

WESTERN MISSION FIELDS AND THE WORK OF OUR STUDENTS.

BY MR. GEO. M'GREGOR.

It has been the custom to give the readers of the Journal a sketch of the work done by our students in the Mission Fields of our Western Provinces. Such a sketch should merit a place as being instructive as well as interesting. It should be instructive as indirectly furnishing us with information regarding the development of our country, and interesting as the story of work carried on under difficulties in these, mostly out of the way corners of the field.

Neither the number nor the needs of such fields are diminishing. From time to time we hear of even greater responsibilities devolving upon our Church in meeting the demands of such places. It is an important work, and it is pleasing to note, from the reports furnished us, the evident success which has attended the faithful efforts of those who represent our own college, in these difficult charges.

We begin with an account of the work done by Mr. W. Erskine Knowles, which extends, as will be seen, beyond the past summer. Mr. Knowles labored in different parts of British Columbia. For a year he was in the Presbytery of Westminster, having as a field, Mission City, about forty miles from the Coast. The congregations in this presbytery are comparatively old, and the work is generally well organized, which, of course, makes it pleasanter for the incoming missionary. Mission City several years ago was worked by the Rev. R. McCulloch, one of our graduates, whose name is still cherished by many warm friends in that place.

From Mission City Mr. Knowles took his departure in September, 1897, ticketed for Montreal, to resume his work in the College, but on the train one of his fellow-travellers happened to be the esteemed Superintendent of Missions.