

among any other Indians I have seen. I find the Indians here were all aware of my coming. Their people from Victoria had arrived before me, and communicated the intelligence. Of course they are yet in the dark as to my main object; but the chiefs have told Captain McNeile that, after the ship is gone away, which has come for the furs, &c., they will assemble to hear and consider over my business amongst them. On that occasion I hope to be prepared to converse with them in their own tongue. If I can do without using the trading jargon, or wanting an interpreter, it will be greatly to my advantage. I hear and see signs of their wealthy condition. They being also of such an independent spirit, and avaricious for learning, I intend from the first to demand co-operation, and from that advance, if possible, to the self-supporting system."

Thus arrived at Fort Simpson, Mr. Duncan at once commenced his Missionary work, so far as his present imperfect acquaintance with the language would enable him to do so. On Sunday, October 11th, he held his first service, for the benefit of those who resided with him in the Fort; and on the 13th he commenced school, with a few half-breed boys, whom their parents were delighted to consign to him as pupils. We are not surprised that, in the commencement of his work, the motives of the Missionary were misunderstood, as will be seen from the following extract from his journal:—

"Oct. 16th.—To-day a chief called, whose principal anxiety was to ascertain whether I intended giving dollars to the Indians to get them to send their children to school. I think I shamed him a little, at least I tried to do so, for entertaining such a selfish notion. I make a practice of telling all that I shall expect them to assist in erecting a schoolroom outside the Fort as soon as I can talk their language a little better, and without exception, they assent to my request."

It was not long, however, before the Indians around began to understand the nature of Mr. Duncan's work. He writes on October 20th:—

"This morning I have had a little talk with a Tsimsheean chief. While we were together a group of Indians and another chief came round, seemingly desirous to know what I