

REPORT OF THE NUMBER OF TRIBES OF INDIANS AND THEIR LOCALITIES TO WHOM
WE PREACH THE GOSPEL.

By the REV. WILLIAM POLLARD, Chairman of the District.

SOME months since I mentioned that Brother Crosby was engaged in taking the census of the Indians to whom we preach the Gospel. After a great deal of time and labor this has been accomplished. This report will give you some conception of the extent and importance of our work among the natives, as well as the insufficiency of our staff of laborers. We cannot state on paper the promising nature of the Indian work in this country with sufficient clearness and cogency to impress your minds with its magnitude and importance. You must see it to be able to appreciate it.

I have never before seen people so eager to receive the Gospel. I wish, sir, that either you or Dr. Taylor could make us a visit, not for a week or two, but remain long enough to visit the missions and see for yourselves. I am persuaded that the Missionary Committee has never had such a door of usefulness opened to them as in this Province. I hope that the Committee will see their way clear, and that the Lord will put it into their hearts to increase the number of agents.

The An-ka-menem language is spoken by between two and three thousand Indians, who form thirty-two different tribes, living partly on the east coast of Vancouver Island and partly on the mainland, or more properly, on the banks of the Fraser River, commencing with its mouth and extending as far as Yale, a distance of nearly one hundred miles. They are partly Christian and partly Pagan, and live, some by fishing and hunting; others, by labor, such as working in the coal mines, at the lumber mills, at farming, and as servants.

NANAIMO.—Here we commenced our operations as a Church. In 1861 the school was first started, and has been maintained a great part of the time since. This tribe is situated one mile out of the town of Nanaimo, seventy miles from Victoria, on the east coast of Vancouver Island. Many of the men work in the coal pit, and have built little houses. Their children

attend school, and a good congregation is gathered to Divine service three times each Sabbath by their little church bell, where a most attentive and well-dressed people listen to the Word of God; and many, by their lives, show that they have found it to be the power of God unto salvation. The day school is well attended, and some of the children are doing well in their studies. This tribe numbers about three hundred.

Chemainus, Seek-a-men, Hal-laults, Yak-rool-ages, Tad-kas, and Pen-nel-akuts, are six small tribes situated between the north end of Salt Spring Island and Old Chemainus or Oyster Bay, between Nanaimo and Victoria, and about fifty miles from the latter place. They number about four hundred, living by fishing and farming. These are visited frequently during the year by our missionary.

Cowichan, Qua-mit-san, Co-me-aken, Tlum-lum-lets and Som-ano, situated in the Cowichan valley, are about forty miles from Victoria. Many of them live on fishing and hunting, but some on farming. They number, in all, a little over four hundred. Here the Church of England and Roman Catholics have small missions. These are often visited by our missionary.

Saanich, Teaut, Sick-em, Poqueston and Tsalalp are situated in the Saanich Arm, and about twelve miles from Victoria. Most of them are engaged as the Cowichens are. They number, in all, about two hundred. Here we preach the Gospel as we visit them.

VICTORIA.—This tribe is situated across the harbor from Victoria city. They number about one hundred and seventy. Many are employed as servants. They are in a deplorable condition on account of their immediate contact with the lowest class of the white population. Here we have a good Sunday-school, well attended. Some have begun to improve their dwellings by building themselves nice houses, and thus show decided improvement by their teaching. A congregation of forty or fifty attend service.