

full sway, or whether one sees them laboring in the harvest, or working in construction gangs on the new railway lines. Their peculiar dress and the fraternal spirit which characterizes them, at once arrests the attention. They are a primitive people, not yet affected by that which we regard as modern influences. Simple minded to an astonishing degree, their honesty is beyond all question. This people will not need to advance far in western ways before they will meet with serious dangers. Their primitive habits will hardly outlast the next generation, and may be pretty thoroughly obliterated in the present one. Much that now lends stability to the character was the result of precautions which they were forced to adopt in the days of Russian oppression. Under a new set of conditions the new found liberty may involve them in other worse forms of bondage. It is a question just how long they may stand out against the dangers of frontier temptations, which have often before been a stumbling block to steady character and sobriety. These men have not the Word of God circulated among them to any considerable extent. Their religion is a system of ethics at the best, and ethics do not successfully withstand the money-grabbing and debauching influences that are at work in this new country. Illiteracy is prevalent to a very large extent, and the true state of spiritual things may be well estimated by the following incident:—The Agent of the Bible Society visited the immigration sheds at Yorkton last fall in order to ascertain in what language the Scriptures could be circulated among the Doukhobors. In an assemblage of about 130 souls, surrounded by all their worldly possessions, not a copy of the Old or New Testament could be found in any language, and the elders of the band had only vague impressions that a copy of one of the gospels existed in a colony that was fifty miles away. If these people are to maintain their present standards the church needs to circulate the Scriptures and establish schools among them at once. Delay will involve serious dangers to church and state.

These races are nearer to us than Chinese, Indians, Hindoos or any other class to whom we at present are sending Missionaries. They deposit their ballot with ours at the polls, and