

arrangements for his formal reception. He was licensed by the Presbytery of Lunenburg and Yarmouth, and unanimously accepted by the Board as their third missionary to Trinidad. A short time was spent by Mr. Christie in visiting the churches when, after ordination, he, with his wife, sailed for Trinidad in Dec. 1873, reaching their destination in the following month.

Mr. Christie entered upon his work in Couva on the 2nd. of February, 1874. This district lies, as most of your readers are aware, on the east between Port of Spain and San Fernando, with which places it has frequent connection by both steamer and railway. Couva is exceedingly flat, but it has a magnificent background in the Montserrat Hills, now noted for their Cocoa plantations. It is considered to be one of the best sugar-making districts on the Island. Couva was long regarded as a very unhealthy part of the country; but as cultivation extended, and the drainage improved, its sanitary condition became better. Mr. Christie and his family have, upon the whole enjoyed good health, since taking up their residence there, though I am sorry to have to add that Mrs. Christie has recently felt it necessary to seek change of air to recuperate her strength.

Three schools had been opened in this district, by Mr. Morton, before Mr. Christie's arrival. These were a source of considerable labour and anxiety, from the inconvenience of reaching the field from San Fernando. They were now thankfully handed over to Mr. Christie's care and superintendence, and Couva became another centre, from which the rays of gospel truth might radiate to the surrounding districts.

Six years had now been given to mission work among the Coolies of Trinidad.

At the close of this period Mr. Morton writes:—"We close the year, looking back over its trials and difficulties with thankfulness that so many of them have passed away, with praise to God for undeserved tokens of His goodness, and we look forward with hope and confidence, sobered by the prudence which past experience has taught us.—We believe that the mission has advanced during the year, and have confidence that it will continue to advance. But we would not draw any fancy picture. There are many difficulties to overcome which only labour and time, with the blessing of God, can overcome, and we ask anew hearty spiritual co-operation which the church can give us by earnest prayer."

That there were real difficulties may be learned from a paragraph in Mr. Grant's annual report of that date. "We have had our anxieties, and you will admit that they were not groundless, when I inform you of the existence of a secret, crafty, organized, and active opposition by Mohammedans, which was designed to thwart our efforts and break up our mission. Nearly every convert was tampered with, and in some cases fair promises of reward were made if christianity were renounced. The depression produced by our apprehensions was more than compensation by the fulness of our joy in finding our young men true."

I do not think that I can do better than close my present paper with the concluding sentences of the report, from which I have just quoted,—sentences which are just as applicable to-day as when first written;—"In conclusion may I not entreat a fresh interest in our mission. The church never has lost at home by showing diligence abroad, for what we do for others spiritually we do for ourselves. There is truth in the remark of Henry Clay, it is all truth, 'the more religion we send abroad, the more we have at home.' Definiteness of aim aids in every department of life, and under God it has achieved the noblest triumphs of the gospel. Some of our Wesleyan friends are heard to enquire; "Why has not the gospel now the power that it had in the days of the Wesley's?" The Free Church looking back thirty years, are able perhaps to contrast the earnestness and life of that period with the apathy of the present.

The history of the U. P. Church, perhaps can furnish a like illustration. In those times the church felt she had a definite work to do, and she did it not slackly, and her success was as marked as her efforts. Let the church now have a definite object, let the missionaries full of the spirit of missions, make prominent the church's mission, and bear every hearer out in spirit and set him down in the midst of the valley full of dry bones, and encourage him to cry out, 'Come from the four winds O breath and breathe on these slain that they may live,' and soon from the most unlikely quarter an exceeding great army would be found coming up to the help of the Lord. Let the church only put forth her energies, the energy of a compassionate soul for the perishing, the energy of a living faith in the word which is mighty, the energy of a heart filled with unutterable groanings to the prayer-hearing God, and the energy and power of the wealth which God has en-