

About three-quarters of a mile to the eastward of Nanaimo, along the shore, there is an Indian settlement, comprising nearly 300 persons. Most of these have their ordinary residence in one or other of the three or four great camps, though during the summer months small parties may be found camping out in any out-of-the-way corner. The Church of England attempted the establishment of a mission among these Indians, but it has for some time past been abandoned—a deserted chapel still remaining as a memorial of the abortive undertaking, though I believe the mission still figures in the Church of England missionary reports. The Wesleyans have been much more successful in their missionary efforts among the same Indians, the success being mainly due to the self-denying zeal of Mr. Crossby, who, by long associating with this tribe, has rendered himself thoroughly familiar with their language, and under whose instrumentality not a few have been brought within the pale of the Church, while a hopeful work of education has been carried on among the young, and the converts generally are becoming detached from the indiscriminate and contaminating intercourse of the camp, and established in separate homes of their own.

W. A.

LETTER FROM REV. J. NISBET.

Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, July 6, 1869.

Rev. Wm. McLaren, Belleville, Ont.

MY DEAR BROTHER,—Your very welcome letter of the 7th May was received two days ago. I am thankful to hear from you, and would be glad did your time permit you to write much oftener. I wrote to you so lately that I need not now trouble you with much of a letter at this time. I am sorry that there is so little hope of any help being sent to us for a length of time. I hope, however, that justice will be done to this mission before any other is taken up, not for my own sake, but that the work may be carried on fully, and that with a greater assurance of permanency. I have no wish to have expectations raised that are not likely to be realized, and I am glad that you tell me plainly exactly how matters stand. I have often expressed my regret that I am able to pay so little attention to the visiting of Indian camps on the plains. You are perhaps not aware that even *one* such visit would involve perhaps from 500 to 800 miles of travelling, and that it is sometimes very difficult to find the camps of Indians in the plains, and much time might be spent in searching them out. Yet these drawbacks would not deter me from undertaking that sort of work, had I any responsible person to leave at home while Mr. McKay and I would be absent, perhaps for six or eight weeks at a time. Since Mr. Flett left the mission I have been so situated that both Mr. McKay and I could not be away from home *together* for any length of time. But I believe that even this inability has been wisely ordered. Had I begun at once that sort of work as a stranger, I would have been received with suspicion and spurned by the majority, just as Mr. Flett was when he was searching out a location for the mission. It is different now; the mission and its doings are known all over the plains. Deputations, consisting both of chiefs and common Indians, from the various tribes as far west as the Victoria Mission, have visited us. These have carried tidings of what they have seen and heard while here; while our own Indians, who are in the plains just now, have detailed the kindness they have experienced from us, and how they were kept from