

# Our Mission News.

A Monthly Magazine published in the interest of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of the Church of England in Canada.

TERMS:—ONE DOLLAR A YEAR IN ADVANCE.

Back numbers to a limited extent can be supplied.

All Communications to be addressed to

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GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE SOCIETY.

DECEMBER, 1886.

## THE LATE BISHOP OF SASKATCHEWAN.\*

We should ill perform our duty as a missionary organ did we fail to pay an early and loving tribute to the memory fresh and dear of one well known and honored throughout the whole church as amongst the zealous and remarkable missionaries of this eminently missionary country. Since our last number appeared, the late Bishop of Saskatchewan has "finished his course."

"His body with his charge laid down  
And ceased at once to work and live."

To the country north of the Tweed, so famed for the perseverance and success of its sons, and which has given to this new land so many distinguished men, is the Canadian Church indebted for this devoted Bishop. He was born at Portsay, Bartshire, in 1828, and graduated at Aberdeen in 1851. The Bishop was one of a set of men about that time imported into this country by the first Bishop of Huron. He was ordained in 1858, and was appointed first assistant at St. James' Cathedral, Toronto. From thence he removed to London, accepting the curacy of St. Paul's Cathedral in that city, and as the then rector was also bishop of the Diocese, a large share of parochial work and preaching necessarily fell upon the strong and willing shoulders of Mr. McLean. In addition to this curacy he held the position of chaplain to the large garrison stationed in London, and Colonel Lowry, "a devout soldier," was always ready to bear his hearty testimony to the influence for good exercised over the men by the preaching and ministry of the whole-souled chaplain. In 1876, just twenty years ago, when the Northwest was little known and less cared for, he cast in his lot with that country, removing there with his young family, and undertaking the numerous and arduous duties of Rector of St. John's Cathedral, Winnipeg,

Warden and Divinity Professor of St. John's College, and Archdeacon of Assiniboia. He was thus a pluralist, but only in work and labor, for his pecuniary gains were small. At that time Winnipeg was a village of about five hundred inhabitants, and the Northwest "a great lone land" which no man but a Hudson's Bay factor very much cared for. During eight long years, and amid many privations, he applied himself with singular devotion to the duties of the above offices. By incessant teaching of all branches, from the very rudiments of education up to the final divinity lectures, and by occasional and most laborious visits to England, and to the older Provinces of Canada, he at length secured both the endowment and the future success of St. John's College,—now the important educational institution of the city of Winnipeg and of the Diocese of Rupert's Land. Among all his labors he generally regarded those early years in Winnipeg as the hardest and most trying.

In 1874 Archdeacon McLean was appointed by the Crown, First Bishop of Saskatchewan, and was consecrated at Lambeth by the Archbishop of Canterbury, assisted by the Bishops of London, St. Asaph's and Algoma, and by the late Bishop Anderson, formerly of Rupert's Land. This new diocese embraced half a continent, extending from the Saskatchewan River to the shores of the Hudson Bay, and to the Rocky Mountains. In this almost limitless region the bishop's labors were prodigious. Its necessities, like itself, were vast, and he was not the man to be satisfied till every effort had been made to meet them. This wide field included the majority of the Canadian tribes of Indians, notably the Crees, the Blackfeet, and the Assinaboines—all in a mostly heathen condition. A dozen years ago in this boundless territory, the white settlements, the civilized abodes, and the facilities for travel were few and far between. Hence, as the bishop himself wrote, the preparations for an episcopal visitation, resembled the organizing of an expedition. "It was necessary to fit out a service of men, horses and wagons for each journey." In this way, in 1883, he made a journey extending through months, covering 2,200 miles, and costing \$1,000. Night after night his couch was in the snow, his canopy the starry heavens, the Indians and dogs his companions, and the baying of wolves his lullaby, but he loved to tell it out that amid such scenes, far from home and friends, Jacob's God was near, and the last consoling night thought of His servant, "the words of his mouth and the meditations of his heart," were these, "I will lay me down in peace and take my rest, for it is Thou, Lord, only, that makest me to dwell in safety." This missionary work was only interrupted when the busy workman visited England, and took in Canada going or returning, for the purpose of collecting the necessary supplies. He was sent by the Church into a wilderness to make it a spiritual home and garden, and also to find the means

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