

The mission-boat is now being built, and before this reaches the people we expect that it will be on its mission of mercy. We hope our friends will do all they can to help to run it.

Members on trial, 220 ; members, 238. Total, 458. Deaths, 26.
T. CROSBY.

PORT ESSINGTON.

After my appointment to Port Essington last June, the wants of our mission-school at Port Simpson detained me at that station until the end of October.

I reached this port per Indian canoe on the 2nd of November. At once I set to work to complete the building now used for both school and dwelling. By the middle of December my house was ready for occupation. School was opened with good attendance, some married men and women being pupils.

Many men who could not be day-school pupils asked the privilege of a night-school, that they might learn to read and write. This privilege was granted. The attendance was good, and the advancement creditable.

Our services are well attended, particularly on the Sabbath day. During the winter several of our people died, having a blessed hope of a glorious immortality. When I came I found one poor woman, belonging to a distant tribe, fast wasting away with consumption. I visited her often, pointed her to the Saviour, made the plan of salvation as clear as I could. She grasped with firm faith her only hope, Jesus Christ, and died happy in His pardoning love.

Before she died she told me the story of her life. It was heart-rending. It made me wish that the influence of the Gospel had been thrown around her and her heathen parents when she was a child. Had this been the case, doubtless she would now be living, a healthy, strong woman, giving comfort to a happy household. The saving health of the Gospel is still the need, and without its healing power a few years will witness a great wreck among some of the distant tribes.

Seven adults have been baptized since my arrival, each giving a fairly clear evidence that the Scriptural way of salvation was understood.

One aged woman said: "Years ago I began the new way, and walked in it for a time; but, alas, I turned aside. Since then my son has become a Christian, and he told me that as I was getting old I should become a Christian too, and lead a new life." She is, to all appearance, a consistent follower of the Lord Jesus.

While there is much to deplore among our Indian tribes, there is still very much to be thankful for. The indications are hopeful. The white men during the past winter have shown substantial interest in our mission work. We pray that they may become truly converted to God. Our summer population is very large. Hundreds of Indians, from many widely-separated villages, come in to help put up the season's pack of salmon. Our church is too small to accommo-