

WESLEYAN MISSIONARY NOTICES.

NOVEMBER, 1st, 1857.

OXFORD HOUSE.

We have rejoiced at the intelligence received time after time, of the social and religious advance of the Indians at this important station; and the information now conveyed is confirmatory of former reports; but it is deplorable that an improving people should be threatened by the interference of free-traders in spirituous liquors, so detrimental to red men. Much vigilance and prayer are needed on all the Missions.

Extracts from the Journal of the Rev. Robt. Brooking, dated Jackson's Bay.

October 5th, 1856, (Sabbath).—As there were no Indians at home, we had a service in the house, none being present but our own family; the only time such a circumstance has occurred since we have been here.

Wednesday 8th.—This evening as we were sitting reading, after tea, we heard the noise of a boat approaching the wharf, and on going down, found that Mr. Wilson and family had come to pay us a long promised visit. We have been expecting them for some time, but as the season had so far advanced, we had given them up. He is the gentleman in charge at Oxford House.

Thursday 9th.—Took Mr. Wilson over the premises; he is quite surprised at the improvements we have made since he was here in the Spring. About noon, the weather, which had been very favourable for the last fortnight, quite changed with every appearance of a storm. Mr. Wilson determined however, to go home; accordingly about 3 p. m., he started just as it began to rain, and he had not left above three quarters of an hour, before there was a heavy storm.

Saturday 11th.—Wind still blowing very hard from S. W. In the evening our fishermen returned, having been very successful; one party caught 3,010, and the other 2,820, which with 200 caught at home, will make 6,030, a much larger number than we have ever taken before.

Sabbath 19th.—Our congregation is larger again to-day, as several of the Indians with their families have returned. Many of them came late to the service in the morning, and others of them did not come at all, as they did not hear the *striking of the saw*, our substitute for a bell, to call them to the house of God. We stand greatly in need of a bell.

Saturday 25th.—The men have been engaged during the week in mudding the Church and houses, and otherwise preparing for winter; every little crevice must be stopped, the joints of the doors stopped with fur, and double windows put in, or we should all freeze, as the thermometer is for months more than 30° below zero, and sometimes even below 40°

Tuesday 28th.—Storm still continues from N. W., with heavy showers of snow. Thermometer at noon 24°. To-day, one of the Indian women brought two tea cups for me to mend, one of which has a large hole through its bottom. They seem to entertain wonderful ideas of my mechanical skill.

Wednesday 29th.—Storm still raging from N. W. Thermometer at noon 15°, several snow showers during the day, and the river nearly all frozen over. I have now finished the porch before the front door, which makes the house feel quite another thing.

November, Sabbath 16th.—Very unwell, and not able to conduct the services.