

"A palisade about 6½ feet in height enclosing about three acres of land was erected, and inside this enclosure were built log houses for the accommodation of the missionary and his staff.

"This spot they called 'Prince Albert,' in honor of her late Majesty's consort; a name which the town, now built on the same site, still retains.

"As the party did not reach their point of destination until the 26th of July, 1866, the missionary had to devote much of his time to superintending and putting up the buildings; indeed he did much of the carpenter work himself, whip-sawing lumber, etc.

"Notwithstanding all these exertions, the party had to live in tents long after the ground was covered with snow.

"But our missionary did not neglect the spiritual part of his work. Roving bands of wild Indians were continually coming and going and would camp for days near the spot; to these he preached the Gospel, opened a school for the children and taught the young men four evenings in the week. The next year he tried to induce as many Indians as he could to settle down and farm; but as the buffalo at that time were very plentiful not many would listen.

"For years Mr. Nisbet worked unceasingly, then his wife was taken very ill; he made an ambulance wagon and took her back to Kildonan, on the Red River, her native place (not far from where Winnipeg now stands) to obtain medical aid. Mrs. Nisbet died shortly after their arrival, and her husband, worn out with fatigue, soon followed her.

"In 1878 the aspect of the mission changed. A few families from Kildonan had settled near by, also some white settlers. As the buffalo had by this time disappeared in the vicinity of the mission efforts were made by the Government to place the Indians on reserves, and everything indicated that Prince Albert would become the site of a town. So in 1878 the Foreign Mission Board transferred the mission at Prince Albert to the Home Mission Board, whose aim was to meet the wants of the white settlers, the Foreign Mission Board retaining control of the day school, which had been established by Mr. Nisbet.