

o'clock or a few minutes before if possible. It is a painful thing to see the Sabbath day thus desecrated; in fact, many of the Indians have come to the conclusion that Sunday is over at six o'clock.

One Sabbath evening about seven o'clock I spoke to some Indians who were buying garden stuff from a Chinaman, and they were much surprised when I told them it was Sunday still. They protested and said: "Oh, no! it is not Sunday now, for the boats are all out fishing." We do our best to reach the Indians with the Gospel, and manage to hold from three to seven services every Sunday; but the first part of the day is the only profitable time we can have on account of the bustle and excitement of the after part of the day. When will this matter be remedied?

We have had a little more help this year than on previous years, Bros. Galloway and Walker having spent part of the time with me; but what are these among so many? If we could have half a dozen men with their wives at different points of the river, to stay during the whole season, I am persuaded a grand missionary work could be accomplished.

In another week or so we shall be at our regular work again, as the fishing is nearly ended. We are praying that this year may be one of great spiritual prosperity.

Letter from F. BUKER, Lay Agent, dated HAGWILGET, B.C., August 29th, 1893.

PERHAPS a few words from this distant part of Indian mission work may not be without interest to the readers of the OUTLOOK. A few words of personal introduction: I received my initiation into the work nearly two years ago, at Port Simpson, as teacher of the mission school and Boys' Home. I was there for over nine months, after which I was sent up here to assist Bro. Spencer, who was stationed at Kishpiax, a village nine miles farther up the river. Bro. Spencer was ordained this Conference, and he is now attending medical college in San Francisco for the purpose of fitting himself for a more useful life among these poor benighted people.

This mission is situated about 180 miles from the mouth of the Skeena, at the confluence of the Skeena and Hagwilget rivers. Although the distance is not great, it takes from four to ten days to come up by steamboat, and generally two weeks by canoe. You can judge of the swiftness of the water by the fact that canoes can go down in one and a-half days, while it takes them ten to fifteen days to return. There is a fall of over 800 feet in 180 miles. Our freight costs us at the rate of \$70.00 per ton, so you may know living is rather expensive.

The mission property consists of 320 acres of good farming land, secured by the Rev. T. Crosby for mission purposes. At present there are only three families permanently settled here. Several others have expressed their desire to leave heathenism and settle with us. About three miles up the Hagwilget River from here is the old village of Hagwilget, consisting of about 200 souls. They live altogether by hunting and fishing, and are therefore always on the move. I visit them nearly every week. They have been under the influence of Catholic missionaries for twenty years, but the only fruit I see from their teaching is, that the Indians are noted for their untruthfulness. For several years past the priest has not visited them. They did something which displeased him and he said he would not return until they asked his pardon. However, he became alarmed lest they should join us, and he returned to them this spring.

About a mile up the Skeena from here is Hazelton, a village of about 250. Rev. Mr. Field, C.M.S. missionary, is laboring there. Eight miles farther up is Kishpiax. Bro. Spencer has been laboring here for the last four years, and Bro. Osterhout, lately from the east, is down at the coast waiting for the boat to come up. He will occupy Kishpiax this winter. Seven miles below us is Kitzeguella, so that we occupy at this place a central position. This is favorable for the work which we are anxiously awaiting aid to develop, viz.: the establishing of an industrial school and farm. I think it a truth which all admit that Indian mission work, to be successful, must give instruction in secular as well as religious subjects. This place offers natural advantages for a farm and industrial school, which our Church should not

be lax in improving. The soil is productive, and all kinds of vegetables and rough grains grow to perfection. It is also well adapted for stock raising. Past our door flows the Skeena, from which can be secured all the fish needed for consumption. With these advantages properly worked, I see no reason why a well-equipped mission could not be, to a considerable extent, self-supporting.

Now are we, as a Church, going to let these God-given means of lifting these poor degraded people into a higher and better life pass by unused simply for the need of a few dollars? Shame be upon us if we do. The land, with the exception of four or five acres, is in its primitive state, but easily cleared. Before we can do anything at farming, a clearing must be made, buildings erected, implements, stock, etc., must be obtained. To do all this requires money. Who will be the first to help us? Looking at the matter from a financial point of view, the investment would be a good one, as property is sure to increase in value as the country is improved. Looking at it from an educational and moral standpoint, the investment is still better. Will you not give heed to the Macedonian cry, "Come over and help us?"

For further information apply to Rev. T. Crosby, Port Simpson, or to myself.

Letter from REV. W. H. PIERCE, dated INVERNESS, B. C., August 5th, 1893.

THE salmon fishing is closing again, with all its anxiety and discouragements. The run of fish has been a failure this summer. The good work of God's grace in the hearts of many of our people, has not died out. Every Sabbath day we have had a large congregation, and the Spirit of God has been present to convince those who are out of Christ. Sometimes we find the church too small to accommodate the people. The young people and the children have attended the Sunday-school very well. Our week-night services have been a means of blessing to all. The Band of Workers have all been alive this season, and trust they may be kept in the narrow way that leads to Heaven. Early in the spring the bell came from San Francisco for this church; it is a splendid one and has a fine tone. The church has been ceiled this season, and it now looks nice inside as well as out. Our superintendent was here last week with the *Glad Tidings*, on his way south to visit the missions and plant more missionaries in that direction. While he was here the arrangement was made that I should supply at Port Essington for Brother Jennings. I trust and pray that God is in the plan. Our new missionaries have just arrived, and our hearts have been cheered and warmed while conversing with them. Our earnest prayer is that God may use them in bringing the benighted ones to the foot of the Cross. Mrs. Pierce, who has not been strong for some time, will leave for her home in Ontario by the next trip of the *Boscovits*.

PARRY ISLAND AND NORTH SHORE.

WE have lately returned from visiting the three Indian Reserves on the North Shore. At Henvey Inlet Reserve I saw that the Methodist Indians had put up the body of their church of hewed pine timber, 26 x 20 feet. After preaching six times in the school-house, settling a difference between two families which had existed for eight months, and administering the ordinances, we sailed for French River, accompanied by two sail boats to fetch lumber for the church. The \$12 which the kind ladies of Teeswater sent me for the Henvey Inlet church gave me confidence that it would enable me to buy rafters and boards for the roof of the church. As soon as T. A. Waub, Esq., merchant at French River, learned our object, he handed me a \$5 bill, and A. Patterson \$1. So, with the \$18 we bought the rafters, boards for the roof and gable ends, boards for the under part of the floor, and all the nails required. We parted with our Indian leaders, loading their two sail boats, looking happy. They intend to make the shingles themselves. They will now need flooring, door, four windows (arched), seats, chimney and some painting, and probably lumber for weather-boarding. They will not be able to finish till they get some more outside help.

We had pleasant times at the two other Indian Reserves