

Our Foreign Missions.

CONFERENCE IN TRINIDAD.

San Fernando, Sept. 1, 1900.

Dear Mr. Scott,

Our second annual conference closed here yesterday. It opened at 10 a.m. Tuesday 28th August, and closed on Friday at 3 p.m., the 31st.

There were 54 present; four missionaries from Canada, four East Indian ministers, and 46 East Indian helpers. Two elders one residing here and one from Princetown aided in the meeting. We were in session from 7 to 8 hours daily.

Whilst all of our missionaries gave in a paper or treated a subject, the work by no means rested on them wholly. The Rev. P. Bukhan spoke on "Preparation for the Work;" the Rev. D. Ujagarsingh, "Our Private Life;" Rev. Andrew Gayadin, "Hindooism;" Mr. Moolchan Lal, "Mohammedanism;" Mr. A. Girdhari, "Giving, a Christian duty" (he was ably supported by Mr. D. Mahabir, elder); Mr. Chas. Soodeen, on "Hindrances to Success." On the last and I may add the great day of the feast the ever-ready, judicious, and much esteemed worker, the Rev. Lal Bihari, in a very happy way summed up.

Whereupon Mr. Bukhan moved that our conference take place semi-annually, and in this he appeared to have the support of all present. Your missionaries were gratified at the high satisfaction shown by their co-workers, but as such gatherings are attended with not a little expense and toil, no definite action was taken by Council in the matter.

I believe I am only expressing the sentiments of my brethren from Canada when I say that we are surrounded by a body of East Indian helpers of whom we are not ashamed; I do add, of whom we are proud. Most of them are familiar with the teachings of the two great systems here that have to be met, viz., Hindooism and Mohammedanism, and they can use skillfully the Word of God in combatting the molvis and pundits.

There was a manifest consensus in favor of preaching a simple gospel, as to sinners needing salvation, and a resort to argument only when forced to do so. Beecher somewhere said, "If I wished to visit a house where a vicious dog was kept, I would not stand at the gate or at the entrance to the avenue, and arouse the creature by pelting stones. I would prefer trying to slip in quietly." The world over this is the safest and generally the most successful course to adopt.

We were pleased with the evident loyalty of the workers to the mission, and their deep concern to secure the largest measure of success in ingatherings and in independence in the up-keep.

The pleasant impressions of this week will long linger.

Yours faithfully, K. J. GRANT.

LETTER FROM FORMOSA.

Formosa, Tamsui, June 27, 1900.

Rev. R. P. MacKay, D.D.,

Last month four students and Koa Kau accompanied me to Kap-tsu-lan on the east coast. We spent some time before starting at Kelung-Loan-Loan and Sia-liau, holding evangelistic meetings.

Then we boarded a Japanese steamer one night and the next morning she dropped anchor in the waters of So' Bay. Almost immediately we were hailed by boatmen from the Christian village Lam-hong-o. We were soon seated in a boat and the rowers pulled us ashore, rolling out hymns of praise to God. Their repaired chapel was clean, neat and strong. All expenses were borne by the villagers. A profitable day was spent there, after which we set out for the plain.

One day when going inland the winding path lay through dense undergrowth, and we lost any trace of it. Then we wandered hither and thither, but at last arrived at our Ang-chha-na chapel. The following day we were told our narrow escape. Savages speared a herd boy where we were lost half an hour after we passed along. Near the mountains and in the plains, savages are as eager and successful as ever in head-hunting! They are neither conquered nor won.

Quite a number of chapels had been destroyed by typhoons, and several have not yet been rebuilt. Still, the converts everywhere declared their intention to re-erect after harvest.

As we stood on the site of "Glengarry chapel" at Tang-ming-thau, our elder there described the terrific storm which swept over their doomed village and left ruins behind. The water rose, and rose, till the thatched roofs floated against bamboo trees, which kept them from being carried out to the raging sea. A number of the villagers previously fled; some were drowned, and twenty were two nights and three days partly in the water and partly on the floating roofs, without food. Two were under and nearly drowned, but a hole was quickly made, and they were pulled on to the top of the roof.

They were all cheered and encouraged by Ho-pa the Bible woman, who prayed and sang in turn night and day. They could hear her voice in the thick darkness pleading with God to deliver them, if His will. "If His will," think of that and the whole scene and the numbers who heard and believed in Jesus in the once substantial chapel.

Think, dear Glengarry friends, whose dollars built the church: Think! I say, and bless the Lord for enabling you to help in days gone by.

There is a new chapel at Pai-Li, quite convenient for Tang-ming-thau converts. The repaired or rebuilt chapels are at Lam-hong-o, Pai-li, Ang-chha-na, Sau-but, Hoau-