

Tumapuna Trust Ltd
B.W. Indies - Dec. 1890

Report of the Tumapuna Home for Indian Girls

We opened a little Home on Jan. 13. 1890 with 100 girls, others came in shortly so that we have had five permanent inmates since. From May till August we had two orphans who are now supported by their brother. These with other visitors have given us an average of six for the year. We have lately received the sixth permanent one, another who may be so, & four little motherless girls, whose father, one of our teachers - has been obliged to go to the Hospital Port of Spain, for surgical treatment. We thus close the year with eleven inmates.

Accommodation

A cottage was rented for the first few months from private funds. At the end of that time the basement room of our dwelling became unoccupied through the removal of the Tumapuna School to a separate house. We brought the girls to it with grave doubts as to the suitability of the arrangement but have found it answered extremely well. A small part is partitioned off for a bath room the remainder divided into a sleeping apartment, & common room, while a piazza enclosed about the door affords a tiny flower garden, & the shelter of a portico which is utilized as a kitchen. This enclosure is secured against intruders by being without an entrance except through the apartments.

Management

This has been rendered easy by having the "Home"

under, one, own roof. ² We are, almost like, one family,
worshipping together morning and evening and working
together so far, as can be done. Miss Morton & myself
have, the, superintendence during the day, till about
3 o'clock. A respectable, respectable woman who is also
teacher, for the Infant Department, of the Sunday
School, is at that hour, relieved from School duty &
takes charge, sleeping with them. She has been of
little use, in teaching as the younger girls have
learned only Hindi by the elder, are beyond her,
in sewing she has been useful.

Instruction

I taught the girls entirely myself during the
first half year; since the return of our daughter
in July she has taken the weight of this burden
off me, enabling me to do more outside work.
Hindi Reading & writing have been taught to all.
Two - Sophy & Sarah who did not know a letter, are
beginning to read the Bible:

English Reading & Writing - One, who knew
Hindi, but no English, - Elizabeth Brien - can read
"Peep of Day" fairly well. Two have read carefully
a simple Roman History - 217 pages - and have
been closely questioned upon each day's lesson, partly
with a view to making them understand and
think about, what they read. The women at
Victoria,

Grammar. The same two girls have
studied Long Grammar regularly with small
progress.

Geography. They have also mastered "Lesson
in Geography" contained in about 16 pages of
"Picture Teaching for young & old," kindly sent
me some years ago by the "York Map & Mission
Band," & are continuing the study of maps.

Music. I have taught Alice on Mason and
 Gamble's Baby Organ to accompany the native
 hymns. Miss Norton is teaching Victoria, Eliza-
 beth. Dr. Norton attaches a great deal of importance
 to hymn-singing among the converts & school children.
 One new hymn is taught each month, the same
 for all the schools, & the teachers learn from one
 in the weekly prayer-meeting to sing it. It will
 be a great help to have some of the women able
 to assist in this branch at the out-stations.

Religious Instruction. This should come
 first as a great deal of time has been devoted to it.
 Indeed, without my Bible class I would never
 have obtained the influence necessary to the right
 management of these young creatures. Nothing
 but the power of the Word could ever have sub-
 dued the evil passions that made the experience
 of the first months of this work the most soul-
 trying we have ever gone through. Envy, jeal-
 ousy, pride, & wilfulness kept up a constant
 warfare among the pupils which my constant
 presence might have prevented, but only the Spirit
 of God could apply the cure. Christian principle
 has we believe triumphed in the hearts of the elder
 girls & peace, kindness, & gentleness prevail.
 Our Bible class, held in Hindi, was at first some-
 what irregular, & held only twice during the week.
 Since September we have held it five mornings in
 the week, from 11.30 to 12.30. After glancing thro'
 the Historical Books we took up Proverbs and
 lately the Epistle of James as being eminently
 practical. The study of the Proverbs is as blessed
 to the girls & they enjoyed it greatly. They would
 look at one & smile & often laugh outright as they
 felt the thrust of the Spiritual Sword couched
 in its homely phrases -

Their glances said so plainly as words "That means me & I know it, & you know it, too." Our Bible woman, Fanny, who lives next door & is so much a daughter as any of these, & Mrs. Newa, another faithful mother, join us regularly. Three girls, Alice, Victoria, and Elizabeth receive each a prize for reciting in Hindi, without a mistake, the 31st Chap. of Proverbs. Arithmetic - I had almost forgotten. It is rather a sore subject. All have toiled with it, but little has been done beyond the first four rules.

Practical Training.

Cooking. The girls have done all their own cooking, talking it in turns. Their food is largely rice, with vegetables, salt fish, oil, & Indian spices manufactured into what they call "karkari" - a savory mixture which is eaten along with the rice.

Washing, Ironing, Starching. Each has done her share in a very creditable manner. All wore English clothing having adopted it before they came to us.

Sewing. Each has made, or helped to make, her own dresses, besides plain sewing. In all the last named branches Miss Morton has given them careful instruction, having herself taken a course of lessons in each during her stay in Scotland.

One or more of the elder girls will probably have a home of her own before long. One was betrothed but broke off the engagement for what we considered satisfactory reasons. Alice was for some months taken the more by Scripture Lesson & Hymn-singing in the Sunapur School. I brought her little scholars very well.

The clothing of the girls has cost very moderately, the parents having supplied it in part. - The cost of furnishing more than made up for this. All expenses including two holiday trips which I was obliged to take them with me, photographs, & a visit to the Port of Spain Exhibition came so close on \$300 that the small balance has been expended on extra furnishing.

Twiss
 report
 1890

This is not a large sum - less than fifty
 for each girl, being somewhat under the esti-
 mated cost. But who can estimate the
 results? Is it a large price for the article
 we hope to turn out - viz. - "The Virtuous
 Woman" whose price is "far above rubies?"

Sarah E. Morton
