

shaggy-rappy pony, which for leanness, laziness and stupidity, would vie with the donkeys of Cairo.

Some of our Missionaries whose fields of labour cover from three to five thousand square miles of territory, could indulge in sundry doleful howls about hardships if they were disposed to do so, but when they think of the far greater trials, hardships and perils endured by their venerable predecessors in this and other lands, they feel more like putting their hands upon their mouths than uttering complaints.

There is plenty of scope here for the exercise of both brain and muscle. I believe our College deals in these articles.

The adhesiveness of the mud and the importunities of the mosquitoes are not conditions to terrify good northernmen, such as frequent the Halls of the Presbyterian College, Montreal, and are trained to the work of the Lord by such men as the Rev. Principal and his colleagues. There is a great work to do in this land of promise.

There are yet possessions to take up. There is a glorious future for Presbyterianism in this country, notwithstanding the present discouragements. The locomotive, the ploughman and the opener of waterways are fast overcoming the mud and mosquitoes. New settlements are springing up all over the country. In two years the scream of the locomotive whistle will be heard at the base of the Rocky Mountains. Next year will witness the influx of a stream of immigration which will increase in volume from year to year. There are good homes for millions of industrious people here. The popular cry in the East about the grasping and remorseless monopoly of the whole country by the Canadian Pacific Railway Company is all "bosh." The success of the Syndicate depends upon the success of the people of the country. If they cripple the country they simply ruin their own prospects, and they are not likely to do that.

In a very short time the whole country will be opened up from Prince Arthur's Landing to the foot of the Rocky Mountains—over 150,000 square miles of country. What a field for missionary enterprise!

Of the ordinary routine of missionary labour here at present the geography of the country conveys a good idea. It consists in travelling over immense prairies, wading through marshes, fording creeks and coulees; preaching in school-houses and private houses, sometimes to audiences of half a dozen people, sometimes to fifty; visiting sick people in out-of-the-way places, etc. But the work, though small at present, is all-important; the fire must be kept burning on the altar. Here is a chance for every man to build upon his own foundation. This is the sowing time, the reaping time will come by-and-by. We may do much of the reaping, but we may do a good amount of sowing; we may, by the grace of God, lay a good foundation, and others may build thereupon, and herein will that saying be verified "One soweth and another reapeth."

Of the work of French evangelization, I may remark that it is a work from house to house, and along the way side; few of the French half-breeds can be got to attend public services, though I sometimes have two or three of them at church. I visit them in their homes, read to them out of the New Testament, talk to them about Christ, His love to sinful men, His plan of redemption, His pure morality, His hatred of sin, etc.

The French half-breeds are very ignorant, but kind-hearted and inoffensive. They like to be visited, and treat ministers with great respect; but there is a sly suspicion—characteristic of the Indian—noticeable in their manners—they are somewhat wary of strangers. In the parish of St. Francis Xavier there are one thousand one hundred French half-breeds, 95 per cent. of whom can neither read nor write, though the priests have had charge of them for sixty years. Some of them have expressed a desire to have their children taught English. A mission school in their midst might succeed for a time. They are fast selling out, however, and going farther into the interior, thus making room for a better class of people. Perhaps, the day is not far distant when the majority of the parish will be Protestant. The white man seems destined to crowd them out. They don't like the municipal arrangements.

I have a longing desire to see the students and graduates of our college take a large share in the evangelization of our great North West. There is such great promise of an abundant measure of success crowning efforts, that I long to see them come and take possession of the land for Christ, and strike deep the roots of His great doctrines and principles into the hearts and minds of the inhabitants while the soil is fresh and tillable, and ere the black ensigns of infidelity and intemperance have spread over the country and ruined the souls and bodies of the people. Prosperity—spiritual and temporal awaits the efforts of our Church *now*.

I hold it as an almost unerring index of the great promise, and future prosperity of this country, that keen, far-sighted business men have no hesitation in investing their capital in it. But if it offers good opportunities for the investment of capital with a great promise of temporal reward; it offers also opportunities equally good for the investment of good vigorous missionary effort, and with the greater promise of both temporal and eternal reward.

Therefore, fellow students, let us invest *here* and *now*. The speculator grasps the country while it is new and lays the foundation of an immense fortune. The missionary may do the same thing and lay the foundation of great ecclesiastical prosperity. When I say ecclesiastical prosperity I hope I will not be misunderstood, I mean a harvest of souls for Christ, and that is infinitely better than a harvest of dollars.

W. M.

*Heddingly, Manitoba.*