

Missionary Department.

EDMONTON HOUSE, HUDSON'S BAY TERRITORY.

Extract from the Journal of the Rev. Thomas Woolsey.

May 5, 1860. Met W. J. Christie, Esq., at the Snake Hills, he having unavoidably detained us there three days, during which time we had a most fearful snow storm, and were compelled, to a great extent to exist on cranberries obtained from Indians who were camped near a neighboring lake. W. C., Esq., gave us most humiliating recitals of horses and dogs being devoured near Edmonton House.

8. Received seed potatoes and barley by the first boat, the recent scarcity at White Fish Lake compelling my colleague's family to subsist upon what he had put aside for seed. Left for the Mission.

9. A splendid sunset accompanied by the most luminous rainbow I ever saw. All the feather tribes rose *en masse* from the surrounding lakes and swamps, in countless numbers, fluttering in the sun's rays, as though to do homage to the Creator of all worlds. Truly

"Man goes by art to foreign lands,
With shipwreck and decay;
Birds go with nature for their guide,
And God directs their way:

(God of a thousand worlds on high,
Proud man may lord and dare;
Power tells him that the meanest things
Are worthy of His care."

11. A continuous snow storm, accompanied by a strong north-east wind.

20. The Sabbath services have been attended by most gracious influences. The people were powerfully wrought upon while singing the translation of the 34th Hymn, especially the 3rd verse, when a middle aged Cree burst into tears, uttering, in broken accents, the feelings of a spirit "transported with the wondrous theme."

22. Wheat sown.

28. Barley, potatoes, turnip seed, &c. have been cast into the earth. Extra land has been broken up. Lord, send thy blessing.

June 4. Baptized two children at Fort Pitt. Their parents had so far lowered the standard of Protestantism as to solicit a priest to baptize their children, but he peremptorily refusing, unless they would allow their offspring to become papists, they preferred to let their children remain unbaptized until they saw a minister.

Jan. 7. As there are but few families in the fort, I must leave. Religious duties have been performed every evening since my arrival.

14. Again at my colleague's Mission. Fallen timber and swamps have greatly retarded our progress.

24. The past week has been remarkably stormy—much rain has fallen. A hail storm has done great damage to the crops.

28. The ordinary road, leading to the Mission, being overflowed with water, Mr. Steinhauer has just finished about a mile of cart road in another direction, though the cutting down of timber, &c., has involved considerable toil.

July 18. Journeying on towards Edmonton. Just as we were leaving our encampment, 5 a. m., we perceived a partial obscuration of the sun. About two-thirds of that luminary was ultimately eclipsed. We had appraised several of our Indians and some pagans of the eclipse some time before. They have, doubtless, ere this regarded us as medicine great men.

21. At our destination. A hail-storm was most seriously felt here on the 5th of July, cutting down the grain crops, and most completely severing the potatoe tops. Nearly 200 squares of glass were entirely demolished in the different buildings. The Romish church and parsonage shared the same fate.