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LETTER FROM MISS KIRKPATRICK.

ONE OF OUR TEACHERS IN TRINIDAD.

San Fernando, 28th Dec, 1892.

DEAR Mrs. Clarke:—Just a year ago I was on the water bound for this Island.

On January 7th I landed and was ready to begin the school-work immediately after vacation which ended on the eighteenth.

Looking back, I wonder how I managed the work that day. One hundred and twenty-five pupils were present to see the "new teacher."

I remember that I undertook to write all the names, which I should certainly not do again, it being a task to spell them. I had then five assistants, all Indians with one exception, and of course these helped me out of my difficulties somewhat.

Each of these girls has had charge of one class and I have to oversee all, besides give particular instruction to two classes. We have two separate departments, the infants being downstairs and four classes above.

In the morning all assemble upstairs for drill and singing of hymns. We try to teach a new hymn every two weeks.

After singing we give a Bible lesson. But for this, two divisions are made and the head teacher in the Infant department takes hers to their own room, whilst I attend to all of the others.

We follow the Sabbath-school lessons; teaching all the text and having them read the lessons until they are familiar with the story.

On Monday morning all the older ones must have the lesson written in his own compo-

sition. This I find encourages them to attend and enables them to get clearer ideas of the subject. Many do not have Bibles in their own houses, and we have an idea of how clearly the truth has been presented by the manner of their writing.

Some of the children make good advance in their studies but some do not have a very good opportunity, being kept home too often. I have in mind, now, two brothers who are particularly bright at arithmetic (the general drawback with them) but who are regularly kept at home on Monday to *sell rum*. Now, they often get two days and a half each at their lessons, as they are kept more frequently as their usefulness increases. I often wonder at the interest they maintain in their studies notwithstanding the hindrances.

I am thankful they have no love for the business, but do it, as bidden. I wonder if a greater curse than rum exists on God's earth?

The number of girls in attendance at school is only about one-half that of the boys. Book learning is not considered necessary for them. Those who do attend receive instruction in sewing as well as from books.

The older girls made almost enough garments to clothe some poor children in one of our estate Sabbath-schools.

I enjoyed your letter very much. We hail letters with delight. I only regret that I cannot be more prompt in answering. Until one is actually into the work here you can scarcely imagine how many demands are made upon one's time.

Yours very truly

MARTHA KIRKPATRICK.