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Gray, Rev.

Mission held
JH 1838

INDIANS WEST OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS:—On the 18th of March, the instructions of the Prudential Committee were delivered by one of the Secretaries of the Board, to Rev. Messrs. Elkanah Walker, and Mrs. Walker, from the state of Maine, Cushing Eells and Mrs. Eells from Massachusetts, and Asa B. Smith from Vermont, and Mrs. Smith from Massachusetts, and Mr. William H. Gray and Mrs. Gray from the state of New York. These families are destined to the Indian tribes on the Columbia river, Mr. Gray having previously spent a year in connection with the mission there, from which he returned last autumn. The services on the occasion were held in the Brick Church in the city of New York. Besides the instructions and appropriate devotional exercises, an address was delivered by the Rev. Dr. Spring.

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MISSION TO THE INDIANS WEST OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS.

THE meeting held in the Brick Church, New York, preparatory to the departure of the Rev. Messrs. E. Walker, C. Eells, and A. B. Smith, and Mr. W. H. Gray, and their wives, destined to reinforce the mission among the Indians west of the Rocky Mountains, was noticed at page 237. Some portion of the instructions of the Prudential Committee delivered on that occasion will be given here.

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The country to which you are going may be approached by two routes—the one being by water, around Cape Horn, and is nearly the same as that to the Sandwich Islands. Indeed vessels bound to the North West coast usually touch at those islands first, and then proceed on their way, about two thousand miles, to the mouth of the Columbia river or De Fuca's straits; making the whole voyage about seventeen thousand miles; and occupying, including the usual detention at the Sandwich Islands, eight or ten months. In addition to the time and expense required for so long a voyage, the mouth of the Columbia river is difficult of entrance during a large part of the year, on account of a heavy swell of the sea off that coast, and the intricate and changing character of the channel.

The other method of approaching the country is to cross the prairies and mountains which lie