

NORWAY HOUSE, ROSSVILLE.

AMIDST the changes which are taking place in these northern regions, affecting the temporal interests of Indian communities, the most sensitive feeling is manifested by them for the continuance of the ordinances of religion in the older stations; and when the people have been compelled to seek new homes at a distance from the localities of their birth and social enjoyments, their importunities for religious ordinances have been earnest and persevering, declining offers from other ministerial assistance, preferring minor privileges maintained by local labourers and class-leaders, until the crippled means of the Society being ended, they were sure then to share in the advantages the Committee were enabled to bestow by the establishment in their midst of a permanent ministry.

It will doubtless be ultimately advantageous to the families who have left Rossville for Fisher River, in temporal matters, and give greater opportunities for those who remain there to improve in social comforts; but the change throws greater responsibility and cost upon the Missionary Society, which it is hoped an enlarged spirit of benevolence on the part of the Methodist Church in other sections of the Dominion, more highly favoured with nature's bounties, will enable the Committee to meet without future embarrassment.

Since the commencement of the Rossville Mission, vast numbers of Indians "have passed through death triumphant home," who are mingling their songs of praise with Evans, and Hurlburt, and McDougall, who toiled at Rossville, and amongst adjacent bands; and won many from Paganism and degradation; leading them to the Cross, whose transforming influences made them "new creatures in Christ Jesus." In seeking a distant and permanent home, the remembrance of those who "through faith and patience are now inheriting the promises" would greatly contribute to awaken prayerful aspirations, that with the sorrow incident to their leaving the homes and graves of their fathers, they might not lose the consolation and help always found by sincere worshippers in the means of grace.

After some five or six years of successful labour at Rossville, Mr. Ruttan and his devoted wife returned to Ontario, and Mr. O. German, from Oxford House, assumed the duties and care of this important Mission, much lessened in numbers, but still affording ample room to occupy the time of the most devoted and diligent labourer. We are hopeful that Mr. O. German's successful study of the Cree language may be found useful in translations, and be some compensation for the lonely years he spent at Oxford House; years, however, not only distinguished by seed-time, but attended with an ingathered harvest, as shown by his last report of that Mission.

OXFORD HOUSE.

Coming to this Mission late in the summer, a little before the Indians left for the winter, we could not accomplish much. We found the old Mission-house so dilapidated that we could not live in it, and