

APPENDIX.

THREE AND A HALF YEARS OF AN INDIAN MISSION.

BY REV. JAS. NISBET.

In the following pages I purpose to give a very brief sketch of the commencement and progress of our Saskatchewan Mission.

I am informed that many of the friends of the Mission desiderate definite information on some parts of our work. Hitherto I have furnished full details to the Committee by every opportunity I have had of sending letters; but my letters have been far too lengthy and minute for publication, and it appears that the extracts from them that have of late been sent to the editor of the RECORD have failed to give satisfaction to some who are interested in the success of the Mission. With a view to satisfy all parties, and to let the Church at large know our exact position, as well as to guide the newly constituted General Assembly in their action relative to this Mission, I think a brief, connected account of our work thus far may be useful.

When I was appointed to assist in the work among the Scotch Colonists at Red River, I was desired to make enquiries where and how a Mission among the Indians of the Hudson's Bay Territory might be established. As the result of these enquiries, it was resolved to attempt a Mission somewhere in the Saskatchewan district.

In my correspondence on the subject I stated fully to the Committee the objects that I thought should be aimed at, viz.: to fix on some locality for a Mission Station removed from the ordinary war path of the Indian tribes; to endeavour to induce Indian families to settle around the Mission Station and learn to cultivate the soil; to gather Indian children and youths into school—to teach them the arts of civilized life, together with the ordinary branches of a Christian education; and, in order to carry out these two last objects, to set on foot a Mission farm that would be an example to the Indians, and also go some way towards rendering the Mission self-supporting. Besides these objects, I stated that *itineracy* among the Indian camps scattered over the plains should be attended to, and also that the interests of the numerous employees of the Hon. H. B. Company and their families, together with the families of retired servants of the Company, should not be overlooked. The Committee approved of the plan thus sketched, and with a view to the ultimate carrying out of these objects I have hitherto proceeded.

On the sixth of June, 1866, our Mission party left their homes at Red River, and proceeded direct to Carlton House (a trading fort of the H. B. Company on the North Branch of the Saskatchewan), where Mr. F. (who had been engaged as interpreter, and was already in the district) was waiting for us. Mr. F. had at my request visited a number of places during two or three months before our arrival. Having received his report, and having with him visited another place sixty miles inland, and after hearing the opinion of several of the H. B. Co.'s Officers well acquainted with the district, I resolved that our party should at once proceed to this place, where we arrived on the 26th of July, fully seven weeks from the date of leaving Red River. I found it to be a very suitable locality in every respect, and at least sixty miles distant from the nearest Station of the Church Missionary Society.

Providentially, the principal Indians belonging to the place were camped within two miles of where we purposed to establish our camp, so that no time was lost in conferring with them about their willingness that we should remain among them. Our consultations with them extended over two days. I need not repeat all that passed between us these two anxious days. It is sufficient to say that with the blessing of God all their scruples were