

darkness only by almost unperceived degrees. We must not expect what is not warranted by the ordinary laws of God's operations. We must not think that the brief and slight labours of the past few years have brought our work to a final and successful issue. Like him who seeks to reap the fruits of the "field, we must look for the golden riches of harvest only after waiting and working through a long spring and summer.

The initial and frequently stupendous difficulty in the way of missionary success, is the barrier offered by the unknown language of the people sought to be instructed. In the case of this Society the obstacle rose in almost mountainous greatness. Indian languages in general seem cumbersome and intractable beyond ordinary conception. "One would think," says Cotton Mather, "that their words had been growing ever since Babel to the dimensions to which they are now extended."

Hitherto the Missionary has had to make every thing bend to the mastery of these uninviting peculiarities, as exhibited in the dialect of the Micmacs. But, at last, through the blessing of God, this indispensable preliminary has been attained. The Gospel of St. Matthew in Micmac is now printed and in process of circulation among the Indians. At its close we might surely write, as John Eliot did at that of his Natick Grammar: "Prayers and pains, through faith in Christ Jesus, will do anything."

The printing of a portion of God's word, as just alluded to, is sufficient of itself to make the past a memorable year in the history of the mission. This great object has been effected by the ready and generous assistance of the British and Foreign Bible Society, to which, as also to the Branch Societies in this Province and Prince Edward's Island, the Committee stand much indebted for their sympathy and co-operation. The publication of a single gospel in the speech of an obscure tribe may seem an altogether inconsiderable event to those who have no eye except for the seen and temporal. But, tried by a higher standard, it rises to the proportions of the sublime. It is, as it were, an ear of the first fruits of the coming harvest of our earth, when Christ shall be satisfied for all the travail of his soul. It is an earnest of much in both worlds. It speaks of the approaching abandonment of the wandering life of the present with its degradation and misery; of the physical and social comforts of a prosperous civilization; and it bids us anticipate the revelation of Christ to the soul of many a child of the woods, with its peace and gladness here, and its eternal felicity hereafter.

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