

## MISSION STUDIES.

*(Introductory Paper.)*

BY MISS FERRIER, CALEDONIA.

### MISSION OF THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN TRINIDAD.

Trinidad is the most southerly of the West Indian Islands, and is within sight of the mainland of South America, from which it is separated by the Gulf of Paria. On account of its great beauty and fertility it has been named the "Paradise of the Indies." It was discovered by Columbus on his third voyage to the New World, July 31st, 1498. As he cast anchor near its shores, he saw three mountain peaks rising from a single base, and the sight bringing to mind the Trinity of the Godhead, he named the island La Trinidad (the Trinity), and, as his custom was, took possession of it for Spain.

It remained a Spanish colony, though one little noticed or valued for 300 years. Towards the end of that period, in order to encourage emigration, the Government offered to each Roman Catholic settler a grant of land, larger in proportion to the number of slaves he owned; and a smaller portion to each free coloured person, being a Roman Catholic. In consequence of this, Spanish and French Roman Catholics became the ruling classes, and all labour was performed by slaves; and also, as an effect of this measure Roman Catholics, both white and coloured, still constitute, after the coolies, the majority of the population, amounting to about 200,000, though Protestantism is on the increase.

In 1798, Spain declared war against Great Britain, and the same year Trinidad surrendered to a British fleet, and has ever since been a British colony. From that date its resources began to be developed, and it soon became prosperous. The soil is ex-