

## LETTER FROM MISS KIRKPATRICK.

SAN FERNANDO, Trinidad, July 16, 1892.

I HAVE only been in Trinidad a short time, yet at Mr. Grant's request I will endeavour to write to you. My personal experience in the work is, of course, limited, yet, the fruits of other laborers is seen, even among those who are not as yet recognized as Christians.

To illustrate this fact, let me relate an incident which came under our notice not long since. Rampersad, a bright intelligent boy of twelve years of age, but the son of a Brahmin, was one day speaking of baptism. On being asked why he was not baptized, he replied: "My father belongs to a big or high nation and will not allow me. I asked him once and he told me if I ever mentioned it again he would turn me out of the house."

The god of his father is Krishna the eighth incarnation of Vishnu the preserver. His birthday is supposed to be the 8th of August, and on this day all believers in Krishna fast. The sixth day after his birth is also sacred, and the seventh is a day of great merry-making. The object of his coming into the world was to destroy the demon Kans, but as Rampersad expresses "He was too wicked, and then he can't do anything, as he is only made of earth. He is not my god; my God is the one in heaven."

Thus we see that his faith in his father's god is destroyed, and can only hope that his father may shortly see the uselessness of trying to force him to worship that in which he has not belief, and consent to his being openly acknowledged as a Christian.

It is pleasing to note, however, that whilst many parents are not willing to have the children baptized, yet they are desirous of having them attend the Mission School.

One morning a venerable looking man might be seen entering the school yard with three children. In his personal appearance he presented a very interesting picture. He was arrayed in the real East Indian dress, which consists of the *kurti* or tunic, the *kapra* which falls midway between the knee and ankle, and a tight-fitting embroidered cap. In this case everything was spotlessly clean, and he, with his snow-white hair and beard, looked so cool and comfortable that no one could but admire the costume, and feel a regret that it is so often cast aside and one not nearly so well adapted to the climate adopted.

On entering the school-room he gracefully made his salaam, and explained that his little boys had spent the previous day in secret play. He wished to be informed whenever they were absent from school, as he always intended them to be there. If detained by any necessary cause word would be sent to that effect. He himself is still a heathen, but it is hoped that these little

children of his second family may become Christians.

Thus it is something encouraging peeps out, —now among the children, now in the parents, and at all these the missionary eagerly grasps, hoping in time to see still more fruit.—*Women's Leaflet*.

## LETTER FROM MRS. K. J. GRANT.

SAN FERNANDO, Trinidad, July 18, 1892.

PLEASE assure the W. F. M. Society of the Western Division of my heartfelt gratitude for the renewal of their annual donation.

We have no school specially for girls. We do not think our circumstances in this district call for such. Our central school, now under the excellent management of Miss Kirkpatrick, draws, as it has always drawn in, the girls of the town. She is assisted in her large school by four of these young women. On the outskirts of the town is another school averaging about fifty-five, completely in the hands of two of our young women. On a neighbouring estate another of our former pupils was in charge of a second till a few weeks ago, when she was married to a young man of this central school, now book-keeper on a large sugar estate.

Yet another in a remote district in the country assisted in school work. She, too, was married last week to one of our teachers. She speaks, reads and writes English and Hindustani with equal readiness.

Other girls are similarly employed, and the fact that an Indian girl can find a place as a teacher, and perform her duties to the satisfaction of the managers of the school, does stimulate others to press forward, and we are of opinion that this is one of the most effective checks to child marriages. The Indian mother finds that there are spheres of usefulness and honour for her daughter, and she is not slow to appreciate the prospect, and she keeps her at school; and the girl, too, is encouraged to push forward, and at every step she becomes emancipated from the rigours of social usage and better qualified to make her own choice.

We do not therefore propose providing any special agency for women, and yet special cases of distress do arise, and very frequently too, that call for our sympathy, attention and aid. At one time it is a feeble mother with infant in arms requiring food and medicine; at another time it is a woman, driven out by the man to whom she was never married, bearing, it may be, marks of ill-treatment on her person, without clothing food or shelter; and yet again a girl emerging into womanhood who has fled from a home which she was forced to enter and abide for a time under parental authority. I cannot well describe the scores of phases under which the missionary's wife is obliged to aid, and yet every item disbursed tells directly for good on the work.—*Monthly Letter Leaflet*.