

vian missions are situated are British); Jamaica, 1754; Antigua and Barbadoes, 1765; St. Kitt's, 1777; Tobago, 1790; Trinidad, 1890. On these islands they have 50 stations, with 49 foreign missionaries, including their wives; 14 ordained native missionaries and 777 native helpers, exclusive of teachers, with 40,468 souls in charge. Furthermore 129 day schools with 171 teachers, all native, and 13,749 scholars; and 70 Sunday-schools with 938 teachers and 13,899 pupils. These statistics are for the year ending July, 1892. The Moravians were the first to enter all these islands except Trinidad. If it were not for their strict discipline they could number their adherents by hundreds of thousands.

The Methodists, Baptists, Presbyterians, and Anglican Episcopalians have missions on a great many of the islands already mentioned, and also on some where the Moravians have no stations. We have no recent statistics at hand of their work. On the French islands, Guadeloupe and Martinique, the only missions (up to 1890) were those of the Roman Catholic Church.

#### THE MOSKITO COAST.

Four hundred miles southwest from Jamaica lies the Moskito Coast, which is the east coast of Nicaragua, in Central America. It is a narrow little strip of land about 200 miles long, surrounded on all sides by the Republic of Nicaragua, except the east, where the Caribbean Sea washes its shores. It takes its name not from the insect, but from the Mosco or Moshito tribe of Indians, who dwell there. It is about the size of Holland, and has from 10,000 to 15,000 inhabitants—Indians, negroes, mulattoes, and whites. It is becoming more and more important from a commercial standpoint.

Although discovered in 1502 by Columbus, and claimed by various nations in turn, it is now, strange to say, a semi-independent Indian reserve, with an Indian chief as ruler, for whom the Moravian missionary acts as practical

prime-minister, or at least did in very recent times.

No attempt to Christianize the inhabitants was made by any church for more than three centuries after its discovery until, in 1849, the Moravian missionaries entered this field, and they are the only laborers there. The history of this mission is extremely interesting, but the space for this month has already been more than used up, and only a few more sentences can be added.

A peculiar feature of the work here is that it must be carried on largely by means of a ship. The coast is indented with frequent lagoons, which make the building of roads impossible. Hence the Indian hamlets can only be reached by means of a ship from the sea.

In spite of the degraded condition of the Indians, the mission has been wonderfully successful. The Nicaraguan Indians, have again and again begged the Moravian Brethren to come to them, but the Jesuits have so far succeeded in influencing the government to forbid their entrance, although it is relenting, and a wide field of influence seems to be opening before this mission. The building of the Nicaraguan Canal will have a tremendous influence upon the mission, we trust, for good, and it is earnestly to be hoped that this canal may remain under American (i.e., United States—Protestant Christian) control.

This summary must be closed abruptly with the latest statistics. There are 12 stations with 19 foreign missionaries, including their wives; 4 ordained native missionaries and 66 native helpers, beside the teachers with 4739 souls in charge. Furthermore, 13 day schools with 13 teachers and 671 scholars, and 12 Sunday-schools with 44 teachers and 776 pupils.

N. B.—Since the above article was written the Nicaraguan government has granted permission to the Moravians to begin mission work among the Indians in Nicaragua adjacent to the Moskito Coast.