

LETTER FROM MISS BLACKADDER.

TACARIGUA, Dec 26, 1889.

DEAR MR. SCOTT :

I send you a few items that may be of use and interest to our home friends.

I have been very well since I returned from Canada, one day I was unable to be in my schoolroom. Tho' I do not like this part of the Island, yet the last few months have been a period of deep enjoyment, and perfect happiness in my chosen work.

Our school is well attended, the average since my return has been over one hundred. We hope to have a still larger number out the coming year. I am sorry to say we can hear of no change for the better in our school law. I refer to a compulsory clause. So we must just go on the old way round, begging and fighting them out.

Our Sunday School has done well. We have had out as many as 200 to a Sunday service. Our Thursday evening prayer-meeting has been well attended, from 40 to 75, even young children take a part, read, sing, or recite. We have some who attend this gathering on Thursday who do not come out any other time.

Our evening school has been small, but we hope the time has not been lost.

As we have some land near the schoolhouse, I have allowed the boys to take a small plot for themselves, they have planted vegetables and flowers, take a great interest in their work, and really work hard, so the grounds are kept clean without much expense.

We have had eleven young people in my home for longer or shorter periods since my return. We have had seventy-four girls in school this year, and one hundred and twenty-three boys. We have had five over 15 years of age in school, eleven from 12 to 15 years, thirty-four, 9 to 12; forty-nine from 7 to 9; sixty-five from 5 to 7, and thirty-seven under 5 years of age.

You see how young and small the great number must be. The parents of these children have mostly been laborers on estates, some shopkeepers, owners of land, and other occupations. Miss Tait, Alfred Richards, have been faithful helpers, Innoigh Adam, and Gurnorran have done well as monitors. Thanks are due to Mr. J. Mitchell for kindly interest and generous contribution. To Mr. T. Pile, of Dinsley Estate, for a fence, kindly given by that gentleman, to enclose our school ground.

Dr. Murray, of Tunapuna, has kindly and generously attended our household, when in need of medical aid. Mrs. T. Warner has also kindly assisted us with our Christmas treat. I do not think there are any other

items of interest that I can now send. We find the poems and stories of the RECORD, and children's paper very useful.

Hoping you are in the enjoyment of health and prosperity.

I am yours sincerely,

A. L. M. BLACKADDER.

A SHORT SKETCH OF MY LIFE.

Mrs. Morton has kindly forwarded to us the following sketch, written, at their request, by a young man who recently came from India to Trinidad, and who is now employed as a teacher in one of Mr. Morton's schools. It speaks for itself.—Ed.

I was born at Allahabad in India in the year 1866 of Mahomedan parentage. My father's name is Abdullah, and he trained me up in his religion and when I was about 10 years of age he sent me down to Calcutta to learn English. The first acquaintance I made at Calcutta was with one Mahomedan named Abdul Roof who used to teach me.

When I reached the age of 15 I found out that this my friend used to go to one Dr. Thorburn a Methodist Bishop and receive instructions from him as regards the religion of the Bible and after a period of 6 months he got baptized by the said Bishop with the name of Alexander Ruffe.

I still lived with him and one day he asked me to become a Christian. I told him that I could never do so, because I was fully persuaded that Mahomed was sent of God to reform Judaism or Christianity which were corrupted by their followers.

After a short time I left his company and travelled to my birth place. One day I went for a ramble to the Bazar and a colporteur gave me a tract on Walayat ali, the Shaleid, which means the martyr. I there read how that he was put to a most cruel death for his denial of Mahomed and acceptance of Christ. That little tract haunted me day and night, with the words: "False prophet." I then came to Calcutta and this time I formed my acquaintance with the late Rev. P. S. Smith of blessed memory who step by step cleared every difficulty I had as regards Christ and His religion, and was baptized by him on the 20th of March 1885.

After my baptism he kept me with him and gave me work in the Oxford Mission Book Depot. After his death the Depot was abolished and the Rev. C. W. Townsend, Superior of the Mission sheltered me. During that time I worked under Mr. J. Angier, a builder and contractor, who failed in business and I was thus left without any work