

Mr. Hardisty, the gentleman in charge of this district, takes a deep interest in the mission cause. The gentleman in charge of the Company's interests here is a converted man, and exerts a very beneficial influence. At Fort Edmonton, next Sabbath, I hope to meet the principal men of this district. But twice a year they come in from their distant posts, and then expect to meet your missionaries.

To men who spend nine-tenths of their time in wilds and solitude, these seasons of social and religious intercourse are doubly appreciated.

We have many wants, and as far as my limited opportunity for observation goes, I would place first on the list, the want of church accommodation. Here we have a snug little church built by local effort, but the inhabitants of the place more than

comfortably fill it; and what must it be when hundreds of Crees are in from the plains. At Bro. Steinhaur's, an effort has been made to build a larger church; and the bell, the gift of John Macdonald, Esq., and some of the glass sent by James Ferrier, Jun., Esq., were handed over by Bro. McDougall, and graciously received by the chief and his people. At Woodville, Bro. McDougall is making an effort to build a church for the worthy Stoneys; and your missionary will do his best to erect a house of prayer at Fort Edmonton. The papists are alive to the importance of church building. It is really surprising to witness their efforts in this country. Priests and nuns are located at almost every important point. May antichrist fall before the power of Christ.

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*From the same, dated Edmonton House, January 8th, 1869.*

Here we have much to encourage us. I have been treated very kindly by the gentleman in charge, and also by the subordinates, and good attention is given to the preaching of the word. The Sabbath services are well attended. Since we came here we have had public prayers every evening in our own house; most of the people attend regularly. We have also an interesting Bible-class every Sabbath afternoon. In the fall, my brother-in-law, Mr. A. I. Snyder, commenced a day-school; and to meet the wants of the men, we found it necessary to have an evening-school also. All our efforts thus far have been successful.

Edmonton is beautifully located. The plot we have selected for our mission is quite near enough to accommodate the people of the Fort, and commands a magnificent view of the river and adjacent country. We have been moving in church matters, and lately added to the old subscription \$150. Our greatest difficulty is the procuring of workmen. In the midst of these difficulties I am often deeply impressed with this thought, that we are but pioneers. This country must yet become densely populated. The climate is salubrious. Up to this date we have had no snow.

Cattle are running at large on the plains. There is evidently a great abundance of minerals,—the land is excellent,—in fact, we have all those properties which go to constitute a great country.

At present we witness abounding sin of every kind, a lawless state of society, and my conviction is, that had it not been for the Gospel influence exerted in the past, we should ere this have witnessed troublesome times. The present state of things cannot last long. The Canadian government must either take hold of this country, or we shall drift into the hands of the Americans. The upper Missouri is filling up; Fort Benton is becoming a large town; 17 steamers arrived at that point during last summer. American miners are coming in to Fort Edmonton with their waggons. A new and rich gold field has been found in British Kootanie, and thousands of men are rushing into the new diggings. Bro. McDougall has just informed me that I will have to accompany him in a visit to these mines next spring. Pray for us: we want to do all that we can for the perishing souls of men.

In October I visited Woodville, and attended Bro. John McDougall's quar-