

removed, and they unanimously agreed that we should be allowed to remain and carry on the work to which we were appointed.

Thus, beyond our expectation the Lord opened up the way before us. It was plain enough that some of the old men had misgivings about our intentions, but a steady course of kind treatment and devotion to the interests of the Indians has rendered even those, who were most opposed, friendly and apparently cordial with us; although we have frequently to listen to abusive speeches, requiring some patience to hear and some skill to answer. Only a few days ago, one of the leading old men, for whom we have done more than for any other, favored us with one of these in the presence of a whole band of Indians. I did not fail to answer him as he deserved, and both he and the others seem rather ashamed of themselves since. The Indians here get the name of being very unreasonable and ungrateful, and we have some proofs thereof; but we must have patience with them, and God may give them a better disposition.

Here it may be observed, that to establish a Mission in such a place as this is quite a different thing from what it would be in almost any other country. The Missionary and his helpers must do everything for themselves.

You cannot hire premises and go to work at once, nor can you even hire natives to do work for you; they know literally nothing about work of any kind beyond hunting, trapping, and fishing. You must hew your own timber, build your own houses, make your own furniture, and whatever else you want. If you wish a native to do any sort of work, you must first teach him how to do it. Hence our first business was to make way for the wintering of our cattle, and then to put up two small log houses. The snow was more than a foot deep on the ground before we could leave our tents to take possession of our first rude dwellings in the wilderness.

Meanwhile I had paid a visit to Edmonton House (the chief fort and depot for the district). It is six hundred miles west of this, and there are three trading forts on the way, which I also visited. It was my desire to know the condition of our countrymen at these forts, and likewise to assure myself, by actual inspection, that we had chosen as eligible a situation for our Mission as could be found along the Saskatchewan valley, between the stations of the Church Missionary Society on the one hand, and the Wesleyans on the other. On the way I met with several small bands of Indians, with whom I talked with the aid of my interpreter, who was my sole companion on the journey.

We were absent from our camp exactly one month, although we did not spend more than two and a half days at any one place. This will give an idea how much time would be required to carry out the itinerant work, and how much the Missionary undertaking it to any extent would require to be absent from the Mission Station.

During the first autumn and winter, besides the building of the two houses already referred to, a byre 22 ft. square, and a building for store-house, workshop, &c., 24 ft. by 22 ft., were put up; logs were cut and hauled for a house 48 ft. by 26 ft., and a large number of saw logs, and fencing for a ten acre field. At the same time (with the help of the interpreter) a first reading book was prepared in the Cree characters; and two services every Sabbath, and prayer meeting on Wednesday evenings were kept up. At these services there were usually some Indians present, although at first none of them would come near.

Such was the commencement of the Mission. We may now glance at the different departments of work in order. We shall begin with

THE FARM.

We brought with us four bushels of spring wheat (the gift of a friend at Red River), and early in the spring of 1867 we procured ten bushels of barley and twenty bushels of potatoes from Fort à la Corne and neighborhood (sixty miles east of this). Ten acres of land were ploughed (only once),