

Several of the Romanists who formerly believed that holy water would keep off the effects, as they say, of thunder and lightning, hardly know what to say when the holy place has been so alarmingly visited. The snow-storm of May 4th and 5th proved most disastrous. Snow fell in the plains to the depth of four feet. We have heard of nearly three hundred horses being frozen to death at that time. Several Blackfeet have recently fallen mortally through a quarrel amongst themselves, caused by two of their young men gambling, when the loser deliberately shot the winner, causing their respective friends to rush to the scene of conflict, and thus increased the number of the fallen sevenfold. A number of young men from Red River, as employees in the Company's service, have recently passed this way for new Caledonia. They were greatly disappointed on not meeting with me, as they hoped to have had the privilege of hearing another sermon before starting for that remote locality where, probably, gospel ministrations are "few and far between."

July 25. A large raft, 150 feet long, brought down to Edmonton House. This is the third raft that has come down this summer. More suitable premises than I have hitherto occupied are so far advanced. The erection will, probably, be proceeded with before the winter sets in.

31. A large band of Blackfeet came down upon the Crees a few days ago and would have done fearful damage, had not one of their number interposed. Two Blackfeet, however, came upon a group of Crees, who were gambling a short distance from the camp, and killed one of them.

Aug. 1. A package has just arrived addressed to "*The Superior of Lac Ste. Ann. Convent.*" This is the first intimation I have had of such an institution being in existence in the Saskatchewan. Well, I do not think that such establishments will be very favourably regarded by the half-castes or by the pure aborigines.

8. Though the Crees are running away from their enemies, I make a start to ascertain their whereabouts.

12. Sabbath. Having tracked up the Indians pretty closely last evening, I made a start at sunrise, and came to a

camp by 7 a.m. Rather a long journey for a Sabbath appointment, as we have travelled at least 10 hours each day since starting on the 8th instant. Religious services encouragingly attended in the chief's tent, but compelled to allow the people to search for food, as they are quite out of provisions.

13. A council held, and messengers sent off to two other bands to announce the arrival of the missionary.

17. One of the other bands joined us. The chief informs me that a priest has recently pressed him very much to apostatize, but without any success. The following conversation passed between them, viz.:

*Priest.*—Do you believe in your religion?

*Chief.*—Assuredly, or I should not endeavour to practise what it enjoins.

*Priest.*—But your religion is false. We pray to the Virgin Mary and to saints, but you do not.

*Chief.*—The religion which I profess is the religion of Christ. I love it. It is not false. It was the first I was ever taught, and I trust to keep to it as long as I live. We are taught to worship God, and that it is sinful to pray to any creature.

*Priest.*—Though you are a chief, you are but a poor man. If you join us, we will be kind to you.

*Chief.*—If I am poor, I believe I have a better chance of getting to heaven than many who are rich have. My mind is made up, and, therefore, I hope you will not trouble me any more. (Then soliloquising,) I should like to see the man that ever received a plug of tobacco from you as a gratuity.

The conversation dropped; the priest, with a bland smile, hoping they were as good friends as ever, though he, probably, in his heart, handed over the poor heretic to the tormentors. This said priest, as I am informed by the above-named chief, recently told the Blackfeet to kill the Crees in case they stole any horses from them. This advice has not told much in his favour. Perhaps he concluded he would thereby get rid of a great number of heretics, and obtain favour at the hands of Pope Pius IX.

Aug. 18. Arrival of a family who had recently buried their aged sire. Had a most interesting conversation with