

in the Bible lesson of the current week, the ways of sin were as widely open as they had been for his father Amon and his grandfather Manasseh. The latter had spent the greater part of his long reign in idolatrous sin, recklessly undoing all that his father, the good and wise Hezekiah, had labored so long and faithfully to establish; and if toward the close of Manasseh's reign there had been repentance and amendment, those last few years evidently could have done but little to heal and atone for the terrible results of the long years of folly and sin. Then came Amon, of whom nothing good is recorded, his short and evil reign ending in conspiracy and his death by the hands of assassins. Josiah seemed born to an evil inheritance. The flood-gates of idolatry had been set wide open and the whole land was inundated by the polluting streams. If the young king had simply sought the path of least resistance, as so many young men of low and high degree seem to do, he would doubtless have found it convenient to do as his father and his grandfather before him had done. But the record of Josiah's life is evidence that a man need not live a bad life because his father and his grandfather have done wickedly or because wickedness is popular in his own generation. If a man is willing to go to destruction, there is always a broad gate and an easy way leading thitherward, but, if he would enter into life, there is as surely a strait gate and a narrow way in which his feet shall be guided by a light that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.

The lesson tells of the finding of the book of the Law in the temple by Hilkiah, the high priest, and of the strong influence exerted upon the king's mind by the reading of this book, in which were recorded the commandments of the Lord and the penalties for disobedience. This event occurred some ten years after Josiah had entered upon the active duties of his reign, and these years had been spent in the most vigorous endeavors to abolish and eradicate the false worship from the land and to re-establish among the people the worship of Jehovah. This discovery of the lost book of the law was evidently of great value in the interests of the reform in which the king, with the prophets and all zealous adherents of the true faith were so earnestly engaged. The king's mind was very powerfully impressed with the denunciations of punishment contained in the book against the sins of apostasy and idolatry. At a critical time it clothed the words both of king and prophets with an authority in the ears of the people which otherwise, it would seem, they could not have possessed.

This book of the law found by Hilkiah came to the king with the greater force and became a mighty influence for promoting reformation in Judah, because the king had been making earnest use of such knowledge of God and His truth as he already possessed. It is always true that "light is sown for the upright." It is the man who lives his life—making its principles the rule of his daily life—who is always finding in its pages rich treasure. Bibles in our days are so abundant that in Protestant communities at least it would be difficult to find a house in which there are not several copies of the sacred book. And still there is great need for many that the book of the law of the Lord be discovered. Many people in relation to their Bibles are like a man whose house is built on a rock which is full of gold, but the rock is nothing more to him than any other rock because he does not dream of what it contains. There are few things which this generation needs more than to discover what is in its Bible, and the best way for all of us to make that discovery is to put in practice the little of the Bible that we do know.

A Tour Amongst Mission Fields In Manitoba.

The distances between the mission fields in the West make it very difficult for the missionaries to enjoy the helpful intercourse with each other enjoyed by our brethren in the East.

Brethren Freeman and McDonald of Edmonton are 1040 miles from Winnipeg. At half fare a ticket to Convention costs them about \$40.00 each. Even in Manitoba the distances are sufficient to prevent frequent exchange, my nearest English brother minister is 54 miles away. In 1885 I came to this country as a missionary and settled in the district lying west of my present field. This year we spent our vacation amongst the scenes of my pioneer days. This gave us an opportunity of seeing some of our

fellow-laborers and the progress the cause had made in these years. We drove through the great Mennonite district which extends 40 miles from the western border of our field. This is one of the most interesting drives in Manitoba. On the border of the district the influence of English is seen in more modern houses and general appearance, but the thatched roof holds to the style as persistently as to the rafters. In the centre of the reservation one could easily imagine himself in the heart of Russia. Villages, thatched roof houses with stables attached, big clay ovens outside, heaps of sun dried fuel composed of cow manure and straw, etc.

The village system is breaking up slowly and the families moving out on their farms. These people are prospering. At the time we drove along the wheat stacks near the villages were a grand sight. On approaching a village you would think it contained several thousand inhabitants but when you reached it you would find most of the houses were stacks. We took our lunch in one of the houses and received great kindness. They are hospitable but do not express it. They expect you to do as they do at your house, walk in without knocking and roam all through the house. We sang some hymns and by signs and a few words of German tried to explain to them. They took much interest. There are about 20,000 of these people in the district. They speak a low German. They are divided into several religious sects, which would require a letter by itself to explain. Our missionary Burdorff, who was 20 times in prison in Russia for preaching the gospel and our Colporteur Seimens, are faithfully laboring to show them the way of salvation. "The harvest truly is great but the laborers few."

Fifty four miles bring us to Morden the prettiest town of its size in Manitoba. It was born the year I came to this country. It gobbled up all the little towns around it and has grown fat and big. Baptist services were begun there in a railway car on the siding. From that we got into the waiting room of the station, but our journey did not end there. We moved into a hall where I had ten of a congregation the first morning, this number was soon increased and we built the Chapel in which the church still worships. Pastor J. W. Litch preaches to large congregations. Bro Litch is a Nova Scotian and is one of our most energetic and successful pastors. He possesses much of what an old minister in New Brunswick once told me every minister needed, "Divine fury." A large number have been added to the church since his settlement with them.

A drive of 20 miles more and we reach Manitou, over a route I formerly navigated in my prairie schooner, always avoiding being caught out at night when land marks by which I steered were obscured. In those earlier days there was not a Baptist family between these two towns. Now the houses of our people can be seen in every direction. In one district on this road the greater portion of the homes are altogether or in part connected with the Baptist church. Brethren Litch and Canfield preached and sang the gospel there last spring and the whole place was shaken. Many were saved of whom the greater number became Baptists.

At Manitou, where in 1885 I preached in a little upper room, they have a comfortable chapel and a good congregation. They are at present pastorless but the outlook is hopeful for the advancement of the work. Bro. Lew Wallace now of Lawrencetown, N. S., spent a summer with them a few years ago and did a great work in uniting the forces of the church. The last pastor had a good ingathering last spring. Here I came upon the tracks of our beloved Evangelist D. G. McDonald. He is from "The Island" as you all know. He always leaves tracts and other tracks. I had the privilege of baptizing two converts and giving the hand of fellowship to three the day I was at Manitou. Bro. McDonald has led a large number to Christ since he came west. He is now devoting his entire time to evangelistic work. Our Board being unable to give any financial assistance he depends for support on the voluntary contributions of the churches he visits and what friends in the East, who are interested in the speedy evangelization of this land, may contribute. Any one who wishes to help him can address him at Austin, Manitoba, where his family resides.

At Roland we had the pleasure of visiting our genial brother Crosby and his accomplished wife. The deacon who is not noted for his blarney, said to me: "It's a caution how these ministers get such nice wives." Brother and sister Crosby are bluenoses, but if the winter is as cold as the fall indicates the bluing will be pretty well out by next spring.

They have a large and interesting field. A railroad has gone through the district since my pioneer days and several nice towns have been built, the most important of which is Roland. Warrington, (near this town) was the scene of some lively experiences in 1885. There near the close of the rebellion, I was shot. Supposedly by a half-breed. While at prayers Monday morning I was startled by a terrific report, glass was scattered over the floor and blood spattered on the furniture. I sprang to my feet and felt for the wound. Before I fell I discovered the would-be assassin a bottle of currant wine, we had been using at communion exploded scattering the glass and wine.

But, before the summer ended I had to do real battle. A religious war broke out upon the occasion of several converts being baptized. The leading Methodist and Presbyterian ministers opened fire on me, each with a two hour sermon the same day. A friend who was present took extensive notes and the following Lord's day I replied in a sermon 4 1/2 hours long. That ended

the battle and no one has since broken that record in the length of a sermon in this country. Here I came again upon Evangelist McDonald's tracks. He had been assisting Bro. Crosby and a good measure of blessing attended their efforts, several were baptized. Carman is 12 miles north of Roland. This is where I landed in 1885. Having heard in the East of Carman City I was somewhat disappointed, on arriving, to find the city composed of three or four stores, a forge, a livery stable, a hotel and a few dwellings some of logs, now it is a beautiful town of 1200 people, surrounded by a thickly settled district. The old school house where I preached still stands and the three pioneer Baptists are yet alive and long may they be spared to see and enjoy the fruit of their sacrifice and toil. Now a large congregation meets for worship in a beautiful chapel. The present pastor, Bro. Moshall, has been with them five years. The church is self-supporting.

In 1885 I was the only Baptist minister on all these fields mentioned and others I have not mentioned. A comparison of the conditions of the work then and now should encourage us to press on.

In 1885, 1 missionary, 1 church with 15 members, no house of worship. In 1898, on the same ground 7 English speaking churches, 2 self-supporting, 5 German churches 4 English speaking pastors, 1 German and 1 German colporteur, 6 houses of worship 376 members. Behold what God hath wrought. I write these notes to encourage missionaries who may be struggling with difficulties on scattered fields and that our friends in the East who have contributed to this mission may rejoice with us in what has been done, and that their liberality may be increased to this productive work.

H. G. MELLICK.

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