

WESLEYAN MISSIONARY NOTICES,

FEBRUARY, 1874.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

WHEN the Missionary Committee of the Parent Society requested the Canadian Conference to supply Missionaries and take the management of their Missions in the Hudson Bay Territory, attention was naturally directed to the state and number of the Indian tribes in that remote country, to which little access could be made, and of which but little reliable information at that time could be obtained. True, Sir George Simpson had published an account of his overland journey to the shores of the Pacific, but the policy of the Hudson's Bay Company demanded the suppression of the work. The late Capt. Sutherland, of Hamilton, having in early life spent much time in the Northern Seas, felt great interest in the Missions to these Indians. He had in his possession a quarto volume, given him by Lady Franklin, of Mackenzie's Travels from the mouth of the Saskatchewan across the Rocky Mountains to the shores of the Pacific Ocean, the first white man who had accomplished this bold and hazardous undertaking. On the face of a rock looking on these vast waters, he wrote, "Alexander Mackenzie, 1793." This book he presented to the General Superintendent of Missions, the reading of which made such an impression, from the descriptions he gave of the number of Indians, and the splendid country they occupied on the western slope of the Rocky Mountains, that a correspondence was opened with the Secretaries in London, as to the desirableness of sending Missionaries to these neglected and degraded people, though described by Mackenzie as possessing strong physical and mental powers. Before this correspondence culminated in the completion of any plan, the colonies of Vancouver Island and British Columbia were formed by the English Government: these have since been united and constitute but one Province, forming the western boundary of the Dominion of Canada. Without delay here a Mission was commenced.

Twelve of our brethren volunteered for the work, and after much deliberation and prayer, the Rev. Messrs. Ephraim Evans, D.D., Edward White, Ebenezer Robson, and Arthur Browning, were