

## Along the Line.

### BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Letter from the REV. T. CROSBY, dated S. S. "GLAD TIDINGS," July 18th, 1889.

AS I am on a trip along the coast, a few words may be of service to you in the Mission Rooms.

We left Simpson on the 27th June, calling at Inverness and Essington. At the latter place I met with a band of Christian workers,—a blessed meeting,—and later on a council of the Hydahs, including Skidegate, Gold Harbor and Clue. We tried to get lumber, the bill of which had been in since last fall, for the Bella Coola church, but the salmon business has been so lively, that there was not a foot of lumber to be got. This shows that the sooner our self-supporting mill is up, the better. Bro. Hopkins and his people are in good spirits.

On our way down we had a good deal of south-east wet weather. Called at Kit-kata, Kit-a-maat, and Kit-lope. Here we found Bro. Robinson and Bro. Phillips, but many of the people had left to look for work. Bro. Phillips came out with us in the spring, as you remember, and is getting an insight into the work. The people of Kit-a-maat have laid the foundation for a good large church, and I hope, as soon as we can get lumber, we shall get it up. We got on up to Kit-lope for Sunday, when we had service three times, and a good day. Oh, how much we need a man stationed there to direct those poor people! They say they will give up all their old ways if they had a white man. May God send the right man! They had got so bad as to make whiskey last winter, and we took their still from them, and they said they would make no more. It is made of molasses, rice, etc. Indians were first taught this in Alaska; and an old slave came home, and taught it to them in this part of the country. It is one of those tribes of which Indian Agent Todd, in his last year's report, says: "The good missionaries have not been among them, but they are more obedient," etc.

As we came down the Inlet on Monday, we met a number of people all painted up. They said they had come three days' journey, and then had got this old dug-out cottonwood canoe, and they were on their way up to the store. We got them on board, and told them of Jesus, and they said they needed a teacher very much. I do wish we had a good live man to send in there. These are the people that Bro. Robinson spoke about in his report two years ago. Tuesday we called at Chinaman's Hat and Bella Bella; people nearly all at home. Next day to River's Inlet, where we met a lot of people at the Wanok cannery. On the way up met Bro. Brett and wife; they have been building a new school-house, and Mrs. Brett is having school. I preached in English, when Bro. Robinson took up the Chinook. May God bless and save those poor people. Next morning we left, and it looked dirty enough to be a little bad to cross Queen Charlotte's Sound, but as we had a high glass, we pressed on. It came out a very fine day, and we got on down

to Alert Bay by 6.30—time enough to take some wood and have a service ashore.

Next morning we did not leave early. Visited three villages, and had a blessed time preaching the word of life, visiting the sick, and giving out medicines to them. There are a number of tribes in Knight's Inlet who need a missionary very much, and it would not interfere with the C. M. S. work at Alert Bay, as some of them are from thirty to sixty miles away.

Saturday, we went on, visited one Indian village and five logging camps, and anchored at Plumper Bay. In this region is what we call our Minutes, "Mission to Lumbermen." There are not less than fourteen logging camps, with from twenty-five to thirty men each in them.

On Sunday, I took a small boat and a boy, and down we went through the Narrows. Preached at two logging camps, to the Indians of Cape Mudge at their village, and to some settlers at night, having travelled in all about twenty-five miles.

On Monday, the *Glad Tidings* came on and took us up, and we found that Capt. Oliver and Bro. Robinson had travelled about twenty-five miles and preached at three logging camps. This is one of the finest fields for missionary labor I know of. Oh, that we had the man for the work! Monday we were down to Nanaimo, called on President Hall, and left for Victoria, where we arrived early. The boat was put on the beach to have her bottom cleaned and painted, and receive a new screw. I went up to the Fraser River, as there are thousands of Indians up there engaged at the fishing camps in connection with the salmon canneries. I preached three times on Saturday to crowds of strangers—many from the west coast of Vancouver Island, and others from the west coast of the mainland. On Sabbath, it was a full day, as I had told the people to be ready the day before. I preached five times in Chinook and twice in English, and travelled about ten miles. This included people from all the tribes on the coast, as well as the white men of Mr. Hobson's cannery, and the people of Western Island, who were very kind, and who seemed to enjoy the visit very much. This is part of Bro. Calvert's mission, and promises well for the future.

The Indians were very much excited at hearing of small-pox in New Westminster. I hope it may not spread among them.

I got back to Victoria to get ready to leave for the north; but I would like so much to have had some one to take up for Cape Mudge, and I wish Walker was along for the school at Simpson; and, indeed we ought to have had somebody on the west coast of the Vancouver Island this summer.

I am hoping we shall get a doctor, a young man from Portland, out.

IN Rev. A. J. Gordon's Sabbath-school, Boston, may be a class of one hundred men who were all born in China. They are all interested in the Gospel, and think their people should have it. They support three of their countrymen as preachers in their native land. Do they not do nobly?