

The Indians were by no means anxious to have them, but the tables were cleverly turned upon them by Mr. Flert, who had been born on the Saskatchewan, and who claimed on that account a right to a share in the land by the same arguments as they themselves used. The plan in Mr. Nisbet's mind was to found an industrial mission, with farming and other industries to help to maintain the institution and to assist in surrounding with good influences any Indian children who might be entrusted to them for education and up-bringing. The place selected was to be the headquarters of the mission, but a great deal of the work planned was to be done not at this place, but by the missionary and his interpreter, visiting the scattered Indian tribes in their encampments on the plains or when they visited the posts of the Hudson's Bay Company for trading purposes. This itinerating system was inaugurated by a visit paid during the first autumn as far west as Edmonton, a distance of about 450 miles. Services were held with such Indians as were met and invitations given to them to come for further instruction to the missionary establishments. Two small houses were built the first year and a large one the next summer; the place came to be favorably known among the Indians and the missionary had many visitors. At first it was the helpless and the infirm that were brought, but the kindness shown to these and the way in which the mission house was opened to become a home for several destitute orphan children, melted the hearts of not a few who paid occasional visits to the mission, and there gradually grew up about it, as a centre, a little band of Christians, who looked to Mr. Nisbet and his helpers for spiritual guidance. From the first Mr. Nesbit had in contemplation the establishment of a boarding and industrial school, partly to train such Indian children as might be entrusted to him, and partly in response to urgent requests of officers of the Hudson's Bay Company that they might have some place not too far away to which to