

POINTE-AUX-TREMBLES SCHOOLS.

The attendance at these well known Mission schools this session is one hundred and sixty-six, more than one-half of whom come from the homes of French-speaking Roman Catholics. The principal in a recent circular to the friends of the schools says among other things:—

"At the same desk sits a boy of twelve years and a young man of twenty-two, who learn together their alphabet. In the same Sabbath-school class you can see two girls reading in the same Bible. One of them is a firm Protestant, while the other is a staunch Roman Catholic, who has spent several years in a convent. She sincerely believes that there is nothing good or true beyond what has been taught to her. She walks to the Bible class or to the chapel with distraction and with the deepest conviction that she will live and die a Roman Catholic.

Among our boys and girls there are many who belong to divided families, where the father is Protestant and the mother Roman Catholic, or *vice versa*. A father sends his boy to us in order to save him from superstition, but when the child leaves home his mother places holy medals, scapularies and beads round his neck. The father says such things are useless, but the mother assures her son that without faith in their efficiency he cannot be saved.

What a perplexing situation for those poor children! The way to indifference or infidelity is widening every day before them, and they would probably all take that direction if the doors of our mission school had not opened to them. While they are under this roof they are surrounded by a Christian influence; they receive every day a Bible lesson, and they regularly attend the Sunday services and the Sabbath school. They become gradually interested in spiritual things, scales fall from their eyes, their views change imperceptibly, and if they do not openly manifest the evolution which has taken place in their thoughts and feelings before leaving the school, when they go again among their own people they are so shocked by their superstitions, which they shared with them in the past, that they at once fight for the truth and openly proclaim their new faith.

At the beginning of another session, when we view the great work which is placed before us, such a large family to look after day and night, in sickness and health, so many consciences debased by wrong principles, to bring to a sense of duty, so many young souls to bring to the feet of Jesus, we are overwhelmed by our weakness and our incapacity, and we can but say, "Who is sufficient for all those things." But with full confidence in your Christian sympathy and in the faithfulness of our Master, we go cheerfully to work sowing the good seed and expecting a good harvest."

Our Foreign Missions.

F. M. Fund. Dr. Reid received up to the 18th West. Dec., \$10,979.50. He paid out in that time \$41,350.05, leaving a deficit at that date of \$30,370.55.

Rev. Simon Fraser. Mr. and Mrs. Fraser and Miss Fraser reached Trinidad in safety on the 26th November, and are settled at San Fernando. Mr. Fraser will be joined with Dr. Grant in the care of the large San Fernando field.

Dr. Malcolm Has completely recovered and is ready to start with Mr. Goforth and the new missionary, Mr. Slimmon, to the field, so soon as the Committee think that matters are sufficiently settled in the East to render their going safe. It will be to him a sad and lonely going, for there, but a few weeks ago, he laid the remains of his beloved wife to rest.

Rev. Dr. Of Honan, whose letter to ministers is **Smith**, on the second page of this RECORD, is in good general health. The trouble from which he suffers is the stoppage of a vein in the thigh, the result of typhoid, by which, together with pneumonia, he was brought so low last spring. Because of this he is almost wholly unable to walk even across the floor, but the physicians have good hope of his ultimate recovery, though it will take some time.

A Generous Gift. A few weeks since our Trinidad missionaries were much exercised about their college property at San Fernando, known as Shady Grove. For the large number of students residing there, and for the new missionary, the premises were too small and in consequence unhealthy. An adjoining lot valued at \$600 was almost a necessity, but how could it be paid for? Dr. Morton approached the owner, a Presbyterian merchant, of Port of Spain, on the subject, when the latter learning of the needs of College, at once generously gave the lot and its buildings to the Mission.

Letter from Rev. Dr. Morton, writing from Dr. Morton. Tunapuna, Trinidad, says:—

"I returned from furlough in Great Britain on the 8th Nov., after a summer of rest and change such as I never before enjoyed.

The Sabbath after my arrival a general communion was held, the people coming up from all parts of my district. The church was crowded; sixty-eight East Indians partook of the Lord's Supper, and seven adults and six children were baptized. Rev. A. W. Thompson assisted in the work of the day, using Hindi.

Our workers, to commemorate my return, placed a very nice eight-day clock in the church, and provided a love-feast for all who came to the services. There was only one drawback, expressed over and over again in the remark,—"If only Madam and Miss Agnes were here!"

I have now had time to visit the outlying districts, and have the greatest pleasure in reporting that, in my absence, thanks to the fidelity and industry of Messrs. Cropper and Thompson, the work has prospered. Mr. Cropper, I fear, toiled even beyond his strength, and he was ably assisted by his sister, Miss Cropper.

I speak of these two particularly, as they are no longer with us. The regular workers will be reported of at the end of the year.

Since the first of January 140 persons have been baptized in this district. Two new schools were opened while I was absent, and there has been encouraging progress in all directions."