

ment that they intend doing all they can for the McKenzie River district. But if it were resolved to go into that district we have no doubt but a suitable locality could be pitched upon independently of the Youcan.

The Athabaska district in the same region of country is wholly unoccupied by protestant missions, but the priests have there a strong hold, which does not make the need for missionary labour less, but the difficulty to prosecute such labour greater. Missions in that region are the most expensive in the land, owing to its being so remote. To Fort Simpson—the grand centre—freight is three pounds st. per 90 lbs. from this settlement, and additional charges would be made for more distant localities, and very little produce can be raised on the soil, which makes it necessary to import more than otherwise might be necessary. The chief inducements to enter that region would be the willingness of the people to receive religious teachers and to wait upon their instructions.

The Rev. Mr. Woolsey Wesleyan Missionary from the neighbourhood of Edmonton has directed our attention to a large district on the Saskatchewan wholly unoccupied. There is a distance of nearly 400 miles between the Episcopal Missions in the east and the Wesleyan Missions in the west. In the middle of this space stands Fort Pitt which is frequented by about 800 lodges of *Plain Crees* representing a population of about 4000 wholly uncared for. Little or nothing has yet been done for the Indians of the plains. Compared with the Indians of the woods they are a wild untractable race, and less disposed to settle down in communities. From this centre the plain Indians might be operated upon with advantage. It would be advisable to choose a site and erect mission premises, and then endeavour to get the Indians to put up little houses, cultivate the soil, and leave their children in charge of the aged that they might give constant attendance at school, while the able-bodied would be out on the plains following the buffalo &c. But to do much good to the body of the people it would be necessary to make frequent itineracies among them on the plains, not, however, at the expense of the work at the settlement: both should be carried on simultaneously.

Now that is a field perfectly open to us, neither the Episcopalians nor the Wesleyans having any present intention of entering it. Any missionary settlement that might be made there would be within 200 miles of the gold mines and on the direct route thither. It can be reached from this settlement at any season of the year, and there are frequently parties going and coming. Hence our people here might assist in supporting a mission there, when they could do little or nothing for one at this distance from the Athabaska or McKenzie river. It may be, however, that the church would have to wait longer for palpable results than in some of the more distant localities; but then we must remember that the plain Indians have never been fairly tried with missionary work.

The Blackfoot tribe beyond Edmonton are also unprovided for, but the Wesleyans are moving towards them and their missionaries have already paid them some visits.

Taking every thing into account we are both of the opinion that our church should first attempt a mission to the plain Indians before going farther off to a more expensive and less accessible field. The *Cree* language alone will be required, and in it the whole Bible has been printed in the syllabic characters by the late Mr. Evans.

In connexion with such a mission two missionaries should if possible be employed that one might be constantly at the settlement or station, and one itinerating in the plains; and of course they could alternate in the work to equalise the labour.

It is difficult to say what amount would be required to prepare mission premises, break up farming land, and provide the horses, cattle, dogs and im-