

The wages of the latter are now, I believe, 10s. stg. a day. I suppose the winter would be a less busy season. But let no one come who cannot be proof against alcohol, for here, as elsewhere, the rum-cursed are numerous. We cannot boast much of the morals of some of the importations in the shape of humanity which have been made in the past. Drunkenness, licentiousness, Sabbath desecration, and coarse vulgar profanity, with a sprinkling of roguery and extortion may be met with, with far less difficulty than a horse that has strayed away on the vast prairies.

Before the churches there is certainly "much land to be possessed," and quite enough to do to occupy fully all the toilers for Christ as yet here, or likely to come here for a long time. Leaving Fort Garry, and the town of Winnipeg, and following down the Red River, we pass through a thickly populated settlement for 20 miles to the "Lower Fort." Between these two forts there are, on the same side of the river, three Episcopalian Churches and one Presbyterian; and on the other side, the R.-mish Cathedral and College, Nunnery, &c. &c. The appearance of the settlements, in some places, is similar to that of many French Canadian neighborhoods in the Province of Quebec—the strips of land are narrow and the houses close together, and generally log-buildings whitewashed. I suppose in fruitful seasons there is more of real thrift manifest; but this year the whole land mourneth, and the people are cast down, for the grasshopper plague has come, and all their crops are cut off. The farms of these settlers are laid out in very narrow claims—but running back from the river two miles. The object of this arrangement is to give access to the river and the timber which grows along the river, and but seldom far from it, and is therefore valuable. It is owing to this fact that the settlement of this country has extended so far up and down the river, without reaching any further into the interior. From the

Lower Fort to the Upper Fort every claim is taken up; and so from this up the Assinaboine, for at least 30 miles, all the land on the river is claimed, if not actually settled upon. But by going back two miles from the river, land can be obtained within a few miles. Still it would be economy for persons coming from Canada to settle out here, to "buy out" some of the less thrifty settlers, which can often be done at a low figure. That there is much good land here is apparent to every one: but to call all good and say that "the first bad acre has yet to be discovered," is a mistake that is scarcely worth one's while to make. Leaving the town of Winnipeg, and proceeding up the river Assinaboine, which comes in from a north-westerly course, we pass thro' "Headingley," "White Horse Plains," "Poplar Point," "High Bluff," and "Portage la Prairie," a distance of 60 miles, the whole of which is to some extent settled. Between Headingley and Poplar Point there is a settlement of French half-breeds, who are Romanists; and as I can't speak their language, nor they understand mine, they are of course inaccessible to me. Thus for nearly 30 miles in passing through my mission, I must travel without a single appointment—making 60 miles in each trip of dead loss in time, fatigue, and wear and tear. Thus it will be seen the extremities of the mission are quite too far from the centre. From Lower Fort, where I preach, to Portage la Prairie, where I end my labours, is 80 miles—about the distance from Toronto to Hamilton and back again. My ministerial brethren need not fear lest I should suffer for want of exercise, nor need my former kind medical advisers be anxious lest I should get too little fresh air! I have both in abundance. The country from Poplar Point to the Portage is, so far as I can judge, altogether superior to any other part of the great prairie world I have yet seen. It is a far more pleasant country to settle in for farming purposes than is the lower settlements; and as the