

less expensive to the Committee, and meet the present exigencies of the work, and would allow us to avail ourselves of the timber procured by myself at considerable expense, and much exertion, when at Edmonton two years ago. Should it be exposed to another summer's sun and rain, it will be rendered useless for building purposes. At all events it will be necessary to build either at Edmonton or here. Our present abode is a mere cabin, barely affording us shelter from the summer's rain and winter's cold.

We are thankful to God for the degree of health granted unto us in the past, notwithstanding exposures calculated to try the strongest constitution.

My health has been generally good : when last at Edmonton, I caught a severe cold which brought on a slight attack of rheumatic fever, and, although somewhat recovered, I am as yet unable to write. I will endeavor to correspond as regularly as possible with the Committee. Our chances for sending letters by travellers since our arrival at this Mission has never, as yet, occurred. We are thirty miles or more distant from the line of communication between Edmonton and the Mountain House, and this will account for my not writing more frequently to you. We ask an interest in your prayers, that God may make us more abundantly successful in winning souls to Christ.

#### WHITE FISH LAKE.

*Letter from the Rev. H. STEINHAUR, dated Jan. 9th, 1871.*

The festivals of Christmas and New-Year have all now passed off. We, as a people, have endeavoured to observe them in a manner as became a Christian community—improving the season with religious exercises. They have been seasons of much solemnity ; especially from the review of past Providential mercies, lately vouchsafed to us as a community. You are aware that the Saskatchewan country has been visited with the dreadful scourge,—the small-pox,—by which hundreds, nay, perhaps thousands, of its inhabitants have been swept from time to eternity. From Carlton, along the wide plain to the Rocky Mountains and amongst their fastnesses, has sounded wailings and lamentation. Death has slain its victims, whose carcases lie scattered unburied in the Plains.

The white man, the half-caste, the Cree, the Blackfoot, and the Stoney have all suffered from this terrible disease. God has had controversy with the people of the land. The country has been groaning under the weight of sin ; the very soil is polluted ; man's blood has been shed by man, which has for ages been crying for vengeance, and has at length reached the ear of the God of Sabaoth. The avenger has come at last,—truly "it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God." Oh ! that the remnant

were wise ; that they understood this ; that they would consider their latter end. We have great cause to be thankful to Almighty God, that our affliction from this disease has been so slight compared to other settlements. We, however, have not been free from it ; eight of our people caught the infection, and only two survived. This is far less than at any one place.

In reporting the state of this Mission, I fear I shall not be able to send you anything which may be interesting to yourself and the friends of Missions, as I have not the ability to describe even existing facts in a way they should be presented, much less represent some imaginary creations of my own, as results and developments of faithful labor,—thus throwing dust to blind interested lookers-on, perhaps in whose hearts the Spirit groans daily for the fulfilment of the promise to the Divine Redeemer, when "He shall have the heathen for His inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for His possession,"—for truth's triumph over error, superstition, and idolatry.

You will be pleased to hear that those Divine influences which have hitherto marked the religious character of this Mission are steadily advancing more than ever. Our members in Society appear to be stimulated to greater zeal and attachment to the means of