

RED RIVER DISTRICT.

From the REV. E. R. YOUNG, Norway House, March 31st, 1873.

I reached my home in safety on the 15th inst. We had a good Missionary and District Meeting in Winnipeg. I was very sorry that I did not hear from you in reference to Beren's River. Timothy Bear is still alive, but will never be able to carry on the work again. One lung seems to be entirely gone, and he is only kept alive by frequently drinking sturgeon oil, which seems to have all the good qualities of cod liver oil, without its disagreeable taste.

The people there are anxious about their future.

As I have not heard from you as to your intentions or wishes in reference to that place, I will place before you, in this letter, some of my thoughts as to that place and my future. I have now been here nearly five years, and I really think it is time I were removed.

I am quite willing to undertake the establishment of the new Mission at Beren's River, provided I can go relieved of all my liabilities, incumbent in my work, on this large and important field of trial. I cannot think of going, and I do not think you will ask me to go, with these heavy loads upon me. I will candidly place before you my thoughts and ideas in reference to the future, and, as far as I can judge, the best plan to be adopted. If you can get a married man for Norway House, send him and his family along with Dr. Taylor. I will send my wife and children to Canada, but remain myself at Beren's River, during the summer, teaching the school and preaching as much as possible. In the fall, with your permission, I will go down to Ontario, and spend the winter under your direction, at as many Missionary Meetings as possible, advocating, as far as my ability will permit, the claims of these Indian Missions, especially that of Beren's River, where we now require fifteen hundred or two thousand dollars, to put up a church and parsonage, with the necessary out-buildings, etc., etc. Oxford also needs new build-

ings. I think I could succeed in raising the amount without much affecting the general income. I could easily get away for the winter months, as most of the Indians would be off at their hunting grounds.

I hope this matter will at once occupy your attention, as there is a great deal to be done before we can really get to work in such a land as this. If you decide that the building must go up, I will have to send to York Factory for nets, tea, tools, etc. A large quantity of fish will have to be caught this coming fall in Pigeon River Bay. Four men will have to be employed to spend the winter a few miles up Pigeon River, in the woods, cutting down trees, squaring logs, cutting timber and boards, etc. These they will make into a big raft on the ice, and in the spring will float it down the river, and around to the place selected for the Mission Village. As every board will have to be cut by hand, and as a great number will be required, unless we can get somebody who can burn limestone, it will take the whole winter to get all the timber, boards, etc., cut. Limestone can be found within thirty miles of that place. The men can easily make themselves a log shanty, similar to the lumbermen's in Ontario. For a stove, they can have the one already purchased, and for provisions, besides the fish caught referred to, they can be supplied with flour, pork, etc., from Winnipeg.

I hope I would be able to obtain in travelling through your towns and cities, such things as glass, nails, hinges, &c., without cost. According to my plan, I would return early in the spring from Ontario, so as to get to Beren's River on the last ice, with dogs from Manitoba. I would then be present to attend to the bringing down of the raft, and to the building operations. By hard work we could get the buildings, especially the parsonage, so far advanced that it would be ready for my family late in the summer. Our days of labor will be few. Navigation