

helping mission work in this Mission District. By the help of this money, for which I most heartily thank your Society, I have appointed three proper men to preach the Gospel of Christ to the heathen, who are very numerous in this District. The three itinerant catechists, who are paid out of your very kind grant, began their regular work from the first of August last, and are carrying on their work very faithfully and satisfactorily. I earnestly hope God will bless their work by bringing many souls to the saving knowledge of Christ. Each one of the itinerant catechists has to visit and preach in a circle containing about forty-five villages, inhabited by heathen. I have sent to you herewith, per book post, a daily journal of their work for the first three months, and I hope to send to you also, hereafter regularly an account of their work quarterly.

I take this opportunity to submit to your kind consideration a few facts about this Mission District. Nagalapuram District is the youngest, largest and most northern of all the S.P.G. Mission Districts in Tinnevely. It is thirty miles long and twenty-five miles broad, traversed by dangerous brooks; and has no roads. Good water is scarce. The inhabitants are accustomed to use muddy tank water for all purposes, which is the cause of several bad diseases. Venomous insects and serpents are plenty. The soil is black and loose, and consequently travelling in the rainy season is impossible. The inhabitants are poor, illiterate and superstitious. They are divided into twenty-seven different castes, each having its own peculiar heathen customs and habits. This part of the country, —which is quite different in every respect from the southern part of Tinnevely,—is under the direct rule of twenty-seven Zamindars, who, though rich, are as rude, ignorant and superstitious as the inhabitants are. They use many improper means to exact money from the inhabitants, but never do them any good. To keep their people in an illiterate and ignorant condition is the best policy of their rule, hence their opposition to Christianity and Christian preachers.

Notwithstanding all these difficulties and oppositions, the Son of Righteousness has now cast forth His brilliant beams in this dark region. There are now Christians in 137 villages in this District; their number is between five and six thousand; about 900 of them are Communicants. During the course of this year about 100 heathen have denounced idolatry and placed themselves under Christian instruction.

I am very sorry to inform you that the Madras Diocesan Committee S.P.G. in Madras is *not able* to give me sufficient pecuniary help for the work to be done in this district. Their present grant of money is not at all adequate to the work to be done. Consequently there are not more than twelve village schools for Chris-

tian children in this very large district. There is a boarding-school at the head-station, containing only thirty children, for which I receive no pecuniary help from the M. D. C. S. P. G. For want of churches in many villages, prayers are conducted in the houses of Christians and under trees. There is not one single substantial church in the whole of the district. We had laid the foundation for a substantial church in the head-station, the walls of which has been raised only three feet above the ground. The work is now stopped for want of funds. The number of mission agents is very small, and so each one has to visit seven or eight villages where Christians reside, for the purpose of giving them spiritual instruction. Moreover, there are many thousands of heathen to whom the Word of God is to be revealed.

By this you will be able to judge, how highly and heartily we have appreciated your very kind gift of 581 rupees toward the mission work in this poor and new Mission District. I most heartily thank you again for your kind gift and most earnestly entreat your benevolent Society to continue this help towards this Mission for some time more. I beg to remain, sir, your most obedient servant.

D. VETHAMUTHU.

NAGALAPURAM, TINNEVELLY, INDIA, Nov. 19th, 1890.

Our Indian Department.

Edited by Rev W. A. Burman, B.D., Principal of the Rupert's Land Indian Industrial School, St. Paul's, Manitoba. Missionaries having items of interest regarding the Indians will kindly forward them to Mr. Burman.

MOOSONEE.

THE following interesting letter, dated February, 1891, has just been received from Archdeacon Winter, York Factory, Moosonee:—

"The District under my charge is known as the York Factory District, and comprises this part with Trout Lake to the southwest, and Severn to the south east. Formerly Churchill, 150 miles north, was included, but that station is conducted by my good friend, the Rev. J. Lofthouse, who has a grand work to do among the Eskimos and Chipewyans. At present I will confine my remarks to York Factory, and follow on (D.V.), with a few particulars respecting the out-stations.

"I find from the oldest register, the first entry of baptism was made in 1840. But that could not have been the first baptism, because missionaries had been passing through to the inland posts, and a few had been baptised at various times. From the year 1840 to 1854 there was no resident missionary, but the Wesleyan clergyman who was stationed at