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JOHN LAING,  
Convener.

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to find a band of Indians willing to receive us and the message which we shall take them. But we trust that, in answer to the prayers of the Church and our own prayers, we shall find, in this also, the way prepared for us."

In addition to an interpreter it was found absolutely necessary to obtain the services of another assistant. Mr. Nisbet writes of date Feb. 20th. "One man is the very least help, besides an interpreter, that it is possible to do with. We shall need such help for putting up even the most temporary dwelling. Without it, we shall not be able to make a beginning of cultivating the soil, and will be under the necessity of importing from the Red River. But, above all, the Mission cannot be what the Synod, the Committee, and myself, wish it very much to be, viz., in great part of an *itinerant kind*. My interpreter and I could not leave our families in the wilderness, perhaps three or five days journey from any civilized being, without at least one trustworthy man to stay with them. Besides, by having such reliable help, there will always be some progress making at the station. I am perfectly sensible of the need for economy. Every plan is being taken here to keep down the expenses."—Mr. Black, of same date writes—"What Mr. Nisbet has written, has my full sanction and approval." They have been fortunate enough to secure the services of two of the very best men that could have been got, Mr. George Flett, and Mr. John McKay. Mr. Nisbet speaks in the very highest terms of them both; and in a second communication, Mr. Black cordially endorses his opinion. "Mr. Flett (writes Mr. Black) is an excellent Cree speaker, knows Indian character and ways to perfection, is accustomed to address them, takes great interest in their welfare, and soon acquires a great influence over them. John McKay is also a first rate man; so, getting both, Mr. Nisbet will be better furnished for his work than any Missionary I know of." Mr. Nisbet gives in his carefully written Report, which will be published in the *Record*—giving full details with reference to the expense of the Mission for the first year. The sum total will be about *Two Thousand five Hundred Dollars*.

"I am sure (writes Mr. Nisbet) the Church will not grudge us the sum that is required for the first year: more especially when I tell you that if we had hired any one to take only ourselves and our goods to our destination and leave us there, it would have cost a good deal more money than the salaries of John McKay and the two young men that go with us for the year, and then we would not have had an ox or cart left with us, nor a days labor after our settling. We shall most likely leave this when the Synod is in full session, and I hope we shall have a large place in the sympathies and prayers of the Brethren assembled. We go forth, in a great measure, knowing not whither. We need a large measure of faith and patience,—and we shall need wisdom to deal with a class of people peculiarly difficult to deal with,—but God can ordain strength—and let us trust and pray that His strength will ever be put forth and that we may ever have to praise His name that He has sent us on this Mission."

#### RED RIVER MISSION.

Sickness has been very prevalent and fatal, during the past year, at the Red River, and in the regions beyond. Two of Mr. Black's children have died. The father of mercies and the God of all consolation has comforted our beloved brother in all his tribulation, that he may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble with the comforts wherewith he himself has been comforted of God. At Mr. Kirkby's Station (the catholic-spirited Episcopalian Missionary, with whom our brethren have taken sweet counsel) 50 died in five weeks; 34 of these were professing Christian Indians who witnessed a good confession. All his family and servants were laid down with Scarlet Fever,