

WESLEYAN MISSIONARY NOTICES,

MAY, 1878.

SASKATCHEWAN DISTRICT.

From the Rev. GEORGE McDougall, Chairman of the District, dated Wesley Hill, Saskatchewan, January 1st, 1878.

By your missionaries on the northern lakes and the western plains, the 25th of July will ever be regarded as a day hal-
lowed by the happiest recollections.

It was only after I had passed the western boundary of Manitoba and was fairly out on the solitary plains, that the greatness of the objects contemplated by the originators of the first North-West Conference presented themselves to my mind; and I rejoiced to have witnessed so many concurrent providences.

FIRST, AS TO TIME.

The world is now knocking at our door. The huge barriers that so long have interposed between us and civilization are speedily disappearing. Not five years ago, wise men laughed at the idea of entering those central plains by way of Lake Superior; already, armies have passed over the road: and intelligent tourists describe the route as combining all that can interest the admirers of nature.

A few weeks ago, the inhabitants of the Upper Saskatchewan were startled by the intelligence that the Columbians had cut their way through the Rocky Mountain and that a train road was completed to the eastern base as far as Jasper House. These hardy sons of the Western Slope intend this winter to push the road through to the North Saskatche-

wan, or even to Woodville, where the base line is expected to pass. These grand projects contemplate a conquest over physical nature, such as has rarely been achieved by man. Before the finishing stroke has been given to the Canadian Pacific Road, in a literal sense the sublime language of inspiration will be fulfilled:—"Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low; the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain." And who for a moment doubts the final consummation of the gigantic enterprise, and that through this country will run the highway of nations? With these great changes in prospect, the action of our Board was timely; the solitary missionary once more rejoiced in the fellowship of honored brethren, and participated in services full of light to the mind, attended with Divine power to the heart. Existing agencies were adjusted, weighty counsel imparted, and a large amount of important information collected by the respected deputation. These are only some of the fruits gathered.

SECOND, THE SEAT OF CONFERENCE

was fortunate—the geographical centre of a growing empire, the first-born city of the great North-West. Some of us could not forego a constant contrast with what Winnipeg was in other days,