

morrow may bring, or what are the secrets of the tomb? If then *Requiescat in pace* be a party phrase, the Bishop must take the risk of sailing close to it in an unknown craft: where there is a snag in the bottom, the wise sailor will give it a wide berth or suffer without sympathy. THISTLES.

2nd January, 1892.

A Layman on Church Privilege

SIR, In your issue of the 25th ult., I notice that "Mr. Sam Grigg, the evangelist, will hold a series of meetings in the English Church, Dutton, etc., and will take charge of the morning and evening services on Sunday."—from *Dutton Advance*.

As this is so strange an announcement, and so contrary to the usages and canons of the English Church, I would ask a short space to comment upon it.

Recently a Lay Helpers' Association was formed for this diocese with the sanction of the Bishop of Huron. I would like to know if Mr. Sam Grigg is a member, and a communicant of the Church, as a qualification for such membership. For before he can act even as a lay reader he requires the Bishop's license. I am presuming that he is a member of the Church of England, as I understand he professes to be. If so, and he is content to work on Church lines, I believe a man of his zeal and convictions (for I give him credit for sincerity) could do much good among his fellow laymen in his Church. But if Mr. Sam Grigg has set himself up as a free lance in the Gospel, as he appears to be, he cannot be accepted as a member of the Church of England lay workers of the Diocese of Huron.

I am not disposed so much to blame Mr. Grigg, for with his zeal in the work he has set himself to do, he would be likely to accept such invitations as the above; but what I think, as laymen of the Church, we have a right to ask, is, How can our clergy willfully ignore the canons of their Church, that at their ordination they solemnly vowed to abide by? From the several recent cases of the ignoring of the canon on this particular question that have occurred in the Diocese of Huron, we may fairly look for some Episcopal ordering in such matters.

The Bishop of Liverpool, England, always looked upon as the most evangelical bishop, gives his opinion on this subject, when recently asked by the Vicar of St. Jude's to permit a Mr. Clark Aspinall, of Liverpool, city coroner, to deliver a series of Advent addresses in his church. In support of the request it was stated that the Earl of Stamford and Mr. Eugene Stork and other laymen had so delivered addresses in churches in the city of London. In his reply, Bishop Ryle says he has considered the matter carefully, and has arrived at the conclusion that he possesses no legal right to allow laymen to give addresses in the churches in his diocese.

LAYMAN.

From the London *Free Press*.

A Letter from the Rev. J. G. Brick.

The following letter will, we trust, prove interesting to the many kind friends who sympathize with Mr. Brick in the arduous work in which he is engaged in the far North-West:

DEAR MISS DIXON:—I have to acknowledge the receipt of your very kind favours of April 3rd, June 2nd and June 23rd, and I very much regret that owing to a press of work, haying, harvesting and threshing, etc., I have not been able to answer them long ago. The summer season is a very busy time with us, and the past season has been unusually so, owing to the fact that part of the time I have been one hand short; indeed it is next to impossible to do anything much in the way of correspondence during the summer months. In this northern latitude, when spring opens up, it is one continuous rush of one thing after another until the crops are gathered in. I am thankful to our Heavenly Father to be able to report a most abundant crop and all safely gathered in. Our returns in grain have been upwards of 700 bushels, about double the quantity that we had the previous year, and this of the finest quality. I think it would be impossible to raise better wheat in any part of this Dominion. I am just sending out full samples of our past season's crop to the Hon. Minister of Agriculture, Ottawa. I will send you a small sample of wheat and barley; it is quite possible that some of our Toronto friends may be interested in seeing samples of Peace River grain, and I think our returns for the acreage sown, stand very high. It averaged a fraction over forty-two bushels to the acre. We had a small piece of land sown with black Norway oats, which gave a return of 120 bushels to the acre. I am also thankful to say that the crops of our Indians were equally good. The Minister of the Interior last spring gave me a grant of \$100 to distribute seed grain among our Indians. It enabled me to distribute one and two bushels each of wheat and barley to every one who would plant it. As a result some of our Indians have from fifty to sixty bushels of

grain. We all feel very much encouraged by the past season's success. An Indian was in our store a few days ago looking at our grain heaped up. I asked him what he thought of it, where three years ago there was nothing but wild prairie. He replied that it looked to him like "heaps of sand." I can assure you that it relieves me of a great deal of anxiety. I do trust that our years of scarcity are past. Since 1885 it has been trying times with the people of this country. For the last year or two I have felt that it was a heavier burden than I could carry to relieve these people's wants. Not only are prairie chickens abundant, but rabbits, which almost totally disappeared in the fall of 1886, are now becoming quite plentiful, so that for all these mercies we thank God and take courage. And then our good crops will enable us to enlarge our school work. We have just had a visit from our good Bishop, and we have laid out plans for extending our work. He, the Bishop, has written to Wycliffe College to try and secure a young man who for a year or two would teach in the school, and at the same time give his attention to the Cree language. The work is really more than I can attend to, and I do trust that the right man will be forthcoming. Mrs. Brick has borne more than her share of the work. Last winter, without domestic help, she attended to her household duties, cooked for the school, and did a large share of the teaching. The result was that in the spring she broke down completely under it, and was for weeks confined to her bed. I can assure you that it was an anxious time for me—no doctor, no nurse. I am thankful to say that she is now in moderately good health, but one of our many difficulties out here is the impossibility of getting domestic help.

In your letter of April 3rd you ask for the names of those clergymen to whom I sent appeals. I will enclose you with this a list of the names, and I do trust that some from whom there has been no response, may yet be induced to render us some help. I know that the appeals which are made are very numerous and pressing, and in the case of many churches their own responsibilities are a heavy burden to bear. I should be sorry in pressing my own need; and the claims of our work, to say or write anything which may have the appearance of detracting from the claims of others. In one of your letters you ask for an explanation, how it is that the Government does nothing for the Indians of the Peace River country? Simply because the Government has not made treaty with these Indians. In the Dioceses of Rupert's Land, Qu'Appelle, and Saskatchewan, all the Indians are under treaty and receive treaty payments. Schools are provided, daily rations are given to adults while at work upon their land, and to the children at school. Farm instructors are provided and cattle are given, and machinery, etc., is placed at the service of the Indians; but here with us, we have to bear the whole burden of what is done elsewhere at Government expense. I cannot help but think that as our claims for support are better understood, all the aid we need will be forthcoming. As I stated in my letters written last winter:—"I do not think that in the entire Dominion there is another Indian Mission where the attempt is made to carry it on without either stipend or Government aid." I shall enclose with this a list of subscriptions sent to me direct. My heart is full of gratitude to the schools and friends who have come to our help, and we have been not a little cheered by the kind expressions of sympathy which have accompanied the gifts. I hope to write to every one of them by our first winter packet. As yet I have not been able to make up the accounts for the year, but as far as I can judge there will be sufficient funds to meet all the running expenses of the Mission, and possibly a little towards missionary stipend. Of course, there is the possibility that you have received further contributions since your last letter was written, June 23rd; still, stipend or no stipend, I am satisfied that I am just where the Master would have me be, and I think my work is not yet done in this country. The only thing that would compel me to abandon the work would be a succession of failures in crops. Of course in a country where the thermometer will fetch one out of bed in the middle of the night to watch its movements, at certain stages of our crop's progress, it is really necessary to try to make some provision to tide us over what in this country is a terrible calamity, viz., the entire failure of the season's crop. Last year our crop was good. I cached quite a number of bags of our best grain and said: "Now, live or die, this must not be touched until we are sure of our next season's crop." You may rest assured that our "cache" is very much larger this year than last, and I think that if we are only favoured with another good season, that in the event of a year's failure we could sustain ourselves. This past season we were most mercifully favoured. In the latter part of the month of July, a hail-storm passed through the country that did very serious damage at Demvegan, fifty miles to the west of us. The Hudson Bay Co.'s and the R. C. Mission grain crops were very seriously

damaged, and at Lesser Slave Lake, 100 miles to the south-east, their barley, the only grain they attempt to raise, was almost totally destroyed. With us we had a glorious rain.

When I was canvassing for my work in the east, the Cathedral S.S., Montreal, very liberally donated the Mission a complete steel plate grist mill. At the time I was a little sceptical of the mill doing all the maker said in its favour. After two years trial I find that my horse power is not sufficient to run it, and in very hot and cold weather the plates become so much heated that the flour cooks in the grinding. In the expenditure of the funds I did the same as I am now doing with my wheat, cached in the Bishop's hands \$600 for the purchase of a water-power stone grist mill. I am this winter ordering one to be sent forward. I am a little in doubt in regard to the \$600 being sufficient for purchase, freight, and putting in operation; however, I am working on the most economical plans that I can conceive of, still I may be compelled to draw a little on you. Bishop Young, I think, has written you. Three days ago he bid us good-bye and started, not on a modern steam river boat of the St. Lawrence or Hudson River style of architecture, but on a log raft, on his home journey of 300 miles to Vermillion. I think it is the intention of Bishop and Mrs. Young to winter in Toronto in 1893. I had hoped, D.V., to have come out myself in the fall of 1893, but if the Bishop comes I suppose I shall have to defer my visit for another year.

You ask in regard to freight charges from Calgary to Peace River. It has been 8½ cents per pound. Now the railway is open to Edmonton, I expect it will be reduced to 7 or 7½ cents. It is this freight bill that cripples us in this country. Hitherto it has taken about one-half my stipend of \$730 to pay freight charges; still at 7 or 7½ cents per pound we think we are very highly favoured. When I compare notes with freight charges when I first came to this country in 1882, then I paid 18 cents; on four 100 lb. bags of flour, my year's supply, I paid \$72.

You also ask for information as to the most useful garments needed for our Indians. I note your remarks in regard to the W.A. work in small towns being very largely sustained by the interest in the fortnightly or monthly gathering. I may say that we are very grateful for anything sent us, and there are very few things that are not thoroughly utilized, but we have sometimes to complain of good material being cut up into very small and almost useless garments, and it often puzzles us to find anything in our bales or bags for our poor boys, and then sometimes our friends lose sight of our heavy freight bills and put in our bales bundles of old Church papers (I take the *Evangelical* and the *CANADIAN*), old school and music books, Bibles without covers, and prayer and hymn books minus some of the most important parts. Then in regard to packing, no bale or bag should be shipped to us weighing over 100 or 120 lbs. Last year we had a most valuable bale sent us weighing 330 lbs. We heard of it months before it reached us. I don't think there was an Indian in the Hudson's Bay transport service but had tried to carry it at different stations; the result was when it reached us it was just as though it had been put in a huge mortar and pounded together. There was a lot of excellent clothing, tea, coffee, sugar, rice, beans, garden seeds, pills, salve, patent medicines, &c., &c., in one conglomerated mass. We shall always be grateful for any items of groceries, and if these are packed in the middle of the bale or bag, with the coarser garments outside, it is pretty sure to reach us safely. Should any of our friends who have written us on any matter, receive no reply, say by the 15th of Feb. (this would be about the date of the delivery of our first winter packet), I would be glad if they would write me again. We are 400 miles from the nearest post office and we have to depend upon any means we have of getting letters, and sending letters out in this way I am afraid they are often lost. Last summer I received a box of mail and when it arrived it had no lid or covering. The party who brought it stated that in crossing a creek his waggon upset and my box of letters and papers had been scattered. Curiosity led me to that spot and there I found an important letter. A few weeks ago I received a box of letters and papers, books, etc.; I think it must have weighed sixty or seventy pounds. In crossing a river the cart upset, and my box of mail being on the top, and the cart going right over, my mail went to the bottom and remained several feet under water for quite a time. It came to hand in due time, and there was one thing in its favour, there was not a line of "dry" reading in the whole thing. Letters are sometimes months in reaching us. The past summer I received a letter from the Synod Office with a cheque for \$50 from St. Peter's. It reached me six months from the date of the Toronto P.O. I mention this so that friends may see why their letters are not answered. We have received the following bales this fall, just to hand: two bales from the Church of the Ascension, Hamilton; five bales from All Saint's, Hamilton; one bale from *Missionary Leaves*, London, Eng., and one bale from Christ Church, Niagara Falls. We have