

Before proceeding with a description of the Saskatchewan District I may mention, in passing, that at the north end of Lake Winnipeg is the District of Norway House, through which the traveller passes on to the York Factory District and shores of Hudson's Bay.

The waters of Lake Winnipeg are conveyed through the two latter Districts to Hudson's Bay by Nelson River. At Norway House is the prosperous and largest Methodist missionary station in the country,* and in this District are also the mission stations of Oxford House, Nelson River and Beren's River, the two latter being lately occupied by good missionaries.

The Valley of the Saskatchewan is drained by the river of same name (meaning a swift stream). It takes its rise in the Rocky Mountains, and after a course of nine hundred miles it falls into Lake Winnipeg. From Carlton House (where the overland road from Manitoba strikes the Saskatchewan) upwards to Fort Edmonton or Edmonton House, a distance of about four hundred miles, the country, generally speaking, is a prairie country and not well wooded. Above Fort Edmonton to the Rocky Mountain House it is well timbered in many places, and from a distance of about fifty miles below Carlton the country becomes more thickly wooded, and continues so throughout.

The navigation of the Saskatchewan River by steamer was successfully accomplished last summer, as far as Carlton; the steamboat having been built above the Grand Rapid, about five miles from Lake Winnipeg. From Carlton House to Edmonton House there is no obstruction to the navigation, and it is confidently expected that next summer, on the rise of the waters, the steamboat will be able to run on to Edmonton House. This will be a great advantage towards getting in supplies for the Upper Saskatchewan.

INDIANS.—The Lower Saskatchewan District is inhabited by Plain

* Rossville.

Crees and a few Plain Stonies (the latter tribe were once very numerous, but were nearly swept away by small pox some thirty-eight years ago). The Upper Saskatchewan is the hunting ground of the Blackfeet and other Plain Indian tribes, Thickwood Crees of Edmonton and Victoria, and the Rocky Mountain Stonies (or Assiniboines). The Crees of the Lower Saskatchewan have been the enemies of the Blackfeet and Plain Indians for many years; fighting and horse stealing are often the order of the day, and travelling in the plains was not at all times safe. A peace is sometimes made, which is observed for a year or two at a time. At present, I believe, the tribes are at peace.

MISSIONS.—My acquaintance with the Wesleyan missionaries in the Saskatchewan goes back to an early date. In 1843, when stationed at the Rocky Mountain House, I met the Rev. Mr. Rundle, and often accompanied him on his missionary visits to the Stone Indian camp. Mr. Rundle was the pioneer Protestant missionary in the Saskatchewan. He laboured for seven years in the District, visiting the Cree and Stone Indian camps from time to time. He was indefatigable in his duties for the benefit of the poor Indians, especially the Stonies of Rocky Mountain House. It was the Rev. Mr. Rundle who first taught the Stone Indians the use of the Syllabic characters, enabling them to read the Scriptures and Hymns and communicate with each other in those characters. Besides visiting the Indians, Mr. Rundle, when at Fort Edmonton (his head-quarters), preached, taught school, and was attentive to the spiritual wants of all when called upon. It was through the instrumentality of the Rev. Mr. Rundle that the Cree chief "Mas-Kipitoon" (Broken Arm) was converted, and became a faithful friend of the missionaries to the day of his death. His end was a sad one. He was treacherously assassinated when on a mission of peace to the Blackfoot camp. Mr. Rundle, unfortunately,