

LETTER FROM TRINIDAD.

BY MRS. MORTON.

Tunapuna, T-inidad.

Dear Children's Record :—

I hope I shall not be too late with this letter. Time is very precious in this mission field; there is so much to be done. My boys often complain that an hour is too short for Bible Class. Part of it has to be spent in Hindi reading and translation. Sometimes they say: "We don't get a chance" with the Bible lesson; and sometimes they say "teach us a lot of the translation instead of Bible this morning." This led to a little talk on the value of time.

I told them a story of Queen Elizabeth that is related in a Hindi tract, though she lived to a good old age the queen is reported to have exclaimed on her deathbed, "A million of money for a moment of time."

Some of my boys translate the "Pilgrim's Progress" into English; others not so advanced translate a Hindi booklet called "Dharm Tula" on "Religion Weighed;" It has a picture of a pair of scales on the cover; the Hindoo religion, and Christ's religion are compared and the latter is found to be the heaviest, because truth must always outweigh falsehood.

In our Bible Lesson one morning we were talking about the riddle that Samson made for the Philistines. You will find the story of it in Judges XIV. Next day one of the boys handed me a riddle neatly written off from a book in which he had found it. Here it is, for the little ones.

"Within a noble dome confined,
Whose milk, white walls with silk
are lined.

A golden apple doth appear,
Steeped in a bath as crystal clear,
No doors, no windows to behold
Yet thieves break in and steal the
gold."

I am sure some of you will soon guess it;

when you think of it you must also think of Thedaroo, the Hindoo lad, who copied it so neatly in English.

There is a great deal of sickness all around us now, mostly among children. The Bible woman came yesterday to say that it was of no use for her to open her little school that day, because so many were sick with fever and whooping-cough.

The school is in the back street of our village, to try and help those children a little who either work, or are not allowed to come to the large school. There are a great many of them packed into this one street, from which a few boys are allowed to come up to our central school but no girls.

It makes one's heart sad to pass along the street, and to think how these poor ignorant and degraded ones might be raised and taught, and comforted by the religion of Jesus, and yet they won't have it.

One man from there was coming to our church. Suddenly he became crazy and the people are saying it was because he came to church.

We have services there but have no proper building, because there is not enough money to do all that we ought to do.

We have been practising, in Tunapuna School, a simple little service of song, "Robinson Crusoe." The best readers take turns at the reading, and either sing or recite the poetry. We have magic lantern illustrations with it. We have given it on four evenings, making a very small charge; in this way we hope to pay off in time for a new lantern and slide.

The drill in reading, etc., is very improving to the scholars; we have pictures of the Life of Christ, which we shew free of charge; Dr. Livingstone and other missionaries have found the Magic lantern most useful in teaching, and so do we. All our missionaries are well and this is much to be thankful for when so much sickness is all around us.