

deaths oft, and deliver them from all the stratagems of their enemies.

Some of these letters will be published in the next number of the *Record*.

### The Coolies of Trinidad.

Trinidad, the most southerly of the West India Islands, lies close to the continent of South America and between ten and eleven degrees N. latitude. Its extent is about the same as P. E. Island, and its population 80,000. Its scenery is very fine, the land fertile and, although the thermometer seldom falls below 65 degs., the climate is not unhealthy.

The Coolies are *hired* labourers brought from India and Chiba. They have a free passage out to Trinidad—are paid so much a day for their labor, or so much for a day's task—have medical attendance when sick, and a free passage back when their term of five years service is expired. By paying a compensation they can cut short their term of service at any time. In 1865 the Chinese numbered over 3,000 and the natives of India over 20,000. Of these over 6,000 had completed their term of service. They receive as much for their labor as the negroes on the same Island. After their term of service expires they make their own terms with the estates, or seek employment wherever they please. The Chinese generally become gardeners, or shop-keepers on their own account. In and around Iere Village where our mission premises are, there are a number of Hindoo families settled on their own patches of land.

The Hindoos are manly and often handsome in appearance—keen and self-reliant in mind—incredulous—demanding proof and ready with counter arguments. The women are sometimes married when only four or five years of age, but they do not then go to live with their husbands. Married women are marked with a red streak down the parting of the hair and have a sad unhappy look. They never eat with their husbands. The Coolies melt their money and wear it in the form of heavy silver rings around the arms and ankles of the women and children.

Some of them are Mohammedans, who are proud of their superior religious knowledge and look down contemptuously on the others as heathens. The whole religious belief of some of these proud disciples of Islam is comprised in the declaration "God is God and Mohammed is his prophet." Some of them at least have not even heard of the name of Jesus Christ. The others are Idolaters and may be seen carrying their god along the streets and setting him in his place and falling down to the work of their own hands and saying to it "deliver us, for thou art our God."

There are two *principal* districts of thickly settled and well-cultivated country in Trinidad. The Caroni extending from the capital, Port of Spain, along the Caroni river some fifteen miles. Nine miles up this district is a Coolie Orphan Home, where 60 or 70 Coolie orphans are cared for and taught. It is under the control of the Church of England and is partly supported by the Government of the Island. The second district is Naparima about 25 miles south of the other. It runs inland from the town of San Fernando about nine miles. Up this district six miles is Iere Village, where our Mission premises stand. There are 200 Coolies within easy distance of this station, and a circle of six miles around it will include about 1000 Coolies, without a single agency for their benefit.

A strip of cultivated country runs north from San Fernando toward the Caroni district some ten or twelve miles; but the Grand Savanna interposes and there is really no communication between the two districts except by steamer. Two gentlemen who own estates in this slip of country at a place called Coura, have offered £100 sterling each per annum to support a missionary to their own Coolies. The country there is low and not very healthy and this has operated against the settlement of a missionary at Coura. It was thought unwise to begin the mission at a place that laboured under this disadvantage. After a man has been a few years on the Island, he might be able to labor at Coura, with less risk.

Not to speak of the Caroni district, what a wide field is here, eight or ten thousand perishing souls!

The advantages of this mission field are, it is near—only about 2000 miles from our own shores. It is accessible—we have what trade with the Island. Life and property are safe. The Bible and tracts have been translated into Hindustani and can be put into the hands of the people as soon as they can be induced to read them. Through them we may reach and bless India. May the Lord open their hearts to receive the Gospel, that it may bless them and make them a blessing.

Additional information might be given but it will be both more accurate and more interesting if penned on the spot, and the pressure on your space pleads for brevity.

J. M.

From the *Christian Review* published at Melbourne, Australia.

### New Hebrides Mission.

Since our last issue we have had two brief but important notes from the islands; one was from the Rev. Mr. Inglis, of Anci-