

Every encouragement is given by Mr. Nisbet to the Indians to settle in the neighbourhood of the Mission and engage in farming, and the prospects are that during the present season a goodly number will make experiment of a settled mode of life. This will bring them habitually under the influence of the Mission, and remove the great barrier to missionary success presented by the wandering life and unsettled habits of the Indian tribes. Until this is accomplished, and even afterwards, it will be very desirable that means should be provided to enable the Mission to board and educate Indian children from a distance. It is estimated that by making their labour available on the farm, and practising the strictest economy, one Indian child can be trained at the Mission for the sum of fifty dollars per annum. Your Committee believe that if the attention of Sabbath Schools were directed to this department of missionary exertion, it would have the happiest results, both to those who give, and to those who receive the benefit.

During the past year Mr. Nisbet has usually paid a monthly visit to Fort Carlton, and has held service among the Indians in the neighbourhood, and also among the H. B. Co., servants at that post.

In his mission work Rev. Mr. Nisbet has been ably assisted by Mr. John McKay, who acts as interpreter, and takes a general superintendence of the farming and building operations of the Mission. During the year Mr. Nisbet baptized twelve persons. Three of these were adult Indians; six were Indian children, and the remainder children of the officers and servants of the H. B. Co.

The Hon. H. B. Co. has very liberally granted the sum of £25 *stg.*, annually, towards the support of the Mission at Prince Albert. We hail this act as, at once, an expression of the interest felt by the Co. in the welfare of the aborigines, and a token of confidence in the Mission. The presence of your missionary, the Rev. James Nisbet, in the Synod renders further details unnecessary, as he will be able, personally to supply the Synod with full information respecting the Mission.

After the expression of opinion given at last Synod, your Committee did not feel warranted in taking immediate steps to break ground in any other portion of the heathen world. But fully alive to the importance of preparing the way for such an advancement the earliest moment practicable. Your Committee instructed their Convener to meet with the students of Knox College and address them on the subject of Foreign Missions. This duty was discharged by the Convener, and it is hoped, not without some resulting good. One promising young man has since intimated his intention of devoting himself to the work of Foreign Missions when his studies are completed, and others are believed to be giving the subject serious consideration.

Should the Synod see its way to enter on another heathen mission speedily, a reconsideration of the field may be desirable. While the fact that by entering on the work in the New Hebrides, we would be co-operating with our brethren of the Presbyterian Church of the Lower Provinces, strongly commends that field to us, your Committee think that it may be well worthy of consideration whether, on the whole, it would not be wiser to commence in some of the great centres of population. The attention of your Committee, and of many in the Church, has been turned towards China, where there are districts with a population of more than two hundred millions, which seem, at the present juncture, peculiarly open to Evangelistic effort, and have never yet been occupied by Protestant missions. Your Committee would suggest that the field of any additional mission to the heathen should be left an open question, and that the Foreign Mission Committee be instructed to make such inquiries as may guide them in making a recommendation to next Synod.

Your Committee would, however, beg to call the special attention of the Synod to the receipts and disbursements for Foreign Missions during the year.

Balance on hand at the beginning of the year	\$1,809.16
Received during the year, as against \$1,800.50, last year	4,841.18
Expenditure during the year	5,790.25
Balance on hand.....	3,860.29