

stead of cultivating only rice and corn, as they generally do in the neighbourhood of the Estates here, are cultivating a great variety of vegetables—tannier, yams, cassava, bananas and plaintain—which will be much better for them than a rice diet. They have falsified the common notion that Coolies cannot be induced to fell the virgin forest and make farms. They told me they had given up all thought of returning to Calcutta, and were well satisfied with their circumstances.

A lot has been left by Government for a school house, and another for a church; and as the settlement advances it would be very important to place among them a good steady person to act as teacher and catechist.

A lot has also been left for a police station. I advised them if they needed a shop to have one, but as a body determinedly to oppose a rum shop being set up. If they left rum alone the police station would not be needed, and they would live in peace.

The settlement of Coolies in the Colony is a point of great importance, and missionary labour among them is more likely to be permanently productive than among the new Coolies. Their prejudices have worn off, they have forsaken their country, and this is a step toward their forsaking the false gods of their country.

There are three sugar Estates quite near this settlement, so that the people can get employment whenever they wish.

Before leaving the settlement rain began to fall and I reached home wet. The result was an attack of Intermittent Fever. Week before last another wetting brought on an attack of Remittent Fever which lasted four days, and left me quite prostrated,—but I am recovering my strength. July and August, our most trying months, are now past. Last week the sun passed over our heads going south and we may hope soon for fresher breezes and more bracing weather.

Last week a vessel left for Calcutta with between 300 and 400 Coolies. A second and probably a third will leave by the end of the year. Indeed, it is estimated that 1000 Coolies will leave Trinidad this year. It is two years since a vessel left before, and in the meantime probably 2000 have arrived; still such an exodus is a calamity to the Island and a source of discouragement to us. Few of our friends have left by this vessel, but I fear that the next vessel will take a number.

Three weeks ago, when the roads were almost impassable here, I visited a number of Estates in the neighbourhood of San Fernando. Mr. Lambert accompanied me to meet with the Creoles as he has for years been in the habit of doing. Our

meetings were held wherever opportunity offered—under a mango tree, on the shady side of sugar works, and on one Estate on a grassy bank close by the Coolie altar with its bamboo pole and white flag fluttering above us. We were everywhere well received. Mr. Lambert when visiting these Estates to meet the Creoles, has been preparing the way for a Coolie missionary. For although, on account of the language, he could really do but little for the Coolies, yet the kindly word, and shake of the hand, have not been without effect. And I am quite sure that on the Estates visited by Mr. Lambert a missionary would not meet with the opposition which I did on some of the Estates in my circuit. Then, too, travel is very easy in the neighbourhood of San Fernando, there being at least twelve estates with gravelled roads to them within four miles of the town. Add to this the number of Coolies congregated in and about the town and you may judge how important a position San Fernando is.

A very daring attempt at fraud came under my notice about two months ago. The clerk of a Coolie shop keeper—a Spaniard—forged several notes for various sums. I brought this case, as one of many, under the notice of Governor Gordon and the leading officials, and suggested as a remedy the passing of an ordinance making it necessary that Promissory Notes and Receipts when signed with a cross should be signed before and attested by a Commissioner of affidavits. The Attorney General has since introduced such an ordinance. You can scarcely imagine to what an extent fraud, false charges, and even forgery are carried by the Coolies against one another. The consequence is that they have utterly lost confidence in each other, and no man trusts his neighbour. The better disposed among them lament this state of affairs. And I trust that the proposed ordinance, by checking fraud and litigation, will assure the well-disposed Coolie who has property, and thus encourage others to buy land, build houses and settle in the Colony.

Another curse which vexes our soul from day to day is rum. Rum-shops are soon broadcast over the Island—numbers of them for every church and chapel. They flourish principally on the hard earned money of the labouring classes, and I am sorry to say that many of the Coolies are falling before the temptation. In their favour the old argument of Demetrius the silversmith is always sure to be produced—they pay each £25 stg. per annum into the Treasury; besides, the excise duty on rum, manufactured in the island last year, was about \$42,000. How shall the Christian world answer for its share in the liquor business?