

THE BURNING OF KINCOLITH.

ON Sunday, Sept. 3rd. the village of KINCOLITH on the NASS was almost completely destroyed by fire: 25 houses and the new Church reduced to ashes!

LETTER FROM ARCHDEACON COLLISON.

Sunday was a day of trial here. A fire which broke out in a back house spread rapidly from house to house until it caught our beloved church. Burning shingles and embers, blown by the wind, fell in showers on the roof of the doomed building, setting fire to it in several places at once. I never felt so powerless in my life, the long ladder which had been made for the church having been partly consumed before the fire reached the building. Finding there was no possibility of saving the church I set about removing what I could. Mrs. Collison had already succeeded in getting out the Communion Table-cover, Bishop's chair, kneeling stools, carpets, prayer desk and seat, lectern, and font, rolling the latter out, as it was too heavy to carry. With the exception of a few all the people had fled to save their own effects. Albt. Welsh helped me to carry out 11 seats and 1 standard for books. I then attempted to cut out a window, but finding there was not sufficient time for that I cut out the folding doors with their hinges instead. Making a final rush to save another seat I was beaten back almost suffocated by the blaze and smoke. As I ran out the flames were shooting up the spire; and knowing no more could be done there I ran to the salvation of the mission-house, scorched as I ran by heat from the burning houses: the whole row, from the church to Frdk. Allen's house, was in flames. Calling on those who live beyond the mission house, 5 of whom eventually responded, we began to pull down Philip's house, the nearer of two which still stood unscathed between our house and the conflagration. We had pulled down half the house when the further one was ablaze; and being a two-storey house the heat was intense. Running to the beach, where the women had placed all our things out of the mission-house, I seized some blankets steeped them in water and hung them over the most exposed parts of the building after which we poured on water, with which the women

kept us supplied, now on the flames from F's house, now on Philip's. To make matters worse F's back house, in which his grease boxes were, was soon in a blaze. I need not tell you how grease burns, it literally scorched me, and I fell fainting to the earth. Mrs. Collison and our Indian helpers threw cold water on me, and I drank a quantity of salt water by mistake. My renewed efforts were eventually rewarded with success, the mission-house was saved! But when I saw the way in which the contents were damaged, having been thrown out of the windows and over the strand, it hardly seemed worth all the trouble. Yet, again, I felt, as Mrs. Collison reminded me, that with the mission-house we had saved 8 houses and the old church. Thank God not a life was lost, but some 25 dwellings and the new church, besides all the back houses, were destroyed: only the two ends of the village remain standing. More than half of our men were absent hence our weakness and loss.

At midnight the people gathered round the glowing embers of the church for prayer, when I addressed them from ISAIAH lxiv 11-12.

W. H. Collison.

KINCOLITH RELIEF FUND.

The Archdeacon's letter describes a calamity which never fails to elicit the practical sympathy of the English-speaking race. The majority of the people are homeless. Something must be done for them before the winter. The Domn. Government will no doubt render some assistance; but help must come from other sources to make the relief really felt. In this remote corner of the Province it takes a long time to communicate with each other. In the present case to call a public meeting and appoint a Committee would be an impossibility: I therefore venture to nominate as a Committee the following:- C. Todd Esqr., Ven. Archdeacon Collison, and myself.

Subscriptions may be paid into the Bank of B.C. or sent direct to the Archdn., and will be acknowledged in this paper.

SUBSCRIPTIONS RECEIVED.

| NAME. | dols. | cts. |
|-------------------------------|-------|------|
| Rev. J. B. & Mrs. McCullagh, | 15 | 00 |
| Mr. R. Smith | 5 | .. |
| Chief Abraham and Wife | 3 | .. |
| Mr. G. Gogag | 2 | .. |
| A. Derrick and Wife | 3 | .. |
| B. Williams and Wife | 3 | .. |
| P. Ward and family | 1 | 75 |
| M. Frost and Wife, | 2 | 00 |
| Ltheuk and Wife | 2 | .. |
| I. Wright | 1 | .. |
| S. Allen & wife, Kate & Annie | 3 | 50 |
| Smaller sums | 1 | 25 |
| Total. | 42 | 25 |

MISSION NOTES.

METLAKATLAH:- The Bishop and Mrs. Ridley have, I believe, gone East for a short time. The Rev. W. Hogan and Dr. Ardagh are in charge of the station during the Bishop's absence.

KITKATLA:- The Rev. F. L. Stephenson is being happily assisted in his work at this station by his brother.

GITWINGA:- The Rev. A. E. and Mrs. Price are expected back from England this Autumn to resume their labours at this place.

ALERT BAY (Diocese of Columbia):- The Rev. A. J. and Mrs. Hall are at present in England on leave of absence, and Mr. Corker is in charge of the station.

AIYANSH:- Day school was recommenced this month with 19 children on the books.

The saw mill is working very well and the old bark-roofed huts are fast giving place to pretty cottages and substantial dwelling houses.

With the autumnal freshet the Indians hope to raft down a large quantity of logs for the church which is to be begun this winter.

THE SALMON CANNERIES.

Very few of the Canneries were able to put up a full pack this year. But this was not so much owing to scarcity of salmon as to the clearness of the water incidental to a cool summer; it was frequently noticed that the fish saw the nets and evaded them.

THE SKEENA CANNING CO. (R. Cunningham & Son.) did fairly well, putting up over 8,000 cases.

THE STANDARD (Rithet & Co.) fished 40 boats, and closed with a $\frac{3}{4}$ pack.

THE CASCADE (Rithet & Co.), on the Nass, put up a $\frac{1}{2}$ pack, which was the same as the other two canneries.

The Japs have earned a good name as fishermen; some say they are better than the Whites, others class them second. As to the native fishermen I am informed that if they do not fish better in future, and give less trouble to their employers, they will be superseded entirely in a year or two.

NOTE. Owing to want of space, and an insufficient supply of type, I am unable to issue a Scripture subject in the vernacular in this number.