

so narrow that the houses, close together as they are, have almost the appearance of a long village on each side of the river. These settlements are divided into parishes, and the religion of the people, whether Episcopalian, Roman Catholic or Presbyterian, seems to have been settled territorially, so that you may find an alternation of solid religious masses as you travel through the settlement. This, of course, is rapidly changing. Another feature quite strange to a Canadian is, that the prairie, being easily crossed in any direction with vehicles, makes the new settlements very scattered. It is not as when, in the early days of Ontario and Quebec, every mile through the woods was a slow and difficult work for the requisites of a settlement; here are wood and water, while nearness to the business centres seems to be felt of little importance. Accordingly, you find new settlers pushing ten, twenty, or thirty miles out, and taking "claims" in scattered groups, perhaps not finding sufficient wood in the intervening journey to make a camp fire. In regard to the land distribution, while presenting some amusing features, it has hitherto been a subject of great difficulty. It seems to have been a great scramble. Men have taken "claims" on very sort of basis—as half-breed claimants, squatters, old settlers, volunteers, etc. "Claims" have been sold for a mere song, and no one seems to have any definite notion of what is to be the ground of ownership. Surveys, however, have progressed rapidly, the land office has been opened, and a feeling is beginning to prevail that justice is to be done, and the matter settled. From these facts it will be seen that:

1. Our missionaries in their work must drive great distances.
2. Weak Mission stations cannot be easily worked together.
3. In winter these dreary wastes are crossed with great difficulty.
4. An unsettled feeling has prevailed in regard to land, and prevented material and ecclesiastical progress, though by the opening of Spring this will probably be overcome.
5. Four ministers in a settlement of one hundred miles from end to end, with occasional outlying stations in both directions, are comparatively helpless.
6. Other ministers must be sent, would we overtake the whole field.

CHURCHS &C.

In the Lower District, comprising the lower 40 miles, I have visited all the regular stations; and if in this district we had one other labourer, the work could be well attended to. In this we have: 1st. The Rev. John Black's charge, with church and manse, Kildonan, so long and favourably known, a self-sustaining congregation, not only the nucleus of our Presbyterianism, but the wealthiest, most intelligent, and most reliable parish in the Province, with its two Sabbath services, and having lately given over to the Government its two parish schools, which are now included under the national system.

2nd. Little Britain &c., with its church and manse, occupied by Rev. John McNabb, long a mission station, but for the last year exhibiting signs of increased interest, and hoping soon to replace its old church by a new one.

3rd. In the rapidly growing town of Winnipeg, Knox Church, holding about 200, supplied by your correspondent, where we have had regular morning and evening service for the last two months, and which at the meeting of Presbytery this week was regularly organized. The congregation promises to be a very spirited one, having cleared off at once, during