

it shall be measured to you again." A Society, therefore, with this object in view, has recently been formed in the islands, auxiliary to the American Board. This Society takes the first step in exploring the field, and obtaining necessary information. It is expected that the Hawaiian missionaries will be sustained wholly by their own churches, and the American missionaries who may accompany them from the same source likewise, so far as may be practicable.

There is no stronger proof of vitality than the power of reproduction. Protestant missions, in various parts of the world, have now, by the blessing of God, attained such a point of advancement, that they are reproducing themselves in kindred efforts around: and places which, some few years back, had been the extreme points of missionary work, are now centres of new efforts, which are being pushed farther on, in different directions, into the wilderness. The blessed missions of the Popish Church have never reached as far as this — *For Missioners.*

#### THE ISLAND OF TRINIDAD.

The following is part of an address, descriptive of Trinidad, delivered in the Rev. George Johnston's church, Nicolson Street, Edinburgh, on the evening of Monday the 11th November, on the occasion of the designation of the Rev. George Lambert as a missionary to Aruca in that island.

1. *The Name.*—Trinidad signifies the Trinity. The island of Trinidad was the first land that Columbus reached in his third voyage. It was discovered by him on the 31st July 1498. This great, gifted, and enterprising man had in the voyage encountered very severe hardships and perils, and he vowed, according to the superstitious piety of that intensely papish age, to give, should God deliver him from his dangers, the name of the sacred Trinity to the first land that he should meet with.

"About mid-day," says Washington Irving in his life of Columbus, a mariner at the mast head beheld the summits of three mountains rising above the horizon, and gave the joyful cry of land. As the ships drew nearer it was seen that these mountains were united at the base. Columbus had determined to give the first land he should behold the name of the Trinity. The appearance of these three mountains united into one, struck him as a singular coincidence and, with a solemn feeling of devotion, he gave the island the name of La Trinidad, which it bears at the present day."

2. *Its Situation.*—Trinidad is situated ten degrees north from the equator, and sixty-one degrees west from Greenwich, near London. It is the farthest south of all the West India islands, being in reality close upon the great continent of South America. It is separated from the continent only by what is called the Gulf of Paria. The south-west point of the island is not more than twenty miles from a projecting part of the continent; and, indeed, the mountains of Cumana can be seen from that district of Trinidad. Its situation is thus one of great importance for trade and intercourse with the extensive regions of South America; so that were Trinidad fully evangelized, it would have peculiar facilities for sending the Gospel into those countries, long wanted by the withering influence of Popery, but where at present God seems to be opening the way for the establishment of religious liberty, and the dissemination of the truth. The river Orinoco, one of the largest in America, pours its immense flood of waters by numerous mouths into the sea a little to the east of Trinidad, and covers the ocean for many miles with fresh water. Indeed, various rivers of the continent empty themselves into the Gulf of Paria, and at certain seasons cause strong currents and violent agitations in the narrow straits at both ends of the gulf. This circumstance exceedingly alarmed and perplexed Columbus. He could not account for the turmoil of rolling, boiling fresh waters in which he feared that his ships would be engulfed, and hence he gave to the pass on the east the significant name, "the mouth of the serpent," and to the pass at the west and the corresponding name, "the mouth of the dragon," and was extremely gratified when he had escaped from them. It is an interesting fact that it was when Columbus was in these places, that he first saw and touched at the great Continent of America, of which he had been so long in quest. In his two former voyages he found islands only, and now when he had discovered the Continent he did not know that he had done so, and actually gave to several parts of it island names. It was only when afterwards he reflected on the mass of fresh waters which he had seen filling all the gulf, which island streams could not discharge, that he felt assured that he had seen a Continent—a conclusion which his subsequent enquiries confirmed.

3. *Its Extent and Character.*—Trinidad is about sixty miles in length from north to south, and is about forty miles in average breadth. It is in many parts especially beautiful and fertile, abounding in mountains, woods, and streams. It is thus described in Hall's Geography—"Along the south and north sides of this island run two ridges of mountains, extending nearly across the country, and along the north shore, giving it the appearance, at a distance, of being nothing but an immense line of rocks. The western side, for some distance, is flat, richly wooded, and is described as presenting a most beautiful appearance. The high mountains of Cumana on the American Continent, are visible from this side. The centre is diversified with many finely wooded hills and valleys of the greatest fertility. The highest land lies on the north side, and in some parts reaches 3000 feet in height. The other mountains are not of any great elevation, but they are all thickly covered with wood and pastures. There are numerous rivers in this island, several of which are navigable for ships of some size." The Encyclopædia

Britannica says of it, "The richness of its soil, the luxuriance of its vegetation, its finely wooded hills, beautiful rivers, and magnificent landscapes, have distinguished Trinidad as the *Indian Paradise.*" Washington Irving states that Columbus "was surprised at the verdancy and fertility of the country, having expected to find it more parcel and arid as he approached the equator; whereas he beheld groves of palm trees, and luxuriant forests, sweeping down the sea-side, with fountains and running streams. The shores were low and uninhabited, but the country rose in the interior, was cultivated in many places, and embellished by hamlets and scattered habitations. In a word, the softness and the purity of the climate, and the verdure, freshness and sweetness of the country, appeared to him to equal the delights of early spring in the beautiful province of Valencia." Surely an island marked by "groves of palm trees and luxuriant forests," "fountains and running streams," "a soft and pure climate, a verdant, fresh, and sweet country," must be a delightful place in which to live and labour. "No more remarkable natural phenomenon on the island is a pitch lake, situated on a small peninsula, about eighty feet above the level of the sea," said to be about a mile and a half in circumference—a fit of heathenism, black, restless, and contaminating. The capital is Port of Spain, regarded as the finest city in the West Indies, and having the most extensive bay in the world.

4. *Its History and Population.*—It was taken possession of by the Spaniards in 1498; was visited by Sir Walter Raleigh in 1595, who committed some ravages in the capital, and was invaded by the French in 1696, who plundered it and left it. It remained afterwards under the dominion of Spain, till it was taken by Sir Ralph Abercromby in 1797, and finally ceded to this country by the treaty of Amiens in 1801. We cannot state how long it had been inhabited before the rapacious and gold-seeking Spaniards found it, nor give any account of its previous history, for its early tribes have left no memorials. But its native inhabitants seem to have been a fine looking and an interesting people;—and there is something very touching in the brief notices that Columbus has left of them. He says that he saw a large canoe filled with twenty-five of the natives, that these were all young men, well-formed, and naked, except band and fillets of cotton about their loins, and coloured cloths of the same material about their loins; that they had long hair, and were even fairer than those more distant from the equator; that they were armed with bows and arrows, the latter feathered and tipped with bone; that they had bucklers, an article of armour seen for the first time among the inhabitants of the new world; and that they gazed at, and notwithstanding all his efforts to entice them, fled in terror from his ship. When Columbus wrote to the Queen and King of Spain an account of his discoveries, he used remarkable language, "May it please our Lord to give long life and health to your highness, that you may prosecute this noble enterprise in which, methinks, God will receive great service,—Spain vast increase of grandeur, and all Christians much consolation and delight, since the name of our Lord will be divulged throughout these lands." Such was the noble aim which this singular man contemplated by his discoveries. He looked upon himself as a harbinger sent forth by God, to prepare the way for the spread of the Christian religion in heathen lands. But, alas, the history of Spanish rule in South America, is the history of rapine, cruelty, bloodshed, and desolation. They went to search for gold, pearls and precious stones, and they subjected the natives to a slavery, under which they sank and disappeared. Well might the young men, of whom Columbus speaks, fly with dismay from his ship. It was the precursor of woe, ruin and destruction to their race. We believe that the natives have long since perished, and that there is not one remaining in Trinidad. To supply their place, the Spaniards introduced as slaves, negroes from Africa, who soon formed the great majority of the people. The population of the island is now said to be about seventy thousand, and to consist of persons of Spanish, French, English and African descent, who speak the languages, or corrupt dialects of the languages, which these terms represent. The negroes, who, in 1832, amounted to upwards of 40,000, are now all free.

5. *Its Religious State.*—The Spaniards carried Popery into Trinidad, and that is still the dominant mode of worship. Trinidad is the seat of a papal Archbishop, who is the Primate of the West Indies. There are also Episcopal, Wesleyan, and Baptist Churches. We regret to have to state that Popery, as well as the Episcopal Church, is supported by the funds of Government. Popery is there to be seen in its worst and offensive form, obtruding its senseless and debasing ceremonies upon the attention of all who choose to witness them. A graphic account of some of its ceremonies, connected with festival days, was given by the Rev. Mr. Brodie, in the "Record" for November 1847. The negroes are nearly all said to be papists, at least in name.

6. *Our Mission there.*—It was begun in 1836, and now consists of two stations, Port of Spain and Aruca. The congregation in Port of Spain was formed by the Rev. Alexander Kennedy, who, in the year just named, was sent out by the congregation of Greyfriars, Glasgow. This congregation sustained the mission in Port of Spain for many years, and recently defraying all the debts resting on the church and manse. The congregation at Aruca was formed by the Rev. George Brodie, who was sent out in 1839, and who was for a considerable period supported by the Presbytery of Selkirk, the congregations of which liberally aided in defraying the expenses, incurred by the erection of a church and manse. The Rev. James Robertson, who had taught for a number of years the national school in Port of Spain, having returned to this country, and obtained license, was in 1845 sent out with the view of occupying San Fernando, the second town in the island; but difficulties being found to