

God may have found an entrance into their dark minds. Since they have been with us they have joined with us outwardly in all our devotions, and they know well the story of the cross. There are no printed books at present in the Blackfoot tongue—but Mr. Tims has kindly translated a number of texts and Bible stories for us, and by the help of these and pictures, we have been able to teach them.

We have been receiving lately a great many kind and encouraging letters from our friends far and wide, and are looking forward hopefully to a bright future for the work in which we are engaged. By the end of the summer we hope to have three Institutions instead of two in operation—the new one being “the Washakada Home,” at Elkhorn, in Manitoba.

APPEAL FOR MACKENZIE RIVER.

BY REV. W. SPENDLOVE, REGISTRAR OF MACKENZIE RIVER DIOCESE.



REFERENCE to the map of North-West America will inform those interested that there is a huge piece of territory, including Arctic and semi-Arctic regions, lying far beyond the Dominion of Canada.

Few people are aware that it is one of the most inaccessible parts of the earth, being practically severed from civilization and the outside world.

Even Canadians look upon it generally as a region “dreary and desolate,” fit only for the wild animals and roaming Indians who inhabit it. However, it is not inaccessible to the Gospel of the Grace of God and brave, loyal men to preach it.

The standard of the Cross has been reared and the banner of Christ has been unfurled, where life to most people would seem intolerable, and escape impossible, brunting the “battle and the breeze,” for thirty years. The Church Missionary Society has carried on extensive and successful missionary operations in that isolated and formidable region, among the several tribes of aboriginals sparsely populating an extensive and wild country. For twenty-two years, Bishop Bompas, a man of learning and holiness, has labored there, and with only one short visit to England has made it his home, or rather his residence,—“Home,” he has none on earth. Many thousand miles, on snowshoes and in canoe and boat he has travelled, facing every danger, fearing no foe, untiring, yea unceasing in his labors. He has carried the Gospel throughout the length and breadth of those vast solitudes, literally to the uttermost parts of the earth. Hardy, self-denying, yet humble, he ranks high among the apostolical Missionary Bishops for zeal and devotion to Christ in the Church of God. The Mackenzie River Diocese, over which he now presides,—since the division of the original Athabasca Diocese—is probably the largest in the world; it is the most northerly and inhospitable, also contains some of the largest rivers, falls and rapids in the world. The Indians are fairly christianized, and many of them are simple and harmless; conscien-

tious in their christian profession; endeavoring to practice, as far as they understand them, the precepts of our holy religion.

This isolated diocese contains upwards of 700,000 square miles of territory, most of which cannot be settled, owing to the brief, dry summer and habitual frosts; nor does there appear to be much in it to invite refined and enterprising men, beyond the fur-bearing animals which are now becoming, under competition, extinct. Indigenous animals and game are fast disappearing, and these hitherto, with fish, have been the only food for the poor Indians, as well as the principal food of the Hudson's Bay Company employees and the missionaries. Hitherto flour has cost us \$30 per 100 lbs., and is often very inferior and greatly damaged in transit, so that a limited supply only of this, to us a luxury, can be indulged in.

There are some ten missionaries, several of whom have wives helping them, entirely supported by the Church Missionary Society, including the venerable Archdeacon MacDonald, and native catechists in addition, in this diocese. Reduction, and not increase, is the Society's motto in funds and men for North-West America in consequence of the pressing claims of the heathen world, recently visited by Mr. Wigram, for which the Society principally exists. Two stern facts, therefore, face us in our work. The urgent needs of our mission stations to be supplied with needful food for missionary and Indian, and the inability of the Church Missionary Society to increase its grant.

There are one or two places in the Diocese, sterile as the land is in general, where farming has proved a success, and I write from personal experience as well as observation. Bishop Bompas is very anxious that I should secure and take with me two men, a farmer and a fisherman. With these we hope to help the mission stations and teach the poor Indians how to obtain subsistence from the soil instead of dying of starvation as some have done.

The Bishop writes urgently in the above matter, but we have no funds to carry out his wish. I now appeal to the Lord's people in Canada to help us. Money is urgently needed for the above object: viz, to take in and locate two men, and of course farming implements for the purpose above named. I feel convinced that this appeal will touch the hearts of some of Christ's own people who love to help those who are willing to leave all and follow Christ, of whom Bishop Bompas and his co-workers are noble examples. Dear Christian friends, there is no one who knows our dear, good Bishop, who does not know that he would rather “give,” if possible, than ask—hence this appeal—and it will make my heart bleed to return without men, as well as cause pain to his brave and noble heart. After nine years' toil of love in Arctic regions I should hardly venture thither again unless I believed that the Lord were with us and blessing us.

As I write this my prayer is that God will incline the hearts of some of those over whom and in whom He reigns to help us immediately.