

## QU'APPELLE.

J. GRISDALE, D.D., BISHOP, QU'APPELLE STATION.

MISSION ON THE FISHING LAKE AND NUT LAKE RESERVES.—Some of your readers will remember that when the late Bishop of Qu'Appelle, Bishop Burn, was conducting mission services and retreats in Eastern Canada in the winter of 1895-96, he made a great point of the Indian missions in his diocese, and especially of a mission which he hoped to start to the Indians of the Yellow Quill Band on the Fishing Lake and Nut Lake Reserves. This mission is now an accomplished fact, and an account of its inception may be of interest to some of your readers. This band of Indians has hitherto been almost entirely untouched by Christian influence of any kind. Bishop Burn felt keenly the responsibility of this state of things, and it had long been the subject of his prayers and thoughts. When in Eastern Canada he had an interview with the authorities of the Indian Department at Ottawa, and obtained from them the promise of a grant for a school house and salary of \$300 for a school teacher. On his return to his diocese in the early spring of 1896, I had an interview with the Bishop of Moosomin, of which parish I was then in temporary charge. It was then arranged that I should undertake the proposed mission. I at once set about planning and preparing for the work; the first thing was to secure the help of my friend, Mr. Ward, who, besides having had practical experience of rough life in the North-West, I knew also to be a devout Churchman, anxious to do some definite work for the Church. We knew that the Indians to whom we were going were difficult ones to deal with; our plan was just to try to live a simple, Christian life among them, and gradually win their confidence and learn their language. We then set about getting our necessary outfit, wagon and team of horses to freight up ourselves and our goods, a tent to live in, carpentering tools and the hundred other things that one does not think of till one is face to face with the question, "How am I to live in the bush country 50 miles from a store?" By the middle of June we were ready to start from the bishop's house at Indian Head, but just before starting a blow came; the good bishop was seriously ill. However, he rallied a little; he gave me his blessing from what proved to be his deathbed, and we made a start. We had got half way to our destination when the news overtook us of the bishop's death, and I hurried back on my riding pony to attend the funeral. I knew that I should best be consulting his wishes by continuing, without delay, the work on which he had set his heart, and so pushed slowly on with our heavy load to Fishing Lake. The Fishing Lake reserve is some 120 miles north of Qu'Appelle Station, the nearest point on the C.P.R., and about 80 miles from Yorkton, the terminus of the Man. & N.W. Nut Lake is again 60 miles further north. At Fishing Lake we arrived at the end of June, and on St. Peter's Day I first offered the Holy Eucharist as an act of thanksgiving. We pitched our tent on a breezy spot on the shore of our beautiful lake, and not far from where the Indians were then encamped. At first we saw little of the Indians; they were shy of us, and we could speak very little to them when they did come; but we were busy all day long with various duties, mostly such as are necessary to keep one alive when one is thrown on one's own resources, and mosquitoes swarm like a plague. Our first work was to put up stables for our horses near the place which we had fixed upon for our permanent abode, having done which we moved our tent to the same place. We found we were too pressed for time to put up a permanent house for ourselves before winter, and therefore built a rough shanty in the bush, just one living room with a little chapel attached. This house in which I am now writing has cost us nothing but our own labour, with the exception of windows, lumber for door and table and a few nails. We finished it just in time to move into before the cold weather came, and here we shall be until after Easter. It has been a good friend to us all winter, warm and sheltered, but it will not do for the summer, as then it will be damp and hot and thick with mosquitoes, and we have therefore now built the nucleus of what we hope will be a permanent mission house in a more open, but still sheltered, place. With the winter, a new stage in our work began. First of all we were joined by my friend, Mr. Baker, who had before had some experience with the Indians on the Moose Mountain Reserve. He speaks their language fairly well, and besides, what is most important, he is really interested in their welfare, and has a great power of winning their confidence. At the coming of the snow, too, most of our Indians leave their tents and come into winter houses, little log huts of about 10 feet square, containing one or more families. We soon began to see more of them; we were constantly at their houses, and they returned our calls in great numbers; hardly a day has passed since the beginning of December that we have not had two, three, four or more Indians in the house.

On Christmas and New Year's Day we had between 20 and 30 all in the house together, smoking, eating, drinking; men, women, children, squatting, sitting, standing, laughing, talking, joking. I cannot say that I do not think that one of the reasons of their coming is that they expect a meal when they get here; my first idea was to give them nothing except in return for some work done, however slight; but I soon found that this was impracticable; one must begin with people on a level which they can understand, and our Indians can appreciate the kindness which gives them food when they are hungry, therefore why not give it them? In this way, during the winter, we have been learning to know each other. I have been making slow progress with their language; it is difficult, as books alone are of little help, and one has to learn it from the people themselves, but I can, at any rate, say that I know more than I did. Our Indians are very poor, often without enough clothing, generally without enough food. They are, in fact, in a transition stage; the white man has exterminated for him the buffaloes, which in the good old days was his chief food. The hunting in this district is now poor, so that he can get but little for his furs, and at the same time they have not yet taken to farming or raising cattle as the Indians further south have done. They have a few cattle supplied by Government, but only a few, and not enough to bring in any return at present. Their chief food in winter is rabbits and bannock, and not always enough of these. The chief thing they lack is fat of some kind. I hope next winter to get a lot of rough fat from the butcher at Yorkton; perhaps some good friend down east would like to bear the expense! We find no difficulty in interesting them when they come here. Pictures are constant sources of pleasure and interest, and all sorts of little things that we have, such as magnifying glasses; children's toys, too, are a great delight; it is odd to see a big man six feet high spinning a humming top or pinching an India rubber sheep to make it squeak; nor do they mind being left unnoticed to smoke their pipes by the side of the stove; an Indian has no regard for time, and thinks nothing of lounging away all whole day. Of direct missionary work we have as yet done nothing. Christianity is connected in their minds with the white man and his ways of living. They have their own religion and their own ways; of the white man and his ways they want nothing. They, therefore, entirely refuse to let us teach their children, and if a school were built, they would not send them. The only thing to be done is to be very patient with them and to go on living and praying among them. This band is well known as the hardest band of all Indians to deal with; however, we have to some extent broken down the wall: it is something that they let us live on their reserve, that they come to our house, and the children can hardly grow up quite so full of prejudice as their parents. Meanwhile, as there is no school teaching, we do not get the Government grant, nor have the Government put up a school; indeed, as things are, a day school would be of little use; at the present moment there are only two children of school age on the reserve; the rest are away with their parents on hunting expeditions. We have now a grant of \$300 a year from the diocese, which is a help toward expenses. Besides the Indian work, I also minister to the few white people in the district. These make up for smallness of number by variety of nationality, Canadians, English, Icelanders, Swedes, Hungarians. I have service in the house of one or other of the settlers every Sunday, and we find it a real help to have them as neighbours. The nearest family is some four miles distant. Here we live and here we work; here we are at least witnessing for God and His Church; here the Cross is at last planted; may it grow and blossom into a great tree! We need your help, your prayers and your alms: will you give them? The work is essentially a work of prayer, and prayer is the striving together of many with God for the attaining of what He wills to give. We should be glad to receive gifts to help our Indians; clothing of all kinds is useful, especially warm things, like blankets and flannels; also pictures, picture papers, photographs, toys, anything that will amuse and instruct the simple mind.

## British and Foreign.

The Dean of Canterbury is staying at present in Italy.

A guild of workers in church embroidery has, with the consent of the bishop, been formed in the Diocese of Ripon.

The Lord Bishop of Ely will this year preach the Spital sermon before the aldermen of the city of London, on Easter Tuesday next.

A memorial recumbent effigy of the late Archbishop Benson, which has cost £2,500, will be placed in the near future in Canterbury Cathedral.

The Rev. Henry Partington, vicar of Wath-upon-Deane, Yorkshire, died recently, aged 89. He had been vicar of Wath for a period of 64 years.

An Edinburgh paper announces the approaching marriage of the Rev. A. K. H. Boyd, D.D., of St. Andrew's, to a Miss Meldrum of the same city.

The Rev. Canon Pennefather was recently inducted by the Lord Bishop of London, to the vicarage of Kensington, in the presence of a large congregation.

The Dean of Rochester is recovering from a severe attack of influenza. He is at present staying near Nice, but intends to be back in England for Holy Week.

Mr. H. P. Allen, B.A., Mus. Bac. of Christ's College, Cambridge, has been appointed organist and choir-master of St. Asaph's Cathedral. He is also an F.R.C.O.

The vicar's warden of Brompton parish church in Kent has held that position since 1854, a period of 43 years. He is resigning his post on Easter Monday next.

Another attempt is being made to erect a cathedral in Liverpool. The scheme will, in all probability, be taken up as a memorial of the Diamond Jubilee of the Queen.

The Church Pastoral Aid Society has just received a donation of £1,000, being the second donation of the same amount received by the society during the past six months.

A diocesan church festival is to be held in Canterbury Cathedral on Tuesday, July 9th, in connection with the commemoration of the landing of St. Augustine at Pegwell Bay.

The Ven. Archdeacon Howell, a very well-known Welsh clergyman, who is archdeacon of Wrexham, has been appointed by the Crown to the vacant deanery of St. David's.

The important rectory of St. Martin's, Birmingham, vacant by the resignation of Canon Wilkinson, has been offered to the Rev. Prebendary J. Allan Smith, vicar of Swansea.

The ancient parish church of Swinton, in South Yorkshire, was destroyed by fire recently; only the tower of the church was saved. The damage done is estimated at about £3,000.

The west window of the tower aisle of the parish church of Eccleshall, Staffs., has been filled with stained glass, which was recently dedicated to the memory of the late Archbishop Benson.

The parish church of St. Mary's, Gosforth, which is of very ancient origin, is being restored at a cost of £2,500. During the work of restoration several interesting discoveries have been made.

His Grace the Archbishop of Dublin, Lord Plunkett, died at Dublin, on the 1st inst., after three weeks' illness. He was consecrated in 1876, and has been Archbishop of Dublin since 1884.

The Rev. J. Hughes-Hallett, vicar of Pelham, Kent, recently celebrated his 90th birthday. If he lives until next June he will have been vicar of the parish for sixty years—another Diamond Jubilee.

The work of rebuilding the north-west gable of Peterborough Cathedral has now been begun. Already two courses of the archway have been replaced, and the whole will be rebuilt in about three weeks.

The Lord Bishop of Rochester (Dr. Talbot) has accepted an invitation to be present at the convention of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew, which is to be held at Buffalo N.Y., from October 13th to 17th next.

Sir James and Lady Lyall have placed the former palace of the prelates at Canterbury at the disposal of the Archbishop and Mrs. Temple, and they will reside therein during Holy Week and the Easter holidays.

The Rev. Berdmore Compton, Vicar of All Saints', Margaret St., has been appointed by the Bishop of London to a prebendal stall in St. Paul's Cathedral, in the place of the Rev. Prebendary Wigram, M.A., recently deceased.