

OUR SASKATCHEWAN MISSION.

INTELLIGENCE FROM REV. MR. M'KELLAR.

The Rev. H. McKellar, who has gone to Prince Albert to take charge of the Mission established there by the late Mr. Nisbet, has written a long and interesting account to the Convener of the Foreign Mission Committee.

Mr. McKellar expresses strongly the opinion that it is the duty of the Church to prosecute the Mission. He gives strong reasons for this opinion. He says, "It is most desirable that the Indian Mission should not be allowed to drop by our Church, because I believe that there has been no period in the history of the Cree Indians of the Saskatchewan Valley more suitable and encouraging for the prosecution of Missionary work among them than the present. They begin now (what they did not before) to see that they must soon change their mode of living, or become extinguished. This great valley is the natural home of the Cree Indians, and I have no doubt that many who are now away on the buffalo hunt, will return to make this more favoured valley their home. They are also looking forward with much anxiety and expectation to the forth-coming treaty, when reserves will be laid out for them and their children, and aid given them to form homes on these reserves. There are several leading points outside Prince Albert at which they are more or less congregated. There is one point about 20 miles north of this so-called Sturgeon Lake. Some claims have been taken up already by Indians. I should like to go out and see the place in the spring. Now if there was an earnest and devoted man sent among them at once, he would preserve the district for us, and do all he could among them as a Gospel Missionary, and when the treaty is made he would be there ready to go to work in a more systematic manner, since no white settler can molest them on their reserves as they do here."

Mr. McKellar states that he has visited about 16 Indian families since his arrival. Some of them attend the meetings at both places where he preaches on the Sabbath. Mr. J. McKay acts as his interpreter. He suggests that the Mission farm should be rented, and the proceeds applied towards the support of Indian Mission work. This would be the central home of the Missionary labourers.

As to the Mission at Prince Albert, Mr. McKellar says, "Since I came here I have baptized eight infant children, and solemnized one marriage; the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was observed on the last Sabbath of December. We held preparatory services on Friday and Saturday, which were well attended. On the Communion Sabbath there was the largest congregation ever seen here—about 150. Thirty-nine communicants sat down at the Lord's table. We had a Thanksgiving service on Monday evening. There are 48 names on the Communion Roll. A number of these were formerly connected with the Church of England, and of course may join an Episcopal Mission, if established here or in the neighborhood."

Mr. McKellar says, with reference to Mr. Nisbet, "All I have met with are of one mind in saying that Mr. Nisbet was a singularly unselfish and devoted missionary. All feel that his heart was in his work." He bears testimony too, to the efficiency of Mr. McKay as interpreter, whom he has always found prompt and attentive in the discharge of his duties. He is also very able in the Cree language. He visits the Indians when sick, and when the missionary is otherwise engaged."