

has been a great source of encouragement, and has led me often to think less of the trials and difficulties than I otherwise would have done. Since I wrote you, the number of Church members has been increased by five. One of them a young man whose case I may mention as illustrating some parts of my letter. I turned aside one Sabbath, some five miles out of my way, to preach to a party of men engaged in building a new road. I found some forty in the camp, differently employed. Some playing cards; some pitching quoits; others washing their clothes, &c. I thought them a pretty hard crowd to preach to. However, I introduced myself, and invited them to join me in the worship of God. All excepting those at the cards accepted the invitation. At the conclusion of the service a young man came to me with tears in his eyes, and, after apologizing for what he considered an intrusion, he told me that he wanted to talk to me privately about his soul. He said, "While you were engaged in your first prayer, and especially while you were praying for those in other lands who taught us first to say, 'Our Father who art in heaven,' my mother's prayers flashed across my mind; and all the while you were preaching I thought of her prayers for me, and

of my own past life, and now, by God's help, from this day I am determined to live a different life." I took him aside; we talked and prayed long and earnestly together, and, ere we parted, he pleaded hard to get joining the Church, as he said he thought it would make him stronger. And after placing the matter before him, with the duties, conditions, and responsibilities, I felt it only right to take his name on trial. That is now six months since. I saw him last about a month ago, when he informed me that he was doing well and holding on his way.

The finances, I am glad to say, will be about \$100 ahead of last year, and, I think, if carefully worked, this Mission will become self-supporting in a year or two. There is a strong probability of the Canadian Pacific Railway coming through this section of country, in which case this Mission would become much more important, as there are two or three centres where towns would spring up rapidly. I am sorry to say that the constant toil of the last two years is telling on my health. I think too much in the saddle, as well as exposure and unsuitable diet. Any man appointed to this Mission must make up his mind "to endure hardness," as he will be tested both physically and morally.

From the "Illustrated Christian Weekly."

BRIG.-GEN. O. O. HOWARD:

Sir,—At your request I have pleasure in detailing the recent flattering interest in educational affairs manifested by the Stickeen Indians of Alaska, which, with the encouragement of citizens and others, it is hoped may result in the establishment of a permanent school and Mission for that people in the vicinity of Fort Wrangel.

You are fully aware of the wholesome progress in Indian civilization wrought at Fort Simpson, British Columbia, under the direction of Rev. Thos. Crosby, of the Canadian Methodist Church, as well as by the

adjoining Church of England Mission at Metlah Catlah. Fort Simpson is distant from Fort Wrangel a voyage of but three or four days by canoe through the straits, and during the summer of 1876 many Simpson Indians visited Wrangel seeking and obtaining employment in the various industries fostered by the mines. Familiarly known among miners and residents as "Mr. Crosby's Indians," their decency and upright conduct early attracted my favourable notice. I observed that they habitually ceased from work on Sunday, engaged in religious worship, and behave generally like Christians. Later, through