

opinions as to the place in which it took place. One is, that they traversed only the very small creek at the northern extremities of the inlet, and that they entered the bed of the water at the spot on which Suez now stands; the other, that they crossed the sea from a point eighteen miles down the coast.

### TRINIDAD MISSION.

#### Report of Rev. K. J. Grant for 1871.

SAN FERNANDO, DEC. 30, 1871.

*Rev. Dear Sir,*—I beg to submit my first annual report of Foreign Mission work. I will endeavour to make it a brief summary.

We arrived at Port of Spain on 20th Nov., 1870, and at San Fernando on the 22nd, and in both places were very cordially received. It was previously arranged that we should commence our work in San Fernando, and certainly we had no ground to demur. Mr. Lambert was about taking farewell of his congregation to return to Scotland, and, as the manse would be untenanted, we were invited to occupy it—this was a great privilege.

In company with Mr. Morton I visited several stations of the Mission field, and whatever I may have learned of Coolie prejudices and deception, or of Creole heedlessness and insincerity, yet my first convictions remain as to the hopefulness of our Coolie Mission.

In the Roman character I was soon able to read intelligibly the Urdu Scriptures: and early in January Aziz was given to us. He acted as interpreter for me at all our larger meetings, and often went with me from house to house. He has been very useful.

Whilst I aimed at embracing every opportunity, publicly and privately, of making known the truth that saves, yet the management of schools has largely occupied my time and heavily taxed my strength.

**I. SAN FERNANDO SCHOOL.**—This School was opened on the 20th Feb. I will not weary you by repeating details already communicated. Suffice it to say that the whole number enrolled is 120; the daily average, 42. In 10 months 31 children made 120 days and upwards, and 18 made 160 days and upwards. The progress made in view of the peculiar circumstances is encouraging. With the exception of two boys, who are reading in the Third Book, all commenced with the Alphabet. Of these 16 are reading the Second Book, and the remainder the First Book. 9 write on paper; 30 form letters on slates, and 20 receive lessons regularly in Geography.

This School has cost us much labour and anxiety; but conscious that its success had an important bearing on our work here, we did all in our power, and I feel that our exertions have not been fruitless. The School is no longer an experiment. It is now fairly established, and in future it can be sustained with less labour and at less personal cost.

**II. MARABELLA AND UNION SCHOOLS.**—On each of these Estates a School has been opened on the 15th June, under the management of Charles Perry, who, at one time, aided us in our San Fernando School. He gives the morning to Marabella and the afternoon to Union Estate. The School-room is provided and the teacher paid by A. P. Marryatt, Esq., the Proprietor. Untrammelled by any restrictions, he leaves me to adopt the course which I deem best. These schools, though designed specially for Coolies, are yet mixed. Marabella has averaged 14 daily since opening. Of these 11 are Coolies, and 3 Creoles. Union has averaged 21 daily. Of these 12 are Coolies, and 9 Creoles. Of Coolie children enrolled in these schools, not one knew the Alphabet. During the first 4 or 5 months the children were very irregular, but within the past two months a marked and gratifying change has taken place. Several read the first book with comparative ease. Religious instruction is daily given, and a Sabbath School is now regularly maintained. These schools are about two and a half miles north of San Fernando.

**III.** South-east of us, and about 5½ miles distant, are Picton and Wellington Estates, owned by J. Cumming, Esq., Port of Spain. The Proprietor has erected a comfortable and commodious school-room at Picton, 40x20 feet, designed to accommodate both Estates. In connection with this School is a nursery for the little ones too young for school. By this arrangement many come to school who otherwise would be compelled to remain at home to care for the babies. Both teacher and nurse are paid by Mr. Cumming, and yet it is entirely under our management. The teacher here is a Madras Coolie, baptized in his own country, is capable of speaking the Hindustani as well as the Tamil, and gives, both in his conduct and management of the school, entire satisfaction. He sings nicely, and it is delightful to witness the heartiness shown by the children, in singing the hymns and songs taught them by their teacher. Here 40 have been enrolled; the daily average since opening is 23. Of these, 14 are Coolies, and 9 are Creoles. Religious instruction is given daily, and a Sabbath School is well sustained. When we commenced here in September not one Coolie enrolled knew the alphabet; and now some read the first book pretty well.