

proper companion to accompany her.

You know the result ; I had a long, tedious trip for nothing.

I should like to know, very much, if possible by the March packet, if a teacher can be secured for next year ; as Mr. Ross will want to know what course to pursue with his children. If a teacher comes, he will keep them here ; but if not, he will probably send them again to Red River to school.

The disappointment has placed us in an embarrassing position, which we feel the more as Mr. Ross is very kind and thoughtful of us, and takes an interest in doing what he can to promote the mission work.

On the 2nd of this month I started to visit Grand Rapids, at the mouth of the Saskatchewan ; that being as soon as the ice on lake Winnipeg would be safe to travel in that direction. We made the journey in three days and a-half, arriving at the post about 2 p.m., on Saturday.

I had an interesting interview with the chief, Peter Beardy, that afternoon and evening ; from him I learned the following :—That when Rev. G. McDougall first visited them, he was very gladly received, as the Indians were very anxious to have a Mission established among them. Brother McDougall promised to come again when winter began, and bring men from Rossville, and make a church and school-house, and establish a mission among them. He selected the mission premises and a place for building. After this, toward fall, a Church of England Minister going through that place told the Indians that they belonged to the English Church, and should not leave them, and that their Missionary Society intended to establish a mission among them, and he requested the chief (the present chief's father) to write to Rev. Mr. McDougall, requesting him not to interfere with them, to which he accordingly assented.

They have been continually applying to the Church of England to come and establish a mission among them ; and have been met by continual dis-

appointment. Last August they sent in a very earnest appeal, accompanied by a petition urging their great want of religious instruction, and a teacher for their children.

They cannot receive an answer to their request till the first of next month, the time of the Christmas packet. I further learned from him that the most of his people were away to Cedar Lake, where they had gone for the winter. This made it impossible for me to visit them, as I had to return home for the Christmas Love-feast and Sacramental service. Twelve or fourteen families being away, only a few remain.

There are, in all, eighteen or twenty families residing there, with some sixty or eighty children, large enough to attend school, remaining there the year round—this winter being an exception—(as the Hon. Hudson Bay Company did not leave sufficient supplies in the store for them, they went to Cedar Lake, where are some free-traders who could supply them with the things they wished for), a thing not likely to happen soon again.

The place is of growing importance. Now that steam navigation is introduced to carry supplies on Lake Winnipeg, and to the inland districts, the probability is that it will take the position of importance which Norway House has hitherto occupied, viz :—that of headquarters for supplying the North Western department of trade. The Hon. Hudson Bay Company are building large storerooms at the Rapids this winter, and intend to build a store and other buildings this coming summer, to meet the requirements of the place.

There are good fisheries the year round, the land is said to be excellent for agriculture. (I could not tell in the winter.) Horses get their own living the whole winter. It has, however, its drawbacks. The winter is long, the summer short, so that there could not be much farming done. However, there is abundance of game, such as deer, moose, etc., and plenty of fur, so that an industrious people could live (speaking comparatively