

Palestine, and contrasting the insignificance of these accessions when compared with those of the Romanists, he says: "Almost every year we have caravans of more than 500 French people, mostly priests and nuns, coming to Jerusalem, and marching into the town with a flag bearing the motto of the Crusaders of old, '*Dieu le veut*.'"

—**West Indies.**—A new mission is to be commenced in the Island of Trinidad, among the 50,000 coolies living there. Rev. G. H. Hanna, was appointed Missionary Bishop for the West Indies.

**Miscellaneous.**—Vindication of Mis-

sions.—Rev. Dr. Arthur Mitchell, previous to his departure for China and Japan, addressed large congregations in San Francisco and vicinity, awakening great interest in the work of foreign missions. His answer in *The Chronicle* to the charge of Lieutenant Wood of the Navy that missionary labors in China had proved a complete failure, was a noble and Christian refutation of the unsupported assertions which had been widely published by the press on the Pacific coast.

—The sale of weekly parts of the illustrated Bible published in Milan, Italy, has reached 90,000 copies.

### III.—INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

CONDUCTED BY J. T. GRACEY, D.D..

#### The Mission to Hindus in the Island of Trinidad.

BY REV. JOHN MORTON.

At the International Missionary Union which met at Binghampton July 5th-11th, Trinidad mission was represented for the first time. Members knew little of the work there, and very naturally regarded it as a West Indian mission. "Your work is among the Africans," said one. "You speak Spanish," said another. "Do you mean to say that you use these Hindi books in Trinidad?" said an Indian missionary. In every case the answer was a surprise. It may be well to let a wider circle know somewhat of the mission to Indian immigrants in Trinidad.

#### THE FIELD.

Trinidad is the most southerly of the West India Islands, within sight of Venezuela, from which it is separated by the Gulf of Paria. It is 55 miles long by 40 broad and contains 180,000 inhabitants, of whom 60,000 are natives of India. About nine-tenths of these are Hindus and one-tenth Mohammedans. The language used by them is Hindi and Urdu.

Great Britain acquired Trinidad from Spain in 1797. The ruling classes were then Spanish and French, the laboring classes Africans and their descendants. These were never adequate to the demand for labor, and when slavery was abolished the slaves who wished to realize and enjoy their freedom refused to

work more than their necessities required. To save the Island from ruin the local government sent to India and China for immigrants. The China and Madras agencies have long been closed, and the immigrants are now obtained from Northern India. Every precaution is taken both by the Indian and Trinidad governments, to secure these people against injustice, and the arrangements made have proved of advantage, alike to the immigrants, to India and to Trinidad.

About 2,500 arrive in Trinidad and about 500 return to India every year, which gives an increase of say 2,000 per annum. After a residence of ten years they can either return to their native land at the expense of the colony or receive a sum of money in lieu of a return passage. This many do and are making Trinidad their home.

#### COMMENCEMENT OF THE WORK.

In 1864 the writer sailed from Nova Scotia for the benefit of his health. On reaching Barbadoes an apparently trivial circumstance led the master of the ship to proceed to Trinidad, and thus the writer was carried to the scene of his future labors. During a stay of two months he became intensely interested in the East Indians, who then numbered 20,000, and as there was no missionary at work among them he took steps to bring their case before the church, first in Scotland and then in Nova