

sisted of about one hundred families, *a very regular congregation*, ministered to by Mgr. Blanchet, a most estimable and indefatigable priest of the Roman Catholic faith," whilst the Methodist Mission, he adds, consisted of *four* families: a clergyman, a surgeon, a schoolmaster and an agricultural overseer." Evidently the temporal welfare of the well-fed Protestant missionaries was far more important in their own estimation than any spiritual comforts which they pretended to extend to the Indians.

SKETCH III.

(PUBLISHED FEBRUARY 21ST 1878.)

ORIGIN OF THE CANADIAN MISSION IN OREGON, BEFORE THAT OF THE FLATHEADS.

IN the mean time the Canadians who had settled in the Willamette valley began to pine for the presence of a priest in their midst. The nearest bishop to whom they could apply was the venerable prelate of Red River; they sent him two petitions, one dated July 3rd 1834, and the other February 23rd 1835, earnestly praying for some priests. In answering them, July 8th 1835, the bishop, addressing the governor, requests him to deliver them his letter. Those documents are too precious and too interesting to be omitted, therefore we insert them.

THE BISHOP OF JULIOPOLIS TO DR. JOHN McLAUGHLIN.

Red River, June 6th 1835.

To Dr. J. McLaughlin.

Sir: I have received last winter and this spring a petition from certain free families settled on the Willamette river, requesting that missionaries be sent to instruct their children and themselves. My intention is to do all I can to grant them their request as soon as possible. I have no priest disposable at Red River, but I am going this year to Europe, and I will endeavor to procure those free people and the Indians afterwards, the means of knowing God. I send together with this letter an answer to the petition which I have received; I request you to deliver it to them; I add some catechisms which might be useful to those peo-

ple, if there is any one among them that can read. Those people say they are protected by you. Please induce them to do their best, and to deserve by good behavior, to derive benefit from the favor they implore.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most humble servant,

✠ J. N. PROVENCHER.

Bishop of Juliopolis.

THE BISHOP OF JULIOPOLIS TO ALL THE FAMILIES SETTLED IN THE WILLAMETTE VALLEY AND OTHER CATHOLICS BEYOND THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS, GREETING:—

I have received, most beloved brethren, your two petitions, one dated July 3d 1834, and the other February 23d 1835. Both call for missionaries to instruct your children and yourselves. Such a request from persons deprived of all religious attendance, could not fail to touch my heart, and if it was in my power, I would send you some this very year. But I have no priest disposable at Red River; they must be obtained from Canada or elsewhere, which requires time. I will make it my business in a journey which I am going to make this year in Canada and in Europe. If I succeed in my efforts, I will soon send you some help.

My intention is not to procure the knowledge of God to you and your children only, but also to the numerous Indian tribes among which you live. I exhort you meanwhile to deserve, by a good behavior, that God may bless my undertaking. Raise your children the best way you can. Teach them what you know of religion. But remember, my dear brethren, that the proper means of procuring to your children and your wives some notion of God and the religion you profess, is to give them good example, by a life moderate and exempt from the great disorders which exist among the Christians beyond the mountains. What idea do you give of God and of the religion you profess, to the Indians especially, who see in you, who are calling yourselves the servants of that great God, disorders which equal, and perhaps surpass their own? You thereby prejudice them against our holy religion which you violate. When this same religion, which condemns all crime, shall be preached to them, the Indians will object the wicked conduct of those who profess it as a protest not to embrace it. On receiving this letter which apprizes you that probably you will soon receive the priest whom you seem to pray for earnestly, renounce then at once sin; begin to lead a life more conformable to your belief, in order that, when the missionaries will arrive among you, they will