

that may vary anywhere between 20 and 500 miles. I shall not attempt to describe what his experiences by the way may be. These are determined by the direction in which he may travel, the season of the year and the state of the roads. At best these are of a sufficiently trying and sometimes adventurous and novel kind. Two things upon which he may count with tolerable certainty—a practical illustration of the sticking quality of Red River mud and the treacherous nature of a North-west cart trail.

Arriving in his district the Missionary's first efforts must be directed towards finding out the oldest and best informed settler, who, when found, must be questioned very much after the fashion of an ordinary newspaper interviewer. Having secured a place where he can lodge permanently or temporarily, guided by such information as he may be able to gather, the first few months must be devoted to the work of exploration, visiting every settler, learning as much as possible about them (particularly their previous church connection), fixing upon centrally situated and suitable houses in which to hold service, becoming acquainted with the extent of the settlement and familiar with roads and trails. Much of the Missionary's future success turns upon the manner in which these difficult and trying duties are performed. Much that is now disappointing and discouraging, with many things to interest and encourage as well, is sure to be met with. Knowledge of human nature, with skill and tact in dealing with men, are here of greater value than many of the homiletical rules of the class-room, however valuable these may be. Representatives of almost every religious belief and type of character are met with. The best and worst are often found settled upon adjoining quarter sections. The mixed character of the settlers at first seems to be an element of difficulty, although I believe it will, in the end, prove one of advantage. Many are met with who, at one time, were members or adherents of the church, but from some cause became connected with some other religious body; but, now, separated from previous associations under new conditions, many of these wanderers can, I believe, be reclaimed and brought back to the church of their fathers. Besides the mixed character of the settlers denominationally offers an excellent opportunity for aggressive work.

Many of the settlers are young men, just making a start in life, a circumstance that adds to the

interest of the work, and gives a young Missionary a special advantage.

Very many of the settlers are persons of small means, who can do but little for the first year or two for the support of ordinances.

After the Missionary has been a few months in his district, steps are usually taken to effect either a partial or complete organization.

The attendance at the services is never large, ranging from half a dozen up to fifty. This is accounted for by the scattered character of many of the settlements.

Little or nothing can be done in the way of church erection for at least the first three years, while anything in the way of manse building must be undertaken by the Missionary himself, or not at all.

It is scarcely necessary to say that the life of a Manitoba Missionary is, in the truest sense of the term, an arduous one; but the feeling of satisfaction arising from a sense of being engaged in the great work of laying the foundations of the Church in this new country, of such great future promise, should be an adequate compensation.

To a young minister, not afraid of hard and sometimes rough and discouraging work, for a few years, intent only upon a life of the greatest usefulness, no part of the world can offer greater attractions.

With all that is said about its extremes the climate, on the whole, is not unpleasant, while it is healthy beyond a doubt.

The Presbytery of Manitoba is now one of the largest in the Church, having 29 names on its roll. Three of these are missionaries to the Indians, under the direction of the Foreign Mission Committee; five are ministers of settled charges, and the rest, along with three catechists, are missionaries under the direction of the Home Mission Committee.

Manitoba College is in a flourishing state. Having outgrown its present building the College Board has resolved to proceed at once with the erection of a building to cost at least \$15,000. In its classes are large numbers of very promising students, eight of whom are studying with a view to the ministry. One of these, Donald MacVicar, is a pure Cree Indian and one of the most successful students in the College.

Five of the sons of the Presbyterian College, Montreal, are now in the Prairie Province, all of whom rejoice over recent indications of their Alma Mater's increasing prosperity, and among these, not the least is the appearance of the COLLEGE JOURNAL, that has done much to revive old and happy associations.

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