

I especially regret not being able to keep up my evening class this year, but my school, which recorded a daily average of 132, afforded ample scope for all my energies.

To meet the wants of our more advanced boys in the country, we established what we term "The Home," where our most promising ones may be boarded. This Home is kept up at the expense of the mission, but we feel that the money is well expended. These boys, not only get the better advantages of this school, but having been taken away from the influence of heathen homes, are brought to live in a Christian home, that of one of our catechists. During the year we have had five boys here. Two of them, being cripples, we are especially interested in, and would like if possible, to give them an education. They are both good Christian boys, and we hope to see them grow up useful and zealous men in the church.

Our Sabbath school at Iere Village has had its ups and downs during the year, but the work in connection with it is a source of great pleasure. We have five classes, taught by Mrs. Macrae, C. C. Soudeen, two of our teachers and myself. We have 85 on the roll, with an average of nearly 60. One afternoon last week we gave this school a rare treat in the shape of a Xmas tree. Wishing to confine it to the pupils of the school, we made no intimation of it before hand, but simply asked two of the teachers to go round and gather them together at the church at 4 o'clock. When we went down a little after three we were greeted with about thirty brown faces who had already got wind of it and were eagerly waiting to see what was in store for them. It was with some difficulty we kept them outside while the tree was being dressed. Left to ourselves for a little we soon had it looking quite bright with all manner of fruits, balloons, whistles and balls for boys, and dolls for the girls. Even a little married woman (aged 11) did not feel it beneath her dignity to accept a doll, but was as much pleased with it as were her single sisters. The toys were the cheapest possible, but to those poor children who never have anything of the kind, they afforded a great amount of pleasure. It was a bright spot in the year for many a dull young life. We came home, feeling, that we had not only made them happy for a time, which in itself was a reward, but that it would

help to win their affection and confidence and make them enjoy coming to our services.

It is gratifying to note the great improvement in the Prinestown Sunday school under the superintendence of Mr. Macrae. The infant department alone, of which I have charge averages 54. With the help of the Picture Roll, which the little ones more than paid for with their pennies, I have been enabled to follow the International Lessons with the rest of the school. They also learn texts, catechism, and can repeat and sing several of the hymns dear to the heart of children all the world over.

Whilst it would be unwise to attach too much importance to mere numbers, we cannot refuse to look upon this increase as an evidence that our work is gaining ground. Though we do not see much of the direct fruit of the Spirit, we have reason to believe that under the surface a great power is at work, slowly, yet surely sapping the foundations of old idolatries and hastening on the time when they shall crumble and fall.

Our thanks are due to the ladies of Union Church, Hardwood Hill, and Tatamagouche societies for their boxes of clothing, always acceptable to the children. To Miss Bell Crowe's S. S. class of St. Andrews Church Truro, for \$5.00 and also to Mr. Geo. Campbell of the same church, for his nice donation of Hymnals for the use of our choir.

Faithfully Submitted,

AGNES A. SEMPLE.

MISS COPELAND'S REPORT OF SAN FERNANDO INDIAN SCHOOL FOR 1888.

Again at the close of another year we are called upon to submit a report of the work done. On the whole it has been successful.

There has been a gradual increase in attendance at school during the four years I have spent in San Fernando. For the first year it was 99; 2nd, 106; 3rd, 113; 4th, 119. The largest attendance in this year at any regular session was 153, but so many families had been visited by the epidemic, of which you have already heard, that it caused a marked decrease in attendance about the middle of the year, seven of our pupils died within a few weeks of each other.