

sionaries for gratuitous distribution. The appeal, therefore, to the Bible Society in Toronto may as well be deferred. The cost of sending the books from Canada would amount to more than half their value. Of this item, therefore, you need take no further account. There is another call, to which we hope for your hearty response. I have made a translation of our "Catechism No. 2," and expect to have the final revision ready for the press in about three months. May we draw upon you for the amount required to print an edition of say five hundred copies? The "Rules of Society" are also translated, and we would like to print a thousand copies of them; may we do this also? I do not stay to say a single word on the importance of having these helps in our hands in dealing with the people, as the need for it must be obvious to every member of the Committee. I cannot, at present, send you an estimate of how much it will cost to print these two small tracts, but will do so just as soon as I can find out what the cost will likely be.

While on the subject of literature I may just as well mention that a small Committee of missionaries has been formed here, for the translation of the Scriptures into the Japanese language. I was asked to take a place on the Committee, and, though but poorly prepared for such work as

yet, and very busy with the duties of my Mission, I felt that I could not well refuse, especially as the invitation was given heartily by the whole body of Protestant missionaries in Tokio. We have been at work about four months, meeting twice a week; my study, being central and convenient, was accepted as the place of meeting. When we suspended, at the commencement of the hot season, we had got to the end of the 6th chapter of Genesis. The first three chapters are revised for the press, and will shortly be published as a sort of forerunner, to test how our translation is likely to be accepted by the Japanese. What I wish particularly to enquire of you is this: will you kindly inform me as to whether the Missionary Committee approve of my going on with this work or not? If not, I can cease at any time. If they approve, it will be a contribution towards the common cause of Christian work in Japan. A resolution on this subject, which appears in the minutes of the District Meeting, may serve to bring the subject before the Missionary Committee. The amount of time I am required to spend with the translators is two afternoons in the week, from three to six o'clock. But as the work goes on, and the need for native Scriptures increases, we may have to give more time.

RED RIVER DISTRICT.

From the Rev. J. W. BELL, dated Winnipeg, December 22nd, 1877.

I am very glad to be able to give you a good and very encouraging account of things, both at Zion and Grace churches. Our congregations have increased rapidly of late, and our Sunday-schools show encouraging signs of success. The people at Point Douglas lately stirred themselves up and procured a new library for their Sunday-school, consisting

of 104 new books, together with two doz. copies of Moody and Sankey's Hymns, small size, and half a doz. large size. But not content with that, they commenced to talk of getting a new organ, and a subscription was started forthwith. At the end of one week Mr. Shipp was able to report \$117.50 subscribed for the purpose. An organ was im-