this seemed an additional reason in favour of opening a mission. Mr. Morton, in 1867, offered his services as a missionary to the Coolies, should the Synod see fit to establish such a mission.

On the 27th July, 1867, the Synod of