

waterings have been two few and far between. They seem harder to impress than the Crees. There are some eleven members, including Mr. and Mrs. Stout. Mr. Stout, is in charge of Hon. H. B. Co.'s trading post. A good teacher, who could also preach "publicly, and from tent to tent," would be the best supply for Poplar River, at least for some years to come. They remain in the neighbourhood of the fort perhaps eight months of the year. Poplar River can be worked better from Beren's River than from any other point.

CROSS LAKE.—At this appointment there are forty-three on trial, and thirty-five members of the Church. A good many of the former had been previously baptised, but their names did not appear on the Mission book. They all *say* they wish to be Christians. Sometimes the wish, it may be, is not much more than idle *saying*, but we may not judge too harshly. The Indians here are not, as a rule, so frank and open as some others. They have more of that sly cunning generally attributed to the Indian; and have also an unhappy fashion of telling half the truth when, for some reason, they do not wish the whole to be known. They are apt to be loud in condemning in others the very things which they themselves are guilty of. Last summer, while preaching to a band of them, I had occasion to say, that I knew on good authority that some who had been baptised, and had said they wished really to be Christians, had gone back again to their old practices of conjuring, etc. An old man called out: "*tapwā, tapwā, mwāche ākose atē't*," (truly, truly, some do just that.) I afterwards learned that this same man was one of the "some" who did "just that."

There are some, however, who are really trying, according to their light, to live quiet Christian lives. A very old woman was baptised, who seemed greatly in earnest. There are a few yet of this band who have not cast in their lot with those who seek for eternal life.

They are asking the government for a teacher. None as yet has been appointed. There are plenty of children for a large school. I hope you can soon send us a good man to teach both the children and their parents.

NELSON RIVER.—It is the opinion of some who know the place, that the Missionary should never have been withdrawn from this, our most northerly station in this country. Retrogression is not a good maxim. Perhaps, however, in this case we have not really gone back. The living presence of a Missionary constantly on the ground, has a good deal of influence, no doubt, with those even who come very seldom to the Mission. Yet it is possible to teach them to expect too much. A not very large band, leading a roaming life, so that unless one should adopt their style of living, it would be next to impossible to follow them up, can hardly expect to have a "minister," ready to receive them when, now and then, they have occasion (not for reasons religious) to come to the station. In many cases we must maintain a regular paid agent. Formerly this was true of Nelson River. Now the gentleman who has charge of the Hon. Hudson Bay Co.'s post, has, of his own free will, taken charge of the Mission, so far as his

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