

ing to free traders, at whose premises we had dined the previous day ; three were going up, and had come from Red River. I expected they would have brought some packages for me, but they had brought neither them or letters ; but they informed us of the sudden death of a sister of Mr. McKay's, a young woman of eighteen, a new and most unexpected cause of grief to our party. Two of the party were coming our way. The whole party joined with us in our evening worship, which was conducted partly in Cree.

SERVICE IN CREE.

On Sabbath morning we had a full service, partly Cree. I offered to stay all day with these friends if they intended to remain there, but as they did not seem desirous of doing so, I thought it best to come on, and thus secure my being here (Carleton) for the following Sabbath, which could not have been accomplished had no home progress been made that day. We had services again in the evening with those who came our way.

We got to Fort Pitt about 7 a.m., on Tuesday, 9th ult. I merely visited some of the people and came on. Here we got our own horses, which were in good order, and fit for the home journey. On Tuesday night we saw fire on the plains ahead of us, and on Wednesday we passed over twenty miles of newly burned ground. On Thursday we also saw that there was fire ahead, and about 5 p.m. we came close to it. We camped on a sort of peninsula, having a small lake on one side, and a creek in front. We took measures to provide a safe retreat, provided the fire should come upon our camping ground during the night. We had fire before and on either hand of us, marching over the hills like a flaming army. Between two and three in the morning the wind changed, and brought the fire towards our camp, so we shifted our quarters and were safe. The Lord be praised for his mercy, that we were not overtaken in an open, level plain, where means of escape would have been much more difficult.

On Friday and Saturday last, we travelled over nothing but burnt ground—perhaps one hundred miles. It was only on the margins of little lakes, and among some trees that we could get feeding for our horses. As we drew near to this place on Saturday snow began to fall, but we got safely across the river and into comfortable quarters in the fort before the storm fairly set in—another proof of the mercy of our ever watchful Heavenly Father. There are few people here at present. The gentlemen who were here when last I spent a Sabbath at this fort are now off to their own posts, and a number of the men are out on the plains. There have only been eleven different persons present at our services connected with the fort, and six Indians.

We must now try to make the best of our way home, although the snow is some inches deep on the ground, and has drifted considerably. We do not expect to be home till to-morrow evening. We have heard that our people were all well two weeks ago, and were getting on with their work at the houses.

I should have mentioned that Mr. McDougald, Wesleyan Methodist Missionary, expected to be in Canada next spring, and you may then see him. He has given up the design of going at this time.

Yours, &c.,

J. NISBET.

BRITISH COLUMBIA—NANAIMO.

We have received recent intelligence from the Rev. R. Jamieson, at Nanaimo. He sends the First Annual Report of the congregation there, which we insert, as it will be interesting to the members of the Church generally.