

middle, and then slowly descend into the yielding sand. "If Cushing's teams have come over," said Oliver, "I won't dare go through with the buck-board with this load, at this time of night; we'll have to unhitch the mules and ride over on them one at a time." Just before reaching the river we had a sad accident; the descent towards the stream is difficult, and in some parts almost precipitous. Just in one of the very worst places, I chanced to look round and saw the heels of our two fellow-passengers high up in the air; they had both fallen out backwards on their heads. However, they were not much hurt, and soon piled in again, and we managed happily to cross the river without further mishap.

(To be continued.)

THE ZIMSHIAN INDIANS.

By Rev. E. F. Wilson.

THESE Indians were probably first brought into notice through the labors of Mr. William Duncan, an agent of the Church Missionary Society, who, in the year 1858, went in single handed and fought a brave fight against the barbarous depravity, approaching to cannibalism, which at that time characterized those people. Mr. Duncan gained such a wonderful hold over them that in ten or twelve years' time not only had they nearly all become converted to Christianity, but their barbarous and revolting habits had been given up, European-built houses occupied the place of their old, poorly-constructed and filthy huts, a civilized community was formed, various handicrafts such as weaving, carpentering, blacksmithing, were engaged in, gardens for flowers and vegetables had been laid out, and among their public buildings were a gaol, a court house, a public market, and a lodging house for strangers. From how barbarous a condition these now Christian Indians had been rescued was shown forcibly by a remark made by Mr. Duncan to a friend who visited his establishment in 1872. "That young girl," he said, pointing to a respectably dressed young female, "I saw while she was yet a child at Fort Simpson, burying her teeth in the flesh of a dog, while the blood of the animal ran down her bosom."

The name Zimshian has been spelled in various ways. In Mr. Duncan's narrative we find 'Chymsean' and 'Tsimpsean.' In Tolmie and Dawson's vocabulary it is spelled 'Tshimsian.' Dr. Boas has it 'Tsimshian.' Bishop Ridley (the present Bishop of Caledonia, whose headquarters are at Metlakatla), insists on 'Zimshian.' The latter, who, living actually among the people, and being already well versed in their language, ought to be the most reliable authority, gives the following derivation of the name. *Zim*, he says, is the preposition on, at, or in; *Kshian* means 'the out-flower,' that is 'the river.' *Zim-shian* therefore