

them. They had been under our teachings for several years, and gave me satisfactory evidence that the aged parent had gone to a better world. Prayer was

"His watchword at the gate of death,"

and we trust he has entered "heaven by prayer." Prior to his dissolution, he urged upon his relatives to submit to this dispensation, and on no account to manifest their grief as the pagan Indians do.

19. Sabbath. A day of happy toil. Baptized four children.

21. We are now in the land of plenty, buffalo being exceedingly numerous to the south of us. Joined in the chase, though left far behind, to tract the hunter as I best could. We have subsisted exclusively upon ducks and wild berries hitherto. Not less than 5,000 ducks have been killed since the 12th instant.

24. Our services are well attended; papists and pagans have greatly swelled our congregations. Last night an aged Cree, of his own accord, called upon the whole camp to avail themselves of the privilege of receiving religious instruction during my stay, telling them that they could not expect God's blessing upon them except they did.

25. A chief and several of the band accompanied me to a locality which has for ages been regarded with peculiar interest in consequence of a metallic substance being found there. This, after about three or four hours ride from the camp, was at length submitted to my inspection, with the assurance of being the first white man who had ever seen it. The form is oval, and the weight about 200 lbs. It is pure iron, and as sonorous as a bell. If it is a meteoric phenomenon, I am surprised that it did not sink into the earth; but if it is not, I cannot but conclude that pure iron abounds in that section. The surrounding country is indicative of coal, iron, and limestone. In fact, we saw some limestone and granite immediately contiguous to the metal on the summit of the mound, where, according to tradition, the iron has been for ages. I will write Dr. Hector (late of the Expedition) upon the subject.

The pagans regard this metallic substance as a mun-e-to, and have placed

sundry offerings under it, such as beads, buttons, broken earthenware, arrow-shods, tobacco, red cloth, and feathers.

Aug. 27. After expounding at our morning service Matt. 11. 5-8, a Cree chief, whom I baptized two years ago, gave his assent to all that had been advanced, and said that he always felt more access to the throne of grace in private than on other occasions. He admitted that it was hard to abandon their paganism, as he was a long time before he yielded; but having done so, he felt he could give up all for Christ, and he was resolved, through grace, to continue to the end of his days. Polygamy and rum, he acknowledged, kept their hold of him for a long time, but that now he had been lawfully married, and had given up the intoxicating cup. The latter act appears to have been resolved upon in consequence of a remarkable vision which he had. I give it almost verbatim, as received from my interpreter, without expressing any opinion in regard to it. He said that he imagined the Saviour to take him to a certain place, and to show him a great number of persons in the most abject forms, and subject to the most excruciating agonies, their punishment being some resemblance to the besetting sins. There were many from whose sides flowed one continuous streams of liquid flame, and his Divine Instructor told him that these had been drunkards in their lives, and that such would ere long be his portion if he did not abandon his former practice. "This," said he, "I resolved to do, and therefore, before we went to trade the next time I told my band that, according to my usual custom, I would on entering the fort precede them, as their chief, but I was resolved to give up drinking rum. My young men besought me with tears, to change my resolve, but I stood firm; and trust to be able to carry out my resolve." Having stated the above, in the presence of a considerable number of his band, he then urged upon them to do as he had done, and he was assured that they would not repent the step taken.

28. Just before sunset the whole camp was in great commotion through an alarm that the Blackfeet were near. The scene was sufficient to try any one's heroism. Nearly all the men almost instantaneously rushed forth on