

have a bearing by no means remote on the political and social life of Canada. Our young and growing nation cannot harbor within its borders solid masses of heathenism, such as Indian reserves are, without suffering the contamination which must come from the peculiar moral and social ideals entertained in these communities. Possibly we affect to despise their barbarism and their dirt, but we are influenced by it none the less. The large half-bred population of the western part of the Dominion, of which the moral and social features are no less characteristic than the physical peculiarities of face and speech, affords one proof (but only one) of the way in which Indian opinion and tradition finds expression beyond the reserve. It is therefore incumbent upon us as citizens, no less than as Christians, to save and build up this people. It is our only safety, no less than our plain duty. This emphasizes the necessity of aiming at civilization in Indian mission work. In China or Hindostan it is of minor consequence whether the native Christians are taught English or not. With the Indian it is a necessity, not only that he may be prepared for the duties of citizenship which lie before him in the near future, but that he may be the better fortified to meet the peculiar temptations which assail him in civilized lands.

PLAN.

It will be appropriate to give an account of the missions maintained by the Presbyterian Church among the Indians, dwelling with a little detail on the lives of those who carried on the work while it was in its infancy. Each mission, or each group, where two or three are related, will be treated separately, even at the risk of disturbing a little the chronological sequence of the narrative.

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James Nisbet was a native of Glasgow, and came with his father and other members of the family to