

Missionary Intelligence.

LETTER FROM THE REV. JAMES NISBET.

MANITOBA, July 3, 1871.

To the Sabbath Schools of the Canada Presbyterian Church.

MY DEAR YOUNG FRIENDS,—I daresay that many of you have been expecting a letter from me for some little time, and now I must try to write you a short letter that you may know that I still look upon the members of the Sabbath Schools as specially entitled to help in the support of this mission.

I hear that hundreds of families are already flocking into the new province of Manitoba. These families will find it an advantage that christian missionaries were before them. The time may not be far off when equal or greater numbers will seek homes in this most extensive valley, and no agency is better fitted to prepare for the peaceful settlement of a country hitherto the hunting ground of Indians and claimed as their exclusive property, than Christian missions. It is the Christian religion alone that teaches the Indian to look upon the white man as his brother; and it is for the sake of their children that parents are willing to brave the difficulties and dangers of settling in an Indian country, so that the children of our Church should be taught to consider our mission to the North American Indians as one having special claims on them, and one to which they should liberally contribute of their mission funds.

You have been told of the fearful ravages that small pox made in this country last summer, and how wonderfully the Lord preserved this mission, and made it the means of preserving many hundreds of lives by spreading vaccination far and near. But the existence of that terrible disease hindered our work very much. The Indians all kept scattered about in the woods, that there might be the less likelihood of the disease coming among them; it also prevented us from taking some children into the mission who were brought to us, for we were unwilling to take in any children when many persons were dying of small pox within sixty miles of the mission, and we did not know but it might come to our very door, for there is always a great deal of coming and going between the two places.

With the return of spring, applications on behalf of children were renewed, and we received six—four boys and two girls. The first is a boy, perhaps twelve years of age; his father has often been working for the Hudson's Bay Company, so that the boy has learned to speak English, while Cree is properly his language. The second is a boy about ten years of age. I had met with his father at an Indian camp two months after coming to this place, and at that time the father, although not a Christian himself, asked me to baptise his boy, who had just recovered from a dangerous illness. I did not think it proper to baptise the child then, but in the month of May last year, the whole family visited the mission, and at that time the mother made a profession of her faith in Christ and was baptised, and at the same time the boy whom we have now received into the mission was also baptised, the mother giving him the name of *Baptiste*, after one of her friends. Baptiste is a fine quiet boy, considering that hitherto he has been brought up in an Indian camp, and he manifests a considerable aptitude for learning. Already he knows all the small letters. The next are a boy and girl, orphans, and half brother and sister. The