

strange to say, like Lord Selkirk, the founder of the Colony, was from the extreme south of Scotland, but he had much of the fervour and animation in his preaching in which the Highlander delights. Dr. Black remained at his post in Red River for upwards of thirty years, and left a fragrant memory, when he passed away in 1882. We cannot in this short sketch do more than indicate the merest outlines of his life. His pioneer work of thirty years divides itself into three periods of about ten years each.

1. For ten years he stood alone the only Presbyterian minister in Rupert's Land.

2. In 1862 he was joined by Rev. James Nisbet, and for ten years outside places from Kildonan received attention, and several other labourers were added.

3. In 1870 the Presbytery of Manitoba was formed, since which time the new phase of Canadian occupation of the North-West has come.

The people of Kildonan with remarkable spirit at once on the arrival of their minister began to build a substantial church, and not only did the greater part of supporting *ordinances*, but erected a church costing £1,050 sterling, receiving from the Hudson Bay Company only £150 towards it. In 1852 Mr. Black saw the memorable flood which stood two feet deep above the floor of his dwelling, but he was not discouraged for the time was one of enthusiasm. A powerful impulse was given to religion, and the young pastor's heart was made glad. During his first period he married a daughter of Sheriff Ross, a man of much prominence, and the author of numerous works on western life. He gave such service as was possible to Little Britain, a point some fourteen miles down the Red River, and there gathered what may be called the only half-breed Presbyterian congregation in Manitoba. The English speaking half-breeds of Manitoba, being chiefly of Orkney descent, should have been Presbyterian, but the long forty years of neglect before Mr. Black's coming left them to grow up in the Church of England, which, however, has well attended to their religious wants. The people of Kildonan look back with fond feelings to that first ten years. It was the golden age of their church life. The Scottish love of education also showed itself among them. By private subscription they erected and maintained a school, which during its whole history has been one of the best of the country. Their religious enthusiasm gave an impulse to intellectual life also. A number of young men from Kildonan went to study at eastern colleges. James Ross, a son of Sheriff Ross, became a distinguished graduate of Toronto University, and was for several years on the editorial staff of the Toronto "Globe"; a Mr. Fraser a young man of great promise, who died early, went to Knox College; and Rev. Alexander Matheson, who has long done good service in his native country, completed his course at Knox College. The young pastor found an ever willing helper in his wife, a woman of fine character and great kindness of disposition, who died in 1873, leaving three sons and three daughters. Were it not that the work of organizing must have been absorbing and interesting, one looks with great sympathy at the young missionary standing alone, many hundreds of miles from any minister of his own church. The writer has heard Dr. Black say, that in those times when it took two or three weeks to go to Toronto, his thought was "that if the day should come when he could be in Kildonan church one Sabbath, and in Knox Church, Toronto, the next, he would be satisfied." That journey can now be made in half that time. As a result of the isolation of that early period, the young pastor was thrown much upon his books. He was ever a systematic reader; and his large store of information and accuracy of knowledge was most noticeable. Solitude has its compensations, and no doubt this first ten years' experience laid the foundation of habits of study which never left the Presbyterian pioneer of the Red River.

(To be continued.)

#### HOME MISSION WORK IN THE NORTH-WEST.

The Winnipeg "Sun" reports that the Rev. James Robertson, superintendent of missions of the Presbyterian Church, occupied the pulpit of Knox Church on a recent Sabbath. His discourse consisted for the most part of a statement of the missionary operations of the Presbyterian Church in the Northwest.

He stated that in his estimation the work of the Presbyterian Church in Canada is to-day pre-emi-

nently home mission work. Half a continent is thrown open for settlement. Thousands are flocking here to become possessors of our free fertile soil. The foundations of a great nation are being laid, and it is of the utmost importance that this foundation should be laid in righteousness and the fear of God.

At the close of 1881 settlement had extended westward as far as Fort Ellice in the north, Brandon in the centre, and Turtle Mountain in the south. Last season settlement extended westward along the line of the C. P. R. for nearly 300 miles beyond Brandon, and 125 miles beyond Turtle Mountain. Not to speak of the settlers that took up land in the older districts of the country, here were two belts, one 300 miles long and from 25 to 50 miles wide, and the other 125 miles long by from 18 to 25 miles wide, containing eight or nine millions of acres. With the portion formally settled, there was an area now occupied one half larger than the peninsula lying west of Toronto and situated between Lake Erie and the Georgian Bay. He had travelled over the most of the land as far west as Moose Jaw, and he was astonished at the proportion fit for settlement. The percentage of waste land was small. He found the crop good almost everywhere and the farmers and merchants well pleased with the business of the year.

The settlers he represented as coming from all quarters, but especially from the eastern Provinces of the Dominion and from Great Britain. Several of them brought some money, but many had their capital swept away by the storms and floods of last March. They were, however everywhere pleased with the country and full of hope for the future. Mr. Robertson spoke in the highest terms of the character of the new comers. They are intelligent and industrious, pushing and persevering, law abiding and moral. They are largely young men of vigour and thrift—in short the most desirable class of citizens for any country. A large percentage of them are Presbyterians.

Mr. Robertson next directed attention to the efforts put forth to provide these people with ministers. He confessed that the churches had not kept pace with settlement. The Presbyterian Church has yet no settled minister west of Branlon, although services are given occasionally at a number of points along the line of railway. West of Turtle Mountain there is no missionary of the Presbyterian Church. There are about 400 townships in which there are settlers where no Presbyterian minister has yet preached. At least 25 additional missionaries are now required to overtake the work.

The progress made next came under review. Forty new stations were opened during the year, a gain of 25 per cent., making the number now 200. Six congregations had become self-sustaining, and there was an increase of about \$2,000 in the contributions of about \$2,000 in the contributions of the older stations since 1881. Eight or ten additional congregations are likely to become self-sustaining during the current year.

Ten churches and two manse had been erected during the year at a cost of about \$30,000, and preparations were being made to erect twenty one or twenty-two more early next spring. Liberal subscriptions have been promised for them all. These buildings are found as far west as Edmonton.

Mr. Robertson, in passing, alluded to the erection of the church at Regina. The building was put together in sections and shipped by rail to Regina, where it was to have been erected in October. When he visited Regina in December he found the church in the lumber yard. He had it hauled on Friday morning to its site. By Saturday night the building was roofed in by torch light. Sabbath was stormy, but there was an audience of 33 men and one woman, and in the evening an audience of 23 young men at the church opening.

The superintendent then compared the present state of the Church with its state when he came here in 1874. There were then six ministers and missionaries—last season there were fifty-eight in the field; then there were twenty-six mission stations and congregations—now over 200; then 166 families—now over 5,000; then 34 unmarried men on their claims—now over 3,000; then \$3,500 were contributed for church work—last year over \$41,500.

He gave illustration of the liberal spirit manifested by many congregations in supporting the work of the Church. In no district settled for any length of time would the average giving per family to support the minister fall below \$10, while in one the average was

as high as \$40 per family. In villages like Minnedosa, Rapid City, and Battle, several were giving \$1 per Sabbath, and mechanics fifty cents per Sabbath. In no case did he know of less than twenty-five cents being offered.

He spoke of the great service rendered by the Church and Manse Building Fund in connection with church erection. Without the fund few, if any, churches would have been built last year—or if built, small, shabby structures would have taken the place of the commodious, comfortable, serviceable buildings now dedicated to the worship of God. Subscriptions to the fund had already reached nearly \$75,000, and he hoped the whole \$100,000 would be subscribed before the end of 1883. The amount subscribed in Manitoba was nearly \$39,000.

He concluded by urging his hearers to contribute from patriotic motives. No nation could advance materially that was not moral, and religion was the only basis on which morals can be built. He appealed also for liberal aid to this work, on the ground of our Lord's command to preach the Gospel to every creature, on love to our fellow-men, and a desire to advance the Redeemer's kingdom.

#### LETTER FROM DR. MACKAY.

Mrs. Smellie, of the Macnab street Church Mission Band, Hamilton, kindly forwards for publication the following letter by Dr. Mackay:

It is encouraging to know that you and the Mission Band remember this poor, poor benighted isle of the sea. We have not as yet selected Bible women, but in due time will of course do so. I told a number of Christian women here what you propose in the way of helping. They were greatly interested. "Kám-sia S'ong-té"—"thanks to God"—were on all their lips. Mrs. Mackay is often kept for hours telling about Canada. I notice that Hamilton has a big share in her affections. My dear friend, tell the Mission Band to think of a little Band 2,000 years ago, praying and toiling, weeping and sowing, never wearying. The other day one of our converts—an old woman—was in a boat filled with young conceited literati. The oarsman told them she was a Christian, at which they began to revile and abuse her in the most insulting manner. Being naturally a fearless woman, and now burning with zeal, she began to question them on their own literature, idols, superstitions, etc., and silenced all in the boat. She then expounded the Gospel of Jesus to them. Afterwards in the city they were telling everywhere that "these converts knew everything—even the old women are learned and sharp." Thus you see the power of God in doing all for His name's sake.

We need, oh! we need to look on this world as mud, for all will pass away, and we need to gaze on Jesus, beloved Saviour. Hail! mighty Conqueror; triumphant in the skies: we will crown thee, crown thee Lord of all.

Mrs. Mackay wishes to be remembered to you and all friends.

G. L. MACKAY.

Tamsui, Formosa, August 3rd, 1882.

PRESBYTERY OF BARRIE On Thursday, the 14th December, 1882, the Barrie Presbytery met in the Tottenham Presbyterian church, for the induction of the Rev. D. H. MacLennan into the pastoral charge of first and second Tecumseth and Adjala. Rev. J. R. S. Burnett, who has watched over these congregations with paternal oversight during their long vacancy, presided on the occasion. Mr. John Geddes, recently ordained as missionary over the Minesing etc. stations, preached an appropriate and impressive sermon. Dr. Fraser, the venerable father of the Presbytery, addressed the minister, and the Rev. S. Acheson, M.A., the people. At the close of the services Mr. MacLennan received a warm welcome from his people. He enters on his new field of labour under very promising circumstances. These congregations are to be congratulated on having a worthy and devoted servant of Christ set over them, after their repeated disappointments and discouragements. At the same meeting the Presbytery agreed to the translation of the Rev. E. W. Pantton, of Bradford, and associated congregations, to St. Andrew's Church, Stratford. A suitable resolution was unanimously adopted, expressing the feelings of Presbytery towards Mr. Pantton, and their great regret at parting with him. During his seven years pastorate Mr. Pantton has been a successful and laborious minister, and has shown himself to be a workman that needeth not to be ashamed. The Rev. J. K. Henry was appointed Moderator of the Kirk Session of Bradford, etc.