

exercise a vast amount of influence over that portion of the community which is most degraded, because most neglected.

It is to be hoped that my successor will come quickly, that the work lose nothing by the interim.

## SASKATCHEWAN DISTRICT.

*From the Rev. JOHN McDUGALL, dated Morley, June 1st, 1878.*

We are now in the fifth year since the establishment, or rather commencement of this Mission. In looking over this last year, we feel that we have great reason to thank God and take courage. Our people are, we believe, making advancement in *real Christianity*. There has been more earnest inquiry, more heartfelt experiences, and, with very many, more steady and consistent living than heretofore. Often has the heart of your Missionary been cheered by these evidences of the heaven working, notwithstanding that during the last year there have been many dissipating influences brought to bear upon this people. For the first time in their history they came in contact with the Government; for months before the Treaty took place their minds were continually agitated by the conflicting reports and advice brought to them from different quarters. Sometimes told that if they accepted the Treaty their days of freedom would be over, henceforth they would be the slave of the white man. Again, that a blight or curse would come over their land, and the animals upon which they depended would all perish; and they, in consequence, would speedily die of starvation; that all the money, and implements, and promises, offered by the Government, would be made on the part of the Government with the full knowledge that soon they would not have to fulfil any of these payments and promises, inasmuch as that all of the Indians would have passed away; that even their

Missionaries were only agents of the Government in disguise, doing all they could to blind and bewilder the native, and thus aid in defrauding them of their country and freedom, and eventually their life; that such was the position to which their fellows further east, who had already been treated with, found themselves fast coming to. All this, and a great deal more, was poured into the ears of this people by mischief-makers of two kinds, knowing and not knowing what they were talking about. No wonder some of our people were shaken for a time; no wonder that there was great anxiety day and night; the coming crisis was the absorbing topic. Wherever we went we were constantly questioned as to what was going to take place. Protestant and Catholic, Pagan and Christian came to us, and claiming our sympathies, on account of our long sojourn with them, would beseech us to tell them the truth. We would reiterate that we had always told them the truth so far as we knew, and that, as regards the Government, they would now see the fulfilment of what we had told them. Moreover, we told them that there was a Supreme Being who controlled these matters, and for those who put their trust in Him and tried to do His will, He would, on His part, watch over their present and eternal interests, and in such a case no power on earth could permanently harm them; that from our earliest boyhood we had watched the workings of the Government in their dealings with the Indians;