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## PASTORAL LETTER FROM BISHOP REEVE—ST. DAVID'S MISSION.

FORT SIMPSON, MACKENZIE RIVER, N.W.T.,  
CANADA, ADVENT, 1896.

My Dear Brethren:

**F**IVE years having now elapsed since, in God's providence, I was called to take the oversight of this Diocese, and as there has been no opportunity of addressing you in Synod, or such like assembly, a few words in the form of a Pastoral Letter may not be inappropriate, or unwelcome. I will begin with a brief review.

That changes have occurred, during these years, is only the natural order of things. It is well, when, as has been the case with some of them, they "turn out unto the furtherance of the Gospel," and the advancement of the Master's kingdom.

To form the new See of Selkirk the Diocese lost one-fourth of its area, three out of seven of its clergy, and more than half of its church population,—most of them adherents, and the most satisfactory missions being in that quarter.

Of the four remaining clergy one, Mr. Kirkby, had already sent in his resignation to Bishop Bompas, and left the Diocese as I entered it. Another, Mr. Spendlove, after fifteen years' service, has also left, on the plea of ill-health, and appears to intend remaining in England. The other two, our worthy Arch-deacon, and Mr. Hawksley, are taking furlough. We hope to see them back next year.

Three other clergy have been ordained, one of whom, Mr. T'ssietta, is *the first and only native clergyman* within the Arctic Circle!

The number of Lay Helpers has increased from two to six, and there are eight Native Catechists, and Christian leaders.

An increase in the number of laborers, ought to mean progress in the work, and such there has been.

The opening of the Hay River Mission has been a decided advance. Through the blessing of God on the loving, faithful, and self-denying labors of Mr. Marsh, the Indians there have not only attached themselves to us, but have shown a laudable determination to adhere to our teaching, and have resisted the attempts of the French priests to draw them away.

May God enable them to remain firm, and bind them closer and closer to Himself!

After the departure of Mr. Sheridan Lawrence, and his sister, which I have not ceased to regret, the removal of the Diocesan School from Resolution became a necessity, and Hay River seemed the most suitable place for it. The children are there removed from the influence of Roman Catholic surroundings, and have come under the care and teaching of Mr. and Miss Marsh, who have now the valuable co-operation of Miss Tims. The number of the pupils is not large, but there is prospect of an increase. The S.P.C.K., besides helping the Diocese in other ways, is making an annual grant of £5 for each scholar; and a lady in England raises £10 a year for the support of one of them.

This seems a suitable place to mention that, at last, the Government has made a small grant for our schools, and I am in hopes of obtaining one from the Indian Department also. But to ensure these, school must be held regularly, and the registers filled up and forwarded in accordance with the instructions printed thereon.

The extension of the Eskimo Mission from Peel River to Kittigagzyovit and Herschel Island is also an advance; and, although, in many respects, the work is most trying and arduous, it has its own attractions and compensations, and draws more sympathy from our supporters than any other in the Diocese. The unwearied and whole-hearted devotions of Mr. Stringer, following upon the labors of his predecessors, has done much towards hastening on the time when these poor Innuits shall be amongst those belonging to Christ; and, now that he has the assistance of an able colleague in Mr. Whittaker, we may confidently hope that, by the blessing and help of the Holy Spirit, that time is not far distant.

Another step forward is the occupation of Fort Wrigley, which, hitherto, has been almost entirely dependent upon short visits from the missionary at Port Simpson. Mr. Webb is now stationed there. He writes hopefully of the prospect.

New buildings have been erected at Hay River, Peel River, and Kittigagzyovit. Others have been purchased at Herschel Island. Churches are in course of construction at Re-