

NOTES FROM TRINIDAD.

By Rev. W. L. Macrae.

Princetown, Trinidad, 25 Aug., '98.

Dear Mr. Scott:

Two of the converts from heathenism in this district during the past year are Frederick Chamansing and John Modi.



Frederick Chamansing.)

The former is a Nepalese of the Gorkha tribe. Nepal is a small independent State on the North-east of Hindustan, bounded on the North by Tibet. Its population numbers about 5,000,000, made up of several tribes, of whom the Gorkha is one of the chief. The Gorkha is the military tribe, and hence Chamansing before coming to Trinidad was a soldier.

His features, as his picture will show, resemble that of the Chinese,—oblique eyes, fair complexion, and a comparatively hairless face. This no doubt points to a similar ancestry, as there is no intermingling between them and the Chinese.

The Gorkhas are descended from Brahmans and other Hindoos who migrated from Hindustan many years ago, and hence they are Hindoos and speak the Hindu language with a somewhat peculiar accent.

The few, however, who find their way to Trinidad bear evidence of having at least a mixture of Mongolian blood, which is quite distinct from that of the Arian.

Nepal yet remains without the Gospel and without any means of education excepting that of the Hindu and Buddhist priests. Heathen temples abound, with their pernicious concomitants. The need of the Gospel is therefore very great.

It has been suggested that Chamansing, when thoroughly trained for work, might be sent back to his own country as a missionary. Being a native he would be exempt from the rigid restrictions imposed upon Europeans, and would thus have free access to his people. Of this, however, we shall wait and watch the leading of Providence. He is now under training and we hope to see him become a soul-winner.

John Modi was a Sadhu of the strictest sect. One of their many peculiar notions is that the nearer they approach to a state of nudity in dress the more virtuous they become.



John Modi.

The picture shows Modi in his Sadhu dress as he used to go about instructing his chitas or disciples. He is now clothed and in his right mind. He, too, is under instruction and is endeavoring to lead his erring countrymen into the light of the Gospel.