



PRIMARY SCHOOL, CODRINGTON COLLEGE,

and the military history of Barbados was brought to a close.

Once more, in 1831, the hurricane, that terrible devastator of the West Indies, swept over the island, causing 1,591 deaths and a destruction of property estimated at more than a million and a half sterling. Relief to the extent of £100,000 was granted by England to the various islands that had suffered from the hurricane, of which sum Barbados received one-half; but a great boon in 1838 was granted by the Home Government by the removal of the  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. duty, which, as far back as 1663, had been placed upon the produce of the island. Thus a contention which had lasted 175 years was brought to a close.

In the early days of the island white labour was employed; but when the sugar cane came to be cultivated slaves were imported from Africa. In the year 1806 there were 60,000 negroes in the island—and what to do with the descendants of these negroes now, multiplied as they are to an enormous extent, is the problem of the hour. Since emancipation they have been labourers, working for wages on the estates of large proprietors. They own no land and must work for their living.

In the year 1668 a child was born in Barbados whose name and influence was destined to be great in the Church matters of the West Indies. This was Christopher Codrington, who afterwards became a "Fellow of all Souls," Oxford, and subsequently was appointed Governor of the Leeward Islands. On his death, in 1710, the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel fell heir, by his bequest, to certain estates in the West Indies and 300 negroes belonging to them for the foundation and maintenance of a college of professors and scholars. He made his will to this effect in 1702, one year after the S. P. G. itself was formed, and in it directed that these professors and scholars were "to study

and practise Physick and Chirurgery, as well as Divinity, that by the apparent usefulness of the former to all mankind they may both endear themselves to the people and have the better opportunities of doing good to men's souls, whilst they are taking care of their bodies."

This is probably the earliest proposal for medical missions in modern times. Owing to legal difficulties the Society was not able to get actual possession till 1745, when a grammar school, or college, was opened under a master and usher (both clergymen) with twelve scholars to be trained as missionaries.

In 1780 a hurricane nearly destroyed the college and rendered the estates unproductive, but it was re-opened in 1789 with six boys and gradually increased in the number of its students.

Thus, when in 1824 a bishop was appointed for Barbados, his lordship found this useful college at his disposal. The first Bishop of Barbados was Dr. W. H. Coleridge, who had a much larger territory under his control than the present Bishop has. Seven years after his appointment he had the misfortune of seeing Codrington College again destroyed by a hurricane. It was, however, restored and work went on as usual. In 1836 (two years after the emancipation of the slaves) the S. P. G. received compensation money for the slaves, and invested the money as an endowment for the college.

Bishop Coleridge was succeeded by Dr. T. Parry in 1842, and he by Dr. J. Mitchinson in 1873. Bishop Mitchinson resigned in 1881 and the present occupant of the See, Dr. H. Bree, succeeded him in 1882. In 1887 Bishop Bree wrote to the Society deploring another cyclone, which, in the previous year, swept through his diocese hurling houses and churches to the ground by the wholesale. These periodical devastations must be very trying and injurious to the work in the West Indies.

In 1878 Barbados was divided into two separately organized dioceses under one bishop,—Barbados and the Windward Islands (Grenada, St. Vincent, the Grenadines and Tobago), it being found difficult to work on the same system Barbados with its established and endowed Church and the other islands in which the Church is disestablished and partially or wholly disendowed. For this latter diocese the Bishop pleads most earnestly, as the work is suffering blow after blow from the continued withdrawal of governmental aid. In Barbados the Church is on a better basis. Froude thus speaks of it:—