

into parishes, each with a minister supported by government to preach to the English people, planters, &c., but hitherto little has been done for the thousands of Indian laborers on the estates. Now that the work has been begun let us hope and pray that the Presbyterian Missionary Society of the West Coast will carry it on vigorously and successfully, and that in British Guiana will be seen the same glad results in the elevation of the immigrant from India that have taken place in Trinidad.

Rev. J. D. Murray, writes us, "I find that according to the statistics of last year the Pres. Church of Victoria had 159 settled ministers, N. S. W. 84. Queensland 27, S. Australia 18, Tasmania, probably about 25. Besides these there is a considerable number of unattached ministers, engaged as agents of churches in missionary and professional work. I cannot give you the number in the churches of New Zealand and Otago; probably there are about 100. Our N. S. W. ministers and agents in active service number 135. Our total annual income is £55,000 stg. Our preaching centres number 600. S. S. Teachers over 1200. Average attendance of Sabbath Scholars from 8,000 to 10,000, Elders 300. Deacons, or managers over 1300.

Thanks to our friends who kindly returned the November Maritime. Thanks, too, for the kind words of appreciation and the good wishes that have come to us with the renewal subscriptions of the New Year.

We give in this issue letters from almost all our missionaries. Never did the MARITIME have such a full and varied assortment of mission news from our own fields.

A fine new Church was opened at Greenfield, in the Coldstream Congregation, Col. Co., Oct. 13th. Both congregation and pastor, Mr. Bruce, have ground for encouragement as this is the second new church that has been opened in the congregation within about ten months.

CONVERSATION AT HOME.

Few things are more important in a home than is conversation, yet there are few things to which less deliberate thought is given. We take great pains to have our home well furnished. We select our carpets and pictures with the utmost care. We send our children to school that they may become intelligent. We strive to bring into our homes the best conditions of happiness. But how often is the speech of our household left untrained and undisciplined!

The good we might do in our homes with our tongues, if we would use them to the limit of their capacity of cheer and helpfulness, it is simply impossible to state. Why should so much power for blessing be wasted? Especially, why should we ever pervert the gift and use our tongues to do evil, to give pain, to scatter seeds of bitterness? It is a sad thing when a child is born dumb; But it were better to be born dumb, and never to have the gift of speech, than, having that gift, to employ it in speaking only sharp, unloving or angry words.—*Central Christian Advocate*.

STEPPING ON A SHADOW.

One dark night a man who was about to leave a steamboat saw what he supposed to be a gang plank, but it was only a shadow. He stepped upon it, and of course fell into the water below. He thought he was taking the right way, but his thinking so could not make any difference in the result, so long as he really did take it. Just so in matters of far greater importance. You must be right, not merely suppose you are right, if you are to avoid the evil consequences of wrong doing. This man might have put it to the proof whether it was the gang plank or not before trusting himself upon it. Do not be like him, but test your beliefs and see if they are well grounded. Many a young man has been ruined by a course of conduct which at first he felt sure would do him no harm. Many a man has followed his own notions of what is right, instead of taking God's word as a guide, and awakened in eternity to find that he had stepped upon a shadow and had fallen.—*Exchange*.

It is stated that a Hindu gentleman has called a congress of Brahman priests and learned men for the purpose of incorporating the Bible among the sacred books of India, and officially recognizing Christ as the last and spiritual Avatar, or incarnation of Brahm, the supreme deity.