

Canada, in 1844. In the same year he began his attendance on classes in Knox College and continued to attend for four years, completing his course in 1849. Immediately thereafter he spent some time as agent of the Sabbath School Society of Montréal, but he was in 1850 ordained as minister of Oakville, between Toronto and Hamilton, and continued in that charge, a laborious and successful minister, till the date of his removal to the North West, twelve years afterwards. Missionary interests had already taken a firm hold upon him. His brother Henry was a missionary in Samoa and he himself, during the later years of his ministry in Oakville, was in the habit of spending a considerable part of every winter in visiting spiritually destitute parts of Ontario, lying within what are now the bounds of the counties of Simcoe, Grey and Bruce. Such was his aptitude for this work and such his success in it, that it was more than once proposed to set him free from his pastoral charge that he might give his whole time to mission work on the frontier. During these years the Presbyterian Church of Canada was feeling its way towards the establishment of its first foreign mission. The slowness and caution exhibited by the Synod (then the supreme court of the Church), and the manifest absence of enthusiasm, read somewhat strangely now, although these events belong to the same half-century as that in which we are now living. Urged on by appeals from the Rev. John Black, of Kildonan, the Synod in 1857, in response to an overture from the Presbytery of Toronto, approved the establishment of a mission among the American Indians; and thereafter for the next ten years each synod endorsed the proposal and till the tenth year did nothing more. It was only in 1866 that an actual beginning was made and Mr. Nisbet, who had already for four years been helping Mr. Black, in the Red River Settlement, carried his headquarters five hundred miles further westward along the course of empire. If the interest taken in the mission