

spirit, and through such a spirit to grow ourselves in all that is good.

Mr. Black sends me one of the "tokens" used at the first Sacramental solemnity at the Red River. Another may be got for your museum; but this one I cannot resist the temptation to send to my friend, Mr. Bonar, Convener of the Colonial Committee of the Free Church of Scotland.

My dear Sir, faithfully yours,

ROBT. BURNS.

RED RIVER, August 12th, 1852.

REV. AND VERY DEAR SIR,—

Having written you at some length about six weeks ago, regarding the state of matters here, I have not a great deal to add on the present occasion. However there are two or three things worthy of note, and as our opportunities of correspondence with the world are neither frequent nor regular, I make it a general rule to embrace any one that presents itself.

Our congregational matters go on very much in the way they have been doing some time past. The attendance perhaps somewhat upon the increase. In order to afford additional accommodation, we have erected a shed, somewhat verandah fashion, along the whole front of our present place of worship, which, while it gives us sitting room for 50 or 60 persons, forms an airy and agreeable retreat for the weakly, and relieves the interior of the house of an over-crowding, which would have rendered it in the heat of summer scarcely endurable. The door and four windows being left open, all can hear, and the greater part can see.

We enjoyed our second communion on Sabbath July 11th. The number who sat down around the sacred tables were 64. Twenty of these were admitted for the first time—7 of them were from my Bible class. Every thing proceeded "decently and in order," and there is reason to believe that it was a day of blessing to not a few. The Sabbath schools continues to flourish—the attendance for a month past has averaged 107. Teachers and scholars are both very regular in attendance. We are somewhat short of books, but expect a full supply from Scotland in about six weeks.

I have now commenced preaching once a month at the station below, which I formerly mentioned to you. I remain here until Sabbath school is over, and then ride down a distance of 14 miles, and preach in the evening. The people here, much to their credit, are very willing to share with their brethren there. The meetings, held in a private house, are very encouraging. I once expected that by this time their little wooden church would have been nearly completed, but the flood which deranged everything, has prevented them from getting the necessary timber. Still it is hoped that it will go on this fall.

We had yesterday the satisfaction of laying the corner stone of our new church here, the Recorder of Rupert's Land, officiating on the occasion. A sealed bottle containing coins of the present reign. A sketch of the history of the settlement from the beginning. A memorandum of present men and things, &c. Your own letter of 15th March, with the Red River Circular on which it was written, together with the June number of the Free Church Record, were deposited in the stone, with the most sincere wishes that they might not be seen again for centuries. A great crowd of people were present. We had prayer and a psalm, with two excellent speeches on the spot, and then retiring to our present place of worship, a sermon somewhat appropriate to the occasion. Altogether it was an interesting and happy day, particularly so to those whose wishes often, rather than their hopes, have been fondly anticipating such a day for more than thirty years.

I should not omit to mention that one gentleman, a retired partner of the Hon. H. B. Co.,

who found it impracticable to be with us, accompanied his note of apology on the morning of the day with the handsome donation of £20 at g.

We do not expect to make much progress with the building this summer, as the flood deprived us of a large quantity of lime, and no more can be had just now. The foundation was dug by the old men. It is three feet deep, and up to the surface has been built five feet wide, in order to make the foundation as solid as prairie soil will admit of. I do not suppose that the wall will be raised two feet above the surface this season. The dimensions have been increased. We shall now have 56 feet clear by 31½ within the walls. Our people seem in good spirits and much less discouraged by the desolation of the high water than can might have expected. The little crop of barley and potatoes which they were able to put down are looking remarkably well, of wheat, however, there will be scarcely any in this part of the settlement. Speaking of wheat, I believe I have always neglected to mention to you that our people, last winter, contributed about 90 bushels to the Indian mission of the Church of England, in this country. As a testimony that notwithstanding many vexatious little circumstances during past years, they still feel that they owe a debt of gratitude to the Church of England—also, as an acknowledgment, until some more approved instrumentality present itself, that it is their duty to sustain such as the present affords. I think you will agree with me in regarding this not as a spurious liberalism, but as true catholic liberality.

The missionaries here are, to a man, thoroughly evangelical—not a high-churchman nor a pass-yite among them; and although they may lay a little too much weight upon the liturgy, &c, yet they preach to the Indians salvation by Jesus Christ; and facts, not a few around their stations, prove that the Divine blessing accompanies their labors. Where God has set his seal we need not be afraid to set ours. Our friend, Mr. Tanner, the half-breed missionary, of whom I wrote to you, has now stationed himself at St. Joseph, about thirty miles west of Pembina. A very heart-rending event took place at his station on the 25th of June last. A very excellent and pious young man, named Mr. Terry, whom he had brought with him from the States, was barbarously murdered by a party of Sioux Indians, a little from Mr. Tanner's house. Mr. Terry was intended to act as missionary school-master, and had scarcely entered on his work, when he was thus cut off in God's mysterious providence. He was a native of Ohio, and from the brief acquaintance that I had the pleasure of forming with him here, I had conceived a high opinion of his piety, intelligence, and devotedness. But he has been called home.

The Sioux of the plains to the south, and the Half-breeds of Pembina, Red River, &c., are now at war, and no doubt can exist, that the party who perpetrated the deed, were actuated not by any personal hatred to Mr. Terry or his mission, but seeking revenge upon their adversaries, and counting all where they lived as among them. Mr. Tanner continues at his post, and is himself teaching the school.

I must now conclude, and, in doing so, would tender you many thanks for the deep interest you take in our affairs here, as also to the kind friends who are exerting themselves to aid us in our church building. I know that you and many more remember me at a throne of grace. We beseech you, "pray always and do not faint."

I ought to have mentioned in a previous part of my letter, that the Governor and Council of the Colony, have kindly made us a grant of £15 sterling, to be applied to the purposes of education.

I remain, Rev. and dear Sir,

Yours, with much esteem,

JOHN BLACK.

Rev. Dr. Burns.

SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE STUDENTS' MISSIONARY SOCIETY, KNOX'S COLLEGE, TORONTO.

The seventh year of the existence of this Society has now come to a close; and by the good hand of God upon us it is in many respects in more favourable circumstances than on any previous anniversary occasion. Among the students who now constitute the association, there is not one who was present at its formation, whilst nearly thirty ministers of the gospel who have passed from these halls are numbered among our honorary members. In reviewing the past we have abundant cause for gratitude to our God, who has favoured what was originally a feeble organization for mutual improvement, so that, at length it has become an active agent, in disseminating, on however small a scale, the glorious truths of the Gospel. We feel grateful also to those, our honoured predecessors, who have left us such a society to support, and have directed our attention to means so well adapted to cherish a missionary spirit in our bosoms, while we have at the same time opportunity to benefit our fellow-men, and advance in some measure, the interests of our Redeemer's kingdom.

The records of the past year though not without interest, do not present events as striking as those which former years have furnished. We would with deep gratitude acknowledge the preserving hand of our God over us. Our number has not this year been thinned by the hand of death, and we have not at this meeting, as on two former occasions, to mourn the loss of some intimately connected with us. And yet the voice of warning is not hushed, Mr. Page, the late teacher of our mission school, after a long season of ill health, has been numbered with the dead, and Mr. Turnbull, one of the Committee of Management at Metis, who manifested a deep interest in our mission, has exchanged the scenes of time for those of eternity. God's care over us has also been signally displayed by the providential deliverance of one of our number from a watery grave, while four of his companions in danger perished in the sad disaster. Let us not fail to improve every providence, that we may daily become more sensible of the frail tenure by which our life is held, and of the unknown dangers by which we are surrounded, that we may more earnestly seek to do with all our might the work which God has appointed for us.

Since the commencement of our mission at Metis, the work has continued to go on, though with occasional interruption. Mr. Page attended to the school connected with it until his death, for a period of about seven months, with the trifling exception of a few weeks, when the state of his health prevented him. A regular monthly report was made out and transmitted to us—from which we learn that the numbers in all who received instruction in the school was twenty-six, the average attendance was not, however, more than nine or ten. Since the death of Mr. Page the school has been closed from the want of a teacher. We are, however, happy to be able to state, that a letter received last week, announces the determination of a Mr. Pascho to proceed to Metis, to take charge of the school. Mr. Pascho we regard as a man in many respects admirably adapted to the situation. By birth a Swiss, connected with the Free Church in the Canton de Vaud, he has drunk deeply into the spirit of those devoted people who are upholding the cause of Protestantism on the continent of Europe; while at the same time an apprenticeship of some years in this land, most of the time, under the eye of the excellent Mr. Tanner, has rendered him well acquainted with the wants of our country and the manners of the people. Mr. Pascho has been a most successful teacher at Pointe aux Trembles, where he was very highly esteemed. His attainments and former pursuits will enable him to instruct the pupils, not only in the ordinary branches of education, but also in agriculture and gardening. He is likewise well qualified for