

services of a competent Classical and Mathematical tutor have been secured.

The *Record* contains an account by Dr. Topp of a visit he made recently to Fort William, at the head of Lake Superior for the purpose of organizing a missionary station there. He succeeded in his object.

The Canada Church has a Mission among the Indians of the Great West, far beyond the Red River. One of their missionaries is the Rev. James Nisbet. The following extract from a recent letter gives a strange glimpse of Indian life:—

"Now, I must tell you about a singular character who, with a number of his followers, visited us at seed-time. I once met with him at Carlton, but was then only a few minutes in his company. He is known by a name that in English means '*the four souls*.' Perhaps the name is intended to indicate how much superior to ordinary men he is thought to be; and doubtless his followers consider him to be something far above common. He is a great Indian orator, and reads in the Cree Syllabic very fluently. He pretends that he got the power to read directly from God. Of course I doubted that statement, and I fished out of him that this miraculous ability had a very ordinary origin, for he acknowledged to me that there was a man teaching him to read for ten days, but that at the end of that time the man was killed; then he prayed to God to enable him to read, and all at once he got an answer to his prayer, and he has been able to read ever since. Even ten days' teaching might suffice to give a man of his ability a start in the Cree Syllabic; it is so simple—every character having its own definite sound—he would only require to get acquainted with the forms of these characters; practice would do the rest.

"To a certain extent, the man knows the Christian religion, and to a certain degree he seems to have embraced it; so far, at least, as abandoning the common superstitions of the heathen, professing to worship the one true God in the persons of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and inculcating many of the principles of morality. He may be called *almost* a Christian; but I fear there is much he must give up before he can be regarded as a Christian indeed.

"On the day after he and his party arrived here, he told us he wished his people to have a meeting with us; so, after dinner, they mustered in regular procession at the tents, headed by the great man himself, armed with his pipe of peace, with flat wooden stem about three feet long, profusely decorated with silk ribbons, strips of ermine skins, and little bells, such as you see on babies' rattles. The boys fired a salute with their guns, then the whole

company marched in solemn procession to our house; when before the door, they drew up in a long line, and other *three* salutes were fired; then the procession marched into the house, filling the dining room and hall. Of course, the first business on our part was to make them an offering of tobacco, the established pledge of peace among Indians; then there was the formal filling and lighting of the pipe of peace, after the great man had gone through the usual manœuvres with it—pointing it upwards and downwards, to the east, west, north, south, &c.; then, taking a few puffs himself, he marched round the company with it, the men taking a puff or two, and the women stroking the top of the stem with the hand and then stroking their heads.

"Then came an explanation of the coloured figures on the flat wooden stem of the peace pipe. At the top was a carved figure to represent God the Father, next was one to represent the Son, Jesus Christ, next was one to represent the Holy Spirit; then there was one to represent man, and, last of all, one to represent the devil as put under God and man; and all intended to set forth that peace should exist among all people. Then the pipe was placed in my hands, and I had to hold it all the time of the great man's oration, which, in fact, had very little in it beyond a statement of what he had heard about this place, and of the kindness of the missionary and his people to the Indians; that he hoped he and his people would share a little of that kindness, and that they would get a taste of the things that grow out of the ground; that Indians and white people should always be friendly; that he was always friendly with the whites, and he taught all his followers to be the same, &c., &c. He did not enter into anything like an explanation of his religious principles and belief, but only stated that he teaches his people all that he knows himself, and that he wishes to learn more, so that he may be able to teach them more."

Mr. Nisbet in his reply explained the Ten Commandments, and the work of our blessed Saviour, and furnished the "great man" with books which would instruct him further. He also gave his visitors material "comfort" and they left him well pleased.

United Presbyterians.

The Theological Hall Missionary Society held recently a public meeting in Edinburgh to give an account of the Students' work during the year. Professor Harper presided. The report showed that the amount raised by the society, exclusive of special donations, had been £860. The contributions were to be devoted to the training of