

urged the Board to re-inforce the mission staff. No immediate possession was taken, however, other than leaving there a Christian school teacher and two young men from the Goalpara Normal School. In 1873, Mr. Stoddard was unfortunately forced to return to America because of ill health, but during his short sojourn among the Garos he had seen the Christian community grow from forty to 286, and many of this number he had seen trained in Christian work.

With the coming of M. C. Mason and E. G. Phillips, a long, unbroken and, in many respects, most remarkable period of missionary activity among the Garos was begun. They arrived at Goalpara on December 19, 1874, and were almost immediately thrust into a position of responsibility. Mr. Keith was just able to introduce them to the work when he was forced to take furlough. With undaunted courage the two young recruits set to work. Tura was visited in the hope of locating there. It was finally decided, however, the two should divide their responsibility, one remaining in charge of the normal school and the other locating at Tura. It fell to the lot of Mr. Phillips to settle there; and this he did in March, 1877; and of Mason to remain at Goalpara in charge of the school. Soon after Phillips' arrival in Tura, he erected a temporary house; and while thus engaged, he conducted interesting tent meetings, with the result that several became interested in the Christian religion. In the following May six people were baptized; and a small church of seven members was organized.<sup>6</sup>

With the moving of the missionaries to Tura a new era in missionary work began. The government proposed to turn over to the mission all of their schools in the hills promising to support the same, providing

the mission would be responsible for the superintendence and would move the Normal School from Goalpara to Tura. Regarding settling in one place, Mr. Phillips wrote:

"The best interests of the mission would be served by their being located together at Tura. The location is such as to be nearly equally accessible from all parts of the district, the rainy season work could be carried on to better advantage in concert, and it is very advantageous to have the laborers so near together as to be able to consult on all important matters."<sup>7</sup>

The Board being quick to sense the force of this argument sanctioned the scheme of the two young men, and in 1878 Mr. Mason gave up Goalpara and moved to Tura. An intensive program of training, in secular as well as in religious matters, was launched, and the foundations for work that was destined to be one of the best in Assam were laid. Of this new plan, Mason wrote:

"Born and brought up on thrifty, well-stocked farms in western New York, classmates, roommates, and chums during our educational careers, and finally marrying sisters, we were far better prepared to be yokefellows in service than are most missionaries. And in the light of the field to which we were sent it certainly appears providential that we were thus brought together and for forty years permitted to pull together shoulder to shoulder, of one heart and aim."<sup>8</sup>

As compared with the work on the plains, the progress in the hills has been phenomenal. When the fifty years' jubilee was celebrated in 1886, it was reported that 1473 people had been baptized and that there were 870 members of good and regular standing in the churches. There were also forty-four schools with 766 pupils.<sup>9</sup> From the first, the responsibility of Christianizing the Garos was laid upon the indigenous churches