

## Our Foreign Missions.

Here is an item from the New Hebrides to be carefully and thankfully weighed. "On the twelfth of the month, in June," writes Dr. Annand, "we had our half-yearly communion service, a spiritually refreshing season to us. Seven of our students, and one woman, sat down at the table for the first time. Ninety-two of us in all partook of the supper. A collection of two guineas, was taken in aid of the Institution. For a few days before the Sabbath, the lads were busy during their play hours in searching land and sea for anything that we missionaries would buy, so that they might obtain a little cash for the collection plate. Cocoa-nuts and fancy coral were the objects upon which they realized." What an example to us in Christian lands are these New Hebrides student lads, working and planning for days that they may have something to put on the collection plate at the Communion; and making their collection so large.

A month later, end of June, Dr. Annand writes: "The lad mentioned, as dying, in my May letter, died on the day that the letter was printed. Three hours after death, we laid his body to rest in our burying-ground; the first student to sleep there.

The health of our large family is now fairly good. At present fever and sores are the chief complaints.

Fine weather having set in, cleaning the coffee plantation, and making ready for other planting fully occupy the hours for manual labor. Early in the month some two hundred yards of white coral walks were completed, which add to the comfort and the cleanliness of the station.

The studies of the pupils have been prosecuted with commendable diligence, and progress therein has been made. With many of them, however, the hour at football is decidedly the most popular hour of the day. They go at that game with greater vigor than they go at their studies. Their bare feet prevent them hurting one another, but sometimes the toes suffer from contact with stones. Still we scarcely need the Georgia law here as yet.

### A STEP FORWARD IN DEMARARA.

By Rev. J. B. Cropper.

Our school and meeting house at Helena was opened on Sabbath, the 10th of July. On Saturday, the 9th, I went up to Helena and received the building from the carpenter, and made arrangements for the ser-

vice on the following day. Benches and a table were kindly lent us by the Parish minister (Church of Scotland).

We (Catechist and I) spent the Sabbath morning holding an open air service on an adjoining estate; after which we came to the meeting house. People were late in arriving, which at first caused me a little uneasiness. With our East Indian, time is of comparatively little importance, and to arrive half an hour or more late is a matter of very small detail.

They did gather, however, and we had a fair number—twenty-three grown persons and thirty-one children. They were all greatly interested in the service and listened attentively as I tried to explain and apply Solomon's beautiful prayer at the dedication of Israel's temple. There was also much satisfaction apparent, as I impressed on them that this was their own church, and not merely one to which they were invited and in which they were permitted to worship.

Five of the adults and eight of the children were Christians, and most of the others were persons with whom we have been laboring.

Seven children were brought in for baptism; and our little Christian community was increased by that number. There are many hundreds of East Indians in the District; and when the settlers take up their allotments there will be many more.

It was only a small, unpainted wooden building with borrowed benches; only a borrowed table with a pocket handkerchief spread on it, and a borrowed silver basket for a baptismal bowl; only a handful of poorly clad people; but I felt as I have seldom felt before.

There had been much difficulty and frequent disappointment in obtaining a site; and much delay in the putting up of the building. Our Catechist had worked for thirteen months and more among the people without a place, except his own room, in which to invite them to assemble. There had been much sickness and poverty and consequent despondency among the few who tried to settle on their allotments.

But now a definite point was reached,—site secured, building erected, and dedicatory service in progress. From among the hundreds round there was gathered a little band with clean clothes and happy faces.

Some were already of the number who make up the visible Church, and the rest—at least they were joining with the visible church then in her worship. Our church had entered upon proprietary rights on the South American Continent, and the first service was being conducted in her own building.

The future of the Church? The future of the people? The future of the cause of Christ???