

and Kit-wan-silth once during my stay on the Naas, which I described in a former letter. A missionary should not be trammelled with business affairs.

We reached our old mission on the Skeena on the 12th of October, found most of the people away from home. Our Sabbaths since that time have been times of refreshing. Our week-night services have been well attended. Our class-meetings have been highly profitable. Our Bible-class has been well attended, and much interest has been taken in the study of God's Word. We have seen the hearts of the people stirred by the spirit and power of that word. Our band of Christian workers has rendered us valuable aid. A week ago, quite early Sabbath morning, one of the band went through the village singing, "O brother, be faithful," etc. After singing he would give a word of exhortation and offer prayer for the spiritual welfare of his countrymen. We had a good early prayer-meeting that morning, though the weather was very cold.

My predecessor, Brother Hopkins, had well finished the church which was in building previous to my leaving Essington in 1888. We have much to be thankful for on this mission. We have a good day-school well conducted by Miss Tranter, late of Chesley, Ontario, also a good Sunday-school, divided into classes, some of which are taught by native teachers. Our Church catechism translated into the Tsimshian, is committed to memory by the scholars, as well as passages of Scripture.

Though we have much to cheer, yet we have also foes to fight. There has been much illicit traffic in intoxicants, for which some Indians have a strong appetite. As in every other place, so here, the excessive use of intoxicants produces its long train of evils. I am glad to say that we are putting a check upon this illegal ruinous business. The government of British Columbia is affording us great help in this matter. Were I to relate what has come under my notice during the last few months, as the effects of intoxicants on both Indians and whites, your deepest sympathy would be quickened for the victims of the traffic, and your greatest indignation would be aroused against those illegal, heartless vendors, who care not if both body and soul of the Indian perish, provided they can profit by his loss.

During the holiday season, there was but little feasting and revelry. The spirit of the people has been Christward.

We think the past winter in many respects has been one of the best seasons we have experienced since our coming on the mission field.

Our people are already on the move, and strangers are coming in to share in the labor of curing the salmon.

We ask an interest in the prayers of all God's people.

*Letter from REV. J. A. McLAUGHLAN, dated VICTORIA, ALTA, (Pakan P.O.) March 11th, 1891.*

I HAVE just returned from Saddle Lake, having gone there to assist Bro. German in his missionary meetings. While there I was present at a very interesting gathering. For some time past Bro. German

has been holding an English service for the benefit of the Government employees and others on the reserve, who do not understand Cree. Shortly after my arrival on Saturday evening, these friends took possession of the mission house, and treated us to a genuine surprise party. During the evening Mr. Harper, on behalf of the congregation, presented Bro. German with a most laudatory address and a purse of fifty dollars. Evidently our Brother is doing a good work, and is appreciated.

The missionary meetings were a success financially. In the morning I preached to the Indians, and these, though very poor, subscribed \$26. This was all the more encouraging because, as I understand, it was the first time such a meeting had been held among them. In the evening I spoke to the small white congregation gathered at the mission house. They responded nobly, giving us \$46, making a grand total of \$72. A splendid showing for Saddle Lake.

At Victoria we have been greatly blessed this winter. Shortly after the new year I commenced special services, and God has crowned the effort with His blessing. The Church members have been thoroughly awakened, some backsliders reclaimed, quite a number converted, and the good work is still going on. There is a decided advance at each appointment, both among Halfbreeds and Indians. One pleasing evidence of the change is that at two of the appointments they are holding extra services among themselves. These things have greatly cheered our hearts. How much, only those who have toiled and waited, alas the waiting! for the harvest in a field of this class can realize. Bro. German spent a week with us, and greatly aided the work by his clear and pointed expositions of Gospel truths. We have not yet held our missionary meeting, but expect to do so on the 29th. The prospects are much better this year than last, though some of the people are short of provisions, owing to their not being able to secure sufficient seed last spring. The hard experiences of the past few years have not been wasted on these people. Already they are preparing to farm a much larger acreage than at any time since I have been here. A short time ago one of our old members, Father Howse, dropped dead. His was indeed a ripe Christian experience. He *lived* well.

#### THE HOME WORK.

**Port Hood** (Nova Scotia Conference).—I have just finished a careful and instructive reading of the last number of the OUTLOOK; and the thought comes to me that a word or two from this, to you, far away mission, though near to me, will be acceptable. This is one of the smallest missions in connection with our Church, but not the least important, as, with the exception of the Presbyterian Church at Mabou, ten miles distant, whose pastor preaches here once in three weeks, there is no Protestant preacher except our own within thirty miles. The entire country is largely settled by Roman Catholics, whom we find exceedingly kind and courteous. There are only about forty Protestant families in the place, half Presbyterian and half Methodist; and out of our twenty families many