

North West Perils. Paul's perils did not include blizzards. On Saturday, Jan. 18. Rev. A. Matheson, of Balgonie, left home to conduct service in a part of his field at some distance on the following day. He was caught in a blizzard, and had to spend the night out of doors. Fortunately, when morning came, he found himself within ten minutes' drive of a farmhouse. Those who know anything of a prairie blizzard, with its intense cold and the cutting ice particles driven by the fierce wind, may form some idea of how narrow his escape from freezing to death. Many a brave heart in the North West faces such risks year after year for the sake of carrying the Gospel to the scattered settlers. Many farther east are doing likewise, minus the blizzards.

PRESIDENT CLEVELAND ON HOME MISSIONS.

IN a multitude of words there wanteth not wisdom. President Cleveland has to say a good many words, and he put folly and rashness enough into his foolish, threatening, message to Great Britain on the Venezuelan question, to free him from the charge of infallibility for the rest of his natural life.

But he says more wise things than most men, and one of these was his address at a great Presbyterian Home Missionary Meeting, held in New York a few days since at which he presided. His words are as true of Canada as of the United States, and should be carefully read and pondered:—

"I desire to express my appreciation of the privilege of participating in this conference and of the opportunity thus afforded me of testifying to the value and usefulness of the work undertaken by the Board of Home Missions of the Presbyterian Church.

"My interest in this subject and my familiarity with home missionary efforts are not newly acquired. They early came to me in the surroundings of a Christian Presbyterian home, and were stimulated by a father's faithful labors in the cause.

"My early impressions are not, however, the only basis of the testimony I give to-night in favor of home missions. As your fellow-citizen, interested, I hope, in all things that deepen the religious sentiment of our people and enlarge Christian influence, I fully realize the transcendent importance of this agency in its operation upon the hearts of men for the salvation of their souls. The long roster of those who have been led into the way of righteousness through the instrumentality of our home missions is a rich trophy of successful endeavor.

"But it is not only as your fellow-citizen, but as the chief executive officer of your Government, that I desire to speak, for I am entirely certain that I serve well our entire people, whose servant I am, when I here testify to the benefit our country has received through home missionary effort, and when I join you in an attempt to extend and strengthen that effort.

"No one charged with the duties and responsibilities which necessarily weigh upon your

Chief Executive can fail to appreciate the importance of religious teaching and Christian endeavor in the newly settled portions of our domain. It is there where hot and stubborn warfare between the forces of good and evil is constantly witnessed.

"In these days the vanguard of occupation in a new settlement is never without its vicious and criminal element. Gambling houses and dram shops are frequently among the first establishments in a new community.

"It must also be confessed that removal from old homes and associations to a new and more primitive home has a tendency among honest and respectable settlers to smother scruples and to breed toleration of evil and indifference to Christianizing and elevating agencies.

"These conditions, if unchecked and uncorrected, fix upon the new community by their growth and expansion, a character and disposition, which, while dangerous to peace and order in the early stages of settlement, develop into badly regulated municipalities, corrupt and unsafe territories, and undesirable States.

"These are serious considerations in a country where the people, good or bad, are its rulers, because the conditions to which I have referred would certainly menace, within a circle constantly enlarging, the safety and welfare of the entire body politic, if we could not hope that churches and religious teaching would from the first be on the ground to oppose the evil influences that are apt to pervade the beginning of organized communities."

"These churches and this religious teaching were never more needed than now on our distant frontiers, where the process of forming new States is going on so rapidly and where newcomers who are to be the citizens of new States are so rapidly gathering together.

"For these instrumentalities at the out-posts of our population, so vitally important in the view of Christian men, as well as patriotic citizens, we must depend to a very great extent on Home missionary exertion. How can we excuse ourselves if we permit this exertion to languish for the lack of proper support?

"If we turn from the objects of home missionary labor to the situation of those actually toiling in H. M. fields, for God and humanity, and a purer, better citizenship, our sympathy with their work must be further quickened and our sense of duty to them and their cause actively stimulated. These are the men and women who have left home and the association of friends, under the direction of the organized Mission Boards, to teach Christianity in sparsely settled sections and to organize churches where none exist, enduring discomfort, hardship, poverty and danger, for the sake of a cause to which in a very comfortable and inexpensive way we profess to be attached. These are our soldiers at the front, fighting our battles, and we who stay at home cannot escape the duty of providing for them and reinforcing them in every way if we are to continue them in our service.

"It seems to me that if the Christian people of our land estimate at its real value the work which the Board of Home Missions has in charge, and if they can be made to realize its extreme importance, the means to carry on and extend this work will be easily forthcoming, and I hope that such an unusual interest may be aroused in behalf of the cause by the movement of which this meeting is a part, as will suggest to many, heretofore indifferent, that among the most comforting of their possessions will be a share in the triumphs and achievements of home missions."