

To His praise alone we record that our prayer was answered ; and the shaft of destruction already pointed toward this station, was turned aside. While thousands throughout the land fell victims to the destroyer, and the dark pall of mourning hung over every tribe, crushing out the joyousness of life and destroying its foundation, this Mission alone enjoyed exemption from so great an affliction. In all, one hundred and three of the Stoneys have died, most of them children. Bro. Woolsey, who labored for the good of this people, and whose name among them is as ointment poured forth, while he may sympathize with them, will rejoice to know that the Gospel he preached to them proved, in their last hours, to be the power of God unto salvation. While we sympathize with the bereaved over their dead, we can also rejoice over the *dead* coming to life. Here in this isolated place the trophies of the cross have been multiplied—the transforming power of the Holy Spirit experienced, and monuments of His saving grace erected. Truly “he that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.” Here allow me to say, let not the friends of Missions, who may hear of our successes, suppose that they are unattended by trial and privation ; we have seen the *shades* as well as the *lights* of missionary life : more than once we have been without provisions for another day in advance, and that *little* [pounded meat, grease, and dirt, of which pemican is composed] stood between us and positive want. Our nets caught nothing ; and Edmonton, our only hope for supplies, is fifty miles or more distant ; and had not Mr. McAulay, the gentleman in charge during the summer, anticipated our necessities and sent us supplies, we would have experienced pinching want.

Let my brethren in Canada, who enjoy the pleasures of society and the luxuries of life, imagine their little ones with tearful eyes asking for bread and none to give them, and they may to some extent enter into our feelings when placed in these circumstances. But as it is written, “at eventide it shall be light,” so we thank God and take courage.

You have asked my opinion as to the “policy of leaving Edmonton House to an occasional visit from a missionary fifty miles from the Fort.” From the first I regarded it as impolitic, and not calculated to promote what I regard as the object of the Society to permanently establish a mission there, where, as you remarked, large sums of money had been spent in the past. Edmonton will eventually become the centre of a large settlement ; and one reason why I do, at much personal risk and privation, endeavour to visit that station every three weeks, is, that the Society may have an opportunity to retain the position so long occupied by their agents as the first and only Protestant ministers there, before others come in and occupy the ground. I am thankful to add that there is an increasing desire on the part of the people to enjoy more frequently the ministrations of the Gospel of the Son of God, and they ardently wish for a resident minister. It is my opinion, and also that of the gentleman in charge, W. J. Christie, Esq., from whom I have ever received marked kindness, that the Society should have a minister there, and he has also kindly promised his influence and pecuniary assistance for that object.

In the meantime, I will endeavor to continue my visits until some definite arrangement is made by the Committee ; only let not that arrangement deprive the Stoneys of an ordained minister. I think it would greatly add to the prosperity of our Zion, if a young man could be employed to labor in connection with myself on the Edmonton and Woodville Mission,—he to reside here, and I at Edmonton. If this suggestion should meet the approval of the Committee, the necessities of both places would be supplied. I would visit Woodville at stated periods, to administer to the Stoneys the ordinances of our Church, to which they are devotedly attached.

The young man at present engaged to teach the White Fish Lake Mission-school might be employed by the Society. He has a good knowledge of the Cree language, a good English education, is a devoted Christian, and would willingly consent to be thus employed. Such a plan would be