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H. H. Horner to the Missionary Committee

Trinity, 28 March 1871

Respected Fathers & Brethren,

Having been very unwell several days with a bilious attack which has left me very weak and low, I hope you will see a sufficient reason for this letter not being as long as it otherwise might be made. I wrote (at 10) 15 February last, and sent by the Ship Traveller for London, which sailed 7th inst. An intimation was made therein of a packet of sundry articles intended to be forwarded to you; which I have this day delivered to the care of W. West, a gentleman returning to England who has kindly offered to be the bearer of it. I shall be much obliged by your permitting the two parcels enclosed to be sent according to the directions; filling up the had section of my Father's, as I do not know in what country he may be stationed.

I have opened a fourth school: my complement of boys is now 180; a few have left off coming because the school books do not contain any portions of the religious and other writings, but the general number is on the increase. But great evil, and in my opinion the greatest is the frequent recurrence of holidays: these are considered not 'wholly days of play', but in general seasons set apart for particular forms and ceremonies; ^{to worship} yet though styled holy days, they are nothing but times of idleness and revelry. When leave of absence is requested by my schoolmasters or boys for such purposes, I invariably refuse: giving at the same time my reasons for so doing. With or without permission, the scholars about themselves at particular festivals: - but till some effectual remedy can be devised, it appears a left well to have one's authority undervalued by their acting directly opposite to order, than to give the slightest apparent encouragement to their idleness application of time by granting leave of absence in such circumstances.