

in order that thus he might rectify the defects of his early education; and several of the men who have gained celebrity in the walks of literature or science, did not begin to study, till they were thirty, forty, or even fifty years old.

Let not the slowness of your progress deter you. Dr. Adam Clarke once despaired of being able to learn the Latin grammar. His distress was in-describable, and he watered his book with his tears; at last he laid it by with a broken heart, and in utter despair of ever being able to make any progress. When asked by his master, 'Where is your Latin grammar, sir?' he burst into tears, and said, in a piteous tone, 'I cannot learn it.' The day on which this was said, he was roused by the taunts of his fellow-scholars, to resolve that if the lesson was to be learned, he would learn it. From that hour he found himself capable of mastering every thing in the way of languages that he undertook.

Micmac Mission.

Report of the Committee

Of the Micmac Missionary Society, from Oct 23rd, 1850, to Sept. 30, 1851.

Two years ago no feasible project for educating or evangelizing the Micmacs, the Aborigines of these lower provinces, occupied the public mind or had even been submitted for consideration. It was sufficiently evident that while the general population were rapidly improving themselves and their country, and increasing in number, the descendants of the original occupiers of the soil had not for a century taken a single step in the march of improvement, and had so diminished in number that their final extinction was regarded as highly probable, and the date of such an event becoming a matter of calculation.

Happily the aspect of affairs has greatly changed. Different results are now confidently anticipated by the friends of the Indian. In November 1849, Mr. Rand's addresses, delivered and published in Halifax, and thrown into general circulation, became the means of presenting to the public not a little valuable information, respecting the condition of the tribe and their capabilities for improvement. Christian men, who had thought and talked of the desirableness of efforts to evangelize the tribe, came forward at Mr. Rand's invitation to support such an effort. For many reasons Mr. Rand himself appeared to be the man for this work, and when asked replied, "Hure am I, send me." During that year he laboured under the direction of a Committee of Gentlemen, named at a Public Meeting; and who being from various Christian Churches, constituted an Evangelical Union, so far at least as the prosecution of this work was concerned.

After the experiment of a year, during which they had ample opportunities of becoming more fully acquainted with their Missionary, and he with them, the Micmac Missionary Society was formed, its Committee consisting, with few exceptions of the same persons. A year having now elapsed, they ask the privilege of meeting the public and telling their Annual Story.

They would state that another year and in many respects a most eventful one, having closed, they are bold to meet their patrons and their Missionary, at this anniversary, and to state that their proceedings have been conducted with perfect harmony, and that altogether when they consider, the way in which they have been led on, and the way in which the Missionary has been sustained, and more than all, the interest excited in so many different places and among so many different classes in favour of the poor Indians, so long neglected by Protestants, they feel constrained to believe and to rejoice that the Lord Jehovah has undertaken the work. The retrospect to which they now invite you will be a simple narrative of circumstances, sayings, and doings, which have filled their own hearts with thanksgiving and their mouths with praise.

This Society being constituted last year as an Association united to promote the evangelization and civilization of the Indians of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island, the Committee lost no time in formally applying to Mr. Rand to ascertain his willingness to act in conjunction, with and subject to, the general direction of the Committee, upon terms which were previously understood. His cordial consent was unhesitatingly given, and gladly received; and Mr. R. was left to prosecute his labours in the way which he thought most advantageous, the Committee having full confidence in his judgment, as well as his integrity, and being assured of his desire to prosecute the work with vigour. During the latter part of autumn and the winter months, Mr. Rand was occupied almost exclusively in the study of the language.

This object was pursued sometimes in connection with the work of translation, and again while labouring in compiling a dictionary. It was kept in view in his visits among the Indians, and in their occasional visits to him. The Committee

feel it to be unnecessary to enlarge on the importance of this department of his labours. Life is uncertain. Many a missionary has been cut down at the commencement of his work, and his labours lost, because not thus committed to writing. It is of great consequence that Mr. Rand's knowledge of the language, so far as he has attained, should be preserved, to diminish the labours of all who shall follow him in this work, for we do not regard him as the only one who is to tread this path. And while this is a most necessary work, no man can say that it is sectarian. It is one which the Scholar and the Christian, the Legislator and the Missionary, the Protestant and the Roman Catholic, may alike patronise, and in the completion of which they may all rejoice. In December Mr. Rand procured the services of an intelligent Micmac for a time, and after his time had expired he writes from Charlottetown, Jan. 8th—"I am labouring night and day at my Dictionary. I got a teacher provisionally. A tremendous storm drove two Indians under my roof for shelter one evening. They staid all night, and attempted to go home next day. One of them, a woman, was obliged to put back. I found she could help me to correct my lists of words most admirably, preparatory to their being inserted in the *Big Book*. So we took her into the parlour, and went to work.—The family, especially the children, were quite attached to her. Every evening she would tell them a long story, I acting as their interpreter. Some of the most curious and best legends which I have yet heard, she gave us. She was very civil, modest and industrious. She knit socks, &c., and seemed quite pleased with civilized life. She attended a prayer meeting, listened attentively to the Scriptures, and to religious instruction and advice. May the God of all grace bless and save her! I have now work enough for some weeks cut out, and then Paul has promised to come and help me to proceed in translating."

On the 21st December, Mr. Rand again informed the Committee that his whole time was devoted to the Dictionary. The following extracts will convey a pretty correct idea of the nature and difficulties of the undertaking:—

"I am working day and night," he writes "at what is the veriest drudgery of the whole business, and which, were it not considered on all hands of primary importance, I should be strongly tempted to postpone. I have, during the last four years and a half, collected some thousands of words, and written them down. But though of more value than gold as a vocabulary: for all the purposes of a dictionary they are, in their disarranged state, almost useless. The first and generally the second letter are arranged alphabetically, but that is all. This was all I could do at first, collecting the words as I did by conversation and not from books, and never knowing what the next word coming under any particular letter would be. Besides, for the work of translating, it is wholly useless, as the Micmac word is placed first. On hearing or reading a Micmac word which I do not understand, I can turn to my book, read through some scores of words and ascertain its meaning if I happen to have it, and if I have it not, I can put it down, find out its meaning, and thus it is added to the list. But my book will not tell me the Micmac of any given English word.

"An English and Micmac dictionary becomes, therefore, just as important—nay, more important. Now, you will have some idea of the labour necessary to accomplish this, when I state that under the single letter A. I have occupied the greater part of a book, half an inch thick, made of paper of the size of ordinary letter paper. It is not full, because spaces are left for other words, as they may come in at the proper places. There are not, of course, so many words under all the letters, but under others there are more. The letter K. will, I think, extend over double that space. Now this is a business which cannot be hurried. To write a single letter illegibly, is just equivalent to not writing it at all. To copy the work when done will be an easy task, compared with that in which I am now engaged.—The words must be inserted not only with their meanings, but the inflections, to some extent, must be marked, for without these you cannot conjugate the verb or determine to what class it belongs. The Committee know how to appreciate the importance of this work, and will need no apology for the apparently slow progress which I am making. You must not suppose I feel it irksome. Far from it; I can sit at it from eight to ten hours a day, week after week; and though I hesitate to use the word luxury, which is at my pen's end, lest it should be exaggeration, yet I can truly say it is enjoyment. Nor is the time lost as regards the more immediate design of the Mission. I am every day making progress in the language. There is this advantage, too, that I can remain at home, which, in winter, is something. There is not the excitement and often thrilling incident of missionary excursions. I am not able to interest you and the public, by accounts of visits to wigwams, and addresses, conversations, and Christmas carols. Day after day, week after week, month after month, wear away, and all I can say is, that I have inserted so many words in the Micmac Dictionary. And when I rise at midnight from my task, with my head and breast aching, and kneel down and pray for forgiveness, and for a blessing on the dull, monotonous

labour of the past day, it is sometimes, I confess, no easy matter to realize what connection all this has with the salvation of the souls of the Indians, who are perishing in ignorance and sin. I try to exercise faith, and then I reason, and sometimes I think I can exercise both faith and reason. I have no doubt the work of this Mission will go on. I may get discouraged, and leave it, or I may be taken away at the commencement, as many a Missionary has been, but there may be others ever and anon ready to enter upon the work. They can enter into these labours, and when success shall begin to second our efforts, the Indians themselves will have facilities for acquiring the English language."

While prosecuting these exhausting labours in faith in the promises of God, Mr. Rand, as well as the Committee, was greatly encouraged and revived, by the cheering news which Dr. Twining brought across the Atlantic. "As cold waters to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country." The Dr. had furnished a number of Christian friends in Britain with copies of Mr. Rand's published pamphlet, and farther, had explained the truly Catholic principles and aims of this Society. A lively interest was at once expressed for the evangelization of the Micmacs, and information being desired, a meeting of friends was held at the Hon. Captain Maude's, No. 52, Eaton Square, London. Dr. Twining explained the objects contemplated, and the plan pursued so far, and the Rev. H. Venn, Secretary to the Colonial Church Society, also addressed the meeting. A committee was immediately appointed to co-operate with this Society, consisting of the following gentlemen:

- Gen. Sir Peregrine Maitland, G. C. B.
Sir Nicholas Chinnery, Bart.
Captain Sir Edward Parry, R. N.
Captain Hon. Francis Maude, R. N.
Rev. Henry Venn.
Major Forrester, 52nd Regt.
Captain Hammond, R. B.
Captain Stewart, 7th Regt.
Thomas D. Archibald, Esq.
John G. Malcolm, Esq.
H. S. Waddington, Esq.
The Hon. Francis Maude, Esq., Secretary.

The Committee immediately forwarded fifteen pounds three shillings and ninepence, currency, and solicited regular information relative to the progress of the Mission. A correspondence was accordingly commenced immediately, a hundred copies of the Report forwarded, and the Committee expressed their cordial thanks for the unexpected aid already received, and their happiness in being assured of the countenance, the sympathy and the prayers of Christian brethren in our fatherland.

The Dr. farther stated, on his return to this Committee, that he was informed by the Secretary of the British and Foreign Bible Society, that the Committee of that Institution would undertake the publication of any part or the whole of the Scriptures, in the Micmac language, so soon as they are ready for publication; and he found the same readiness on the part of the Committee of the Tract Society in reference to any tract which this Society might wish to publish. Mr. Rand immediately took the hint, and commenced the translation of the tract called "Poor Sarah," being the account of a poor but pious Indian woman. It contains Christian doctrines and experience, is partly in broken English, and so written as is likely to prove interesting to the Indians. Mr. Rand had previously begun the translation of the Acts of the Apostles, and with the aid of his neophyte had advanced as far as the end of the seventh chapter. The translation of the tract was a work of much greater ease. He thus speaks of the difference:—

"I have translated it (the tract) with the most perfect ease, without any assistance, and have no doubt of its general accuracy. With but very few corrections, it might be published. In fact, I see the Scripture is the hardest thing to translate, because your arms are bound by its sacredness. You want not only to say what your author says, but to say it, as near as may be, as he has said it. With a human composition you may take liberties—you may skip a hard place; if you cannot say just what the original says, you can say something like it, and something better, perhaps, and if you cannot say it, as he has said it, you can express yourself in some other way—and there is no sacrifice in the thing, and no harm done."

He accordingly, in the letter from which the above is an extract, proposes the publication of the tract. By this little publication, which might, if successful, be followed by the issue of a spelling book, and by selections from the New Testament, say the Sermon on the Mount and the history of the Crucifixion, facility would be afforded for teaching them to read, and divine truth could be circulated in an attractive form. This being the first proposal for the publication of anything in Micmac, Mr. Rand expressed a strong opinion in favour of the Phonetic alphabet, and as the Committee acquiesced, the reasons assigned may here be stated in Mr. Rand's own words. "I use the new Phonetic alphabet, and have already seen such evidence of its infinite superiority over the old one, that no delay, nor any other consideration, would induce me to change it. Learning

to read according to it is reduced to little more than learning to numerate. The Indian who was with me last week, went away, able to spell out any word, and was surprised and delighted with his new acquisition; he had learned in that short time to form the letters accurately. He could scrawl a little before, and pick out a letter after a very long time, (written in the old style,) in which one letter has a dozen of sounds, and one sound a dozen of letters to represent it; and I have no doubt of his becoming able to read and write with comfort and ease in six or eight weeks." The Committee, after deliberation, resolved on publishing the tract, and in the way recommended; and having laid the matter before the Committee of the Tract Society, they have voted the sum of five pounds, sterling, which will nearly cover the expense. Some delay has occurred in procuring the type; and the Committee cannot now submit the little work, but they trust that it will be forthcoming soon, and that it will prove the earnest of good things to come.

Among the interesting incidents and correspondence of the past year, nothing to a greater extent surprised and delighted the Committee, than the letters and aid of Lieut. Herbert J. Clifford, R. N., of Tramore, Waterford, Ireland, a total stranger to us all, at first, though now known as a brother and fellow-labourer, whose zeal will provoke very many. It appears that Mr. Clifford is a Nova Scotian, and loves the land of his birth. He is also a Christian, and more intensely loves the cause and people of his Saviour and King. The Micmacs he speaks of as his brethren. "They are my own people. I was dandled on the knee of one of the Red men, oftentimes in the kitchen of my grandfather in the backwoods of my native land, and I always had a love for them, especially for their souls, since I knew the truth." This gentleman had long been anxious to see such an enterprise set on foot, as that for the support of which we are this evening met. In 1842 he wrote to a friend in Halifax to know if it would be feasible to get up a mission to the Micmacs. He was discouraged. He was told that the attempt was useless—that the ground was pre-occupied. Regarding the case as hopeless, he then turned his attention to the far East—instead of the West, originating the Loo-Choo Mission, which is mainly indebted to his exertions for support. In April last, however, a No. of the P. E. Royal Gazette, containing notices of Her Majesty's Surveying Schooner the Gulnare (with the officers of which he was acquainted) and notices of the Micmac Mission and of Mr. Rand's movements, was forwarded to his address by the Lady of Lieutenant Forbes of the Gulnare, when all his former interest was revived. He immediately wrote for information to Dr. Twining, to the Corresponding Secretary, and to his naval friends. Copies of the report and a few other documents were immediately furnished, and this warm-hearted friend of the Micmac did not rest, until, by the republishing and circulating of extracts from these, he had induced some measure of his own enthusiasm and zeal into his Christian friends, and raised and transmitted the handsome sum of Thirty Pounds sterling. Such an example can scarcely fail in stimulating to greater zeal and activity Christian people, in these provinces, who are the neighbours of these people, and who ought to be foremost in promoting their evangelization.

And surely with such aid there should be no difficulty as regards the financial department.—The chief ground of apprehension is, that as our revenues come from so many sources, individuals and Christian Societies may neglect personal responsibility and effort, and leave the duty of support to others. Meanwhile while some are waiting for others to give, more funds are urgently demanded, that the operations of the Society may be enlarged, and missionary premises secured, where the work of instruction may be carried on. There is some reason to believe that even now Indian youths could be found ready to receive instruction. There the Missionary could open a School. There he could relieve the weary and the faint and the hungry and the feeble, and while furnishing them with evidence of our regard, in attending, under proper regulations, to their temporal wants, he could direct them to the Lamb of God who taketh away the sin of the world. During the past winter, Mr. Rand's house was often a refuge for the Indians. They remained over night, when they could find shelter nowhere else, and cooked their own suppers, having their food with them. "Those who are widows indeed and desolate (says Mr. R.) we of course feed. We do not want them to follow us for the loaves and fishes, but we do want them to know that we are their friends. And there is power in kindness! The Indian who has slept under our roof and been fed when hungry, will not turn me out of his wigwam when I go and return his visit—and he will listen both here and there to the wondrous story."

That these objects may be attained, and especially the education of their youth, requests have already reached the Committee to this effect.—"Enlarge your operations, and we'll enlarge our contributions." Such is the language of Commander Oriabar, who already gives the liberal sum of Five Pounds annually.

(To be concluded in our next.)