THE CHURCH GUARDIAN

Wission Nield

APOSTOLIC JOURNEYINGS.

The Bishop of Athabasca's letter for the past year speaks of apostolic journeyings. "Wearied," the Bishop writes, " with fifteen days' battling with the strong current of the Peace river," he was hoping for a day's rest, when he was summoned to go on at once to another station. His road lay across a wide stretch of prairie, and when night approached he was unable to obtain water for himself or his horse.

The passage in which he describes this experience is worth quoting: "Tying up my horse, I hunted through several bluffs for water, going down on hands and knees to scrape up the ground where recent indications led me to hope that water might be scooped up, but in vain. I picketed my horse, and, too thirsty to eat, prepared to pass the night as best I could. A strong southeasterly wind, though thretening rain, forbade lighting a fire, as the long prairie grass would have caused it to run, and perhaps set the whole country on fire. Choosing the lee side of some willow-bushes, I laid the saddle for a pillow-almost as cool, and. I expect, about as comfortable as Jacob's—and, rolling my-self in my blanket, courted sleep, if possible, before the rain. I passed a much more comfortable night than the circumstances seemed to warrant.

Another day's ride and the Bishop reached his destination, in time to relieve one of his missionaries who was ill. The Bishop gives a very favorable report of the attitude of the Indians towards Christianity ; in some instances they are supporting the minister almost entirely.

OALEDONIA, B. N. A.

Bishop Ridley, of the diocese of Caledonia, who is now visiting England, is a bishop whose work might be not unfavorably compared with that of some of the bishops of the time when Christianity was dawning. His diocese lies far away in the north-western part of British North America, and is generally rugged and covered with forests which shelter vast numbers of fur-bearing animals of various kinds. The people are mostly Indians, who live by hunting and fishing. They are of a very su-perior type, intelligent, industrious, progressive, and capable of great things in the future. Except at places on the coast, there are very few Europeans. The diocese extends over the enormous area of 300,000 square miles, and has a total population of about 10,000, including Indians, Chinese, Japanese, and Europeans. Bishop Ridley has been in charges of it for thirteen years, and has seen great changes take place. When he went out to Caledonia a great many of the people were heathen, with heathen ways; to-day they are mostly Christians and already in many respects remarkably civilized.

"I feel as if an ocean were to be crossed, and I were paddling on on the edge of it," are the words

which a missionary in Africa uses to express his sense of the vastness of the work, and the inadequacy of the forces sent out.

An important statement, carrying an equally important acknowledgment of error, is made by Commander F. M. Barber of the United States steamer " Monocacy "-the gunboat maintained by our govern-ment on the Yangtse-Kiang. "Four-teen years ago," he says, "I thought that China was a country where even the continued dropping of the water of Christianity would never wear away the stone of heathenism; but now it is apparent to my unprejudiced mind that the stone will ultimately be forced bodily from its bed.'

Bishop Redley, of the Diocese of New Caledonia, has recently been very ill, and he has been ordered home by the doctor. He mentions the following illustration of the love in which he is held by the Indian Christians of Metlakahtla : " I must tell you of a beautiful thing. When the Indians were no longer allowed to see me, they met every afternoon in the church for special prayer on my behalf. Men and women prayed in succession, eight or nine at each meeting. They did not tell our missionary party of it but accidentally the latter heard of it. I saw Mrs. Ridley slip out of the room every afternoon, and heard her leave the house. Curiosity led me to inquire the meaning of it. Then I learnt of their love for me. I knew it was there before, but not to this affecting extent."

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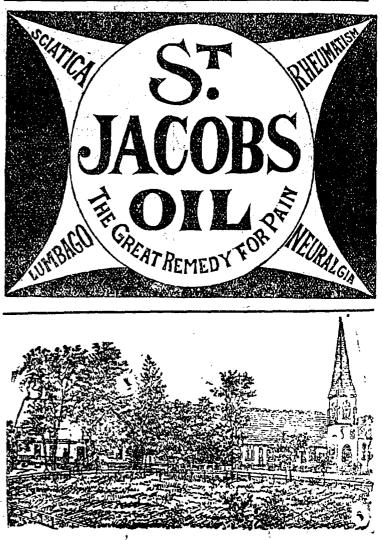
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