

*Extract of a letter from the Rev. Chas. Stringfellow, dated Oxford House, Sept. 9th, 1861.*

By the great mercy of the Divine Being it is permitted me again to communicate with you in this season of the year, from this distant region.

I am happy to be able to state that the Almighty Parent has again heard our prayer, and restored my dear companion and the mother of our two infant children to some degree of health and strength. For her restoration, after some eight long weeks of illness and confinement, in a land destitute of medical aid, and void of that Christian sympathy so unmistakably manifested in our own beloved Canada and other civilized lands, we give unfeigned thanks and feel the gratitude we cannot write or speak.

The summer just past has been one of almost continued trial, proceeding from varied sources. Still "our Father's hand prepares the cup, and what he wills is best." We find trials great or small are inseparable from the great work in which we are engaged. The superstitions and prejudices held and practiced for ages, do not at once give way. The nature accustomed to indulgence and the mind strange to culture cannot be governed and informed at once. The native indolence and unmistakable tendency to deceit of our people, although much improved and changed, will and does still require the line upon line, &c., and the reproof, rebuke, and exhortation,—and it is easy to perceive whilst this is the case we need to be wise, require to be earnest—and must seek help and grace from the great Master who has sent forth his labourers into his fields white already unto the harvest (in some cases most clearly so.) Not long ago I was visited by an Indian family, the head of which was a man of not less than sixty summers. I had never before seen him. He was nominally a heathen, but on conversation with him I at once found that although he had never heard a sermon, he was familiar with the cardinal points of the Christian faith took a constant delight in prayer, was a decided believer in the truth, and I am not without hope that he possesses a portion of the like

precious faith with us. This was the result of our people preaching to their heathen countrymen "in the regions beyond" the mission here. We enjoin the duty upon them, which duty not a few are forward to use. This great territory, with its scattered people will yet be given to Jesus as his heritage, and he shall reign whose right it is. (Psalm ii. 8.) I consented to administer the sacred ordinance of baptism to himself and a portion of his family. I deeply regret that the circumstances of my family have effectually prevented my giving that attention to the work which I would have been happy to give. My family necessarily occupied my time and it could not be otherwise where servants are little more than the name and nearly every duty devolved upon myself. It is this only which leads me devoutly to desire in consequence of the general delicacy of Mrs. S, that, by the good Providence of God, a way might be opened for our return to our own loved Canada.

During the summer death has been doing his work amongst us. Two aged families, have died, one the mother of a numerous family, some of whom are themselves parents, yet also the mother of several little children. Both these females sought the Saviour in life, and were amongst our most sincere and earnest members. They have joined "the innumerable company, who never die;" and are they not all ministering spirits now, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation.—Heb. i. 14.

At present there is a good deal of sickness amongst the Indians, in part owing to the sudden change of weather that has come upon us. Both our children are suffering from the influenza. We hope nothing serious will transpire with them.

We have heard of the arrival of the Hon. Co.'s ship, *Prince of Wales*, at York Factory. We hope to receive a few comforts and necessaries before long, brought us by this, our only means of obtaining them, of a suitable kind.

We are in expectation of a second pastoral visit from our esteemed chair-