

District. There is a resident priest who has full command of Cree tongue, and is quite popular with the natives. We are proposing to ask the Conference Special Committee to permit us to ordain the young brother now in charge of our work there, Mr. S. D. Gaudin, whose work is in the highest degree creditable to him, but who is seriously hampered by the lack of power to dispense the ordinances of the Gospel.

Brother Gaudin has solved the question of interpreter by learning to preach in Cree, but must have permission to take an assistant when he is travelling from one place to another on his circuit.

### 3. CROSS LAKE

Is developing into a prosperous mission station. It is not so extensive as some of our fields, but takes in the valley or the Nelson for a distance of about 300 miles, to what is known as Split Lake. Along this river are to be found about 400 souls. At present we have Frederick Apetakun, a native lay agent, in charge of the evangelistic part of the work, and as he is not an English scholar, Mr. C. J. Fry has been sent to take charge of the school. Have not yet heard of his safe arrival at his destination. The presence of two men in a field so limited, must not be allowed after the present year. One man can no doubt do all the work unless the interests at Split Lake continue to develop, in which case it may be necessary to look at the question from another standpoint. In the meantime we wait for fuller light.

There is no church building at Cross Lake available for purposes of worship. Brother Eves tore down the old one in which service had been held, and proposed to erect another, and a more pretentious one, in its place, but completion has been deferred, so they worship in a private house for the present.

### 4. NORWAY HOUSE MISSION

Is in cloudland just now over the sad death of Chief Factor Belanger, who, while on an inspection tour to Cross and Split lakes, was the victim of an upset in the rapids below the Sea Falls, about twenty miles below the Fort. He had left in early morning. With him perished a clerk of the company, a Mr. Simpson, who died in the heroic struggle to save his master. In so sparsely settled a community as the one mentioned, the death of two such prominent personages is naturally regarded as a calamity, and is the occasion of much sorrow.

Miss Swazey, of School No. 1, has not enjoyed very rugged health this last summer, and has been compelled to slacken in her work, but at last report was said to be recovering slowly, with every prospect of taking full hours again in a few weeks. She is a valuable worker, and has fairly mastered the language.

Brother Eves has had a busy summer, being a good deal of his time in his canoe, even to this late date. He has done all that he could for Nelson House, Cross Lake, Split Lake, and Norway House. This does not give satisfaction to the people at the last mentioned place. It is considered that he is away too much, and that the work at home needs constant supervision. This difficulty may be solved when Bro. Gaudin receives his ordination, as in that case Split Lake and Nelson will no longer require Bro. Eves' services.

Dr. Strath is winning golden opinions at School No. 2. He is a graduate of Trinity College, Dublin, has two degrees, is a grandson of the celebrated Hervey, and has the reputation of being an excellent surgeon. He is delighted with his new field, and writes to say that he would with gladness stay with the people of Lake Winnipeg the balance of his life, should the Missionary Society so direct.

The mission house at Norway House has suffered by a recent heavy storm, and is reported shaky in a stormy day. Those who feel the vibrations, find them very uncomfortable, though no formal complaint has reached me. My suggestion in this matter is that a small wing be built on one side of the present building, at the cost of, say, about \$100. This will strengthen the whole, and make a little more room than they now have.

### 5. BEREN'S RIVER MISSION

Is in trouble over the failure to secure a new mission house. You will recall my last letter, and remember that I said the

prospect was then good for sending out lumber and men for this work before the closing of navigation. A day or two after I had penned the words, Captain Robinson informed me that, owing to the recent accident on the lake, and also on account of the smoky atmosphere of the lake, it would be impossible to send out another boat unless she were chartered at double rates. This, of course, we were not prepared to do, so this matter fails for this season, much to my personal regret, and greatly to the discomfort of the mission family. Have no doubt that the figure you mention will about cover the cost of the building, if wisely and closely superintended.

### 6. FISHER RIVER MISSION

Boasts of a new school house, the gift of the Government. It is a neat frame building, having accommodation for about sixty scholars, well lighted and heated. Its only fault is its size. I asked that it be made one-third larger, but it was not thought wise to depart from uniformity in this superintendency. Mr. H. S. Heise, who for two years has served the school at this point with great acceptance, has resigned, and a Mr. Percy Thacker, of the High School in Winnipeg, has been sent forward to take his place.

*Letter from A. E. BOLTON, M.D., dated PORT SIMPSON, B.C., Nov. 12th, 1892.*

WE had a formal opening of our Hospital on the 9th inst. Nearly all the white people of the town were present, took a look over a building, and joined in the religious service, and election of a Board of Management, which, with an address from Rev. Mr. Crosby, and an historical and financial statement, made up the programme. The utmost harmony and good-feeling prevailed. It was gratifying to those who had labored and prayed for the success of the institution, to find so comfortable a building nearly free from debt, and to see people of all classes heartily in sympathy with, and ready to co-operate in, the work. And so the Hospital was opened—open to receive help from those who realize that it is more blessed to give than to receive—and open to give with Christ-like liberality shelter and relief to the suffering. An aged Indian, who had been in for an operation, left this morning. The relief and comfort, the bright room and clean bed, made him, he said, inexpressibly happy. I suppose the surroundings gave him the best idea he could form of the heaven to which some of his children had gone. Allow me to acknowledge the following donations to the Hospital furnishings: A spring mattress from Mrs. L. Caldwell, Port Simpson; six wool mattresses from Mr. Erskine, Victoria; two barrels of bedding, etc., value \$40, from ladies of Kirkton Circuit, St. Mary's, Ont.

Perhaps Bro. Crosby may not find time to write you by this mail, of the wonderful work of grace that is going on in our midst, souls are turning to the Lord by the score—indeed, to count the number blest would be to enumerate almost the entire Indian village, for, from the most sincere worker to the deepest of the fallen, nearly all are being revived. Such meetings! Three hours every night and all day Sunday—and then prayers and testimonies lapped over and doubled up to get in. Again and again one crowd leaves the consecration altar to make room for another. One marked feature of the meetings is the spirit of praise which prevails. "All hail the power of Jesus' name" is sung about five times in every meeting, and faces speak the joy more plainly than tongues. Many, if photographed a few weeks ago and again now, would make good pairs of "before taking" and "after taking." Some young men in whose countenances I had never seen other than a look of lazy indifference are now lighted with a radiance which divine joy alone can give. Another blessed feature is the effect on the children in the homes. Such thorough confessions and hearty repentance I never saw exhibited before; and this is followed by joyful testimonies and earnest pleadings for the salvation of parents and friends. May the work be deep and lasting, and the wave of revival roll along the whole line of missions in the country, and strike some of the city churches to rebound in a supply of new workers for the still heathen villages.