

INDIAN MISSIONS.

WE have pleasure in giving the following excellent address, delivered at the Brockville Missionary Meeting, by W. J. CHRISTIE, Esq., a gentleman who has spent his life in the service of the Hon. Hudson Bay Company. An attentive perusal of it will show the vast extent of territory over which the Missions of the Society are spread, whilst his disinterested testimony to the labourers themselves and their successes, is both welcome and valuable.

Ladies and Gentlemen—I was agreeably surprised a few days ago, when the resolution of your Committee was conveyed to me by their Secretary, asking me to preside at this meeting, accompanied by the intimation that the Rev. George McDougal, Chairman of the Saskatchewan District, was to address the meeting on Missionary work in that District. I felt that it was a duty I owed to my old friend, and to the Committee for the honour conferred, and accordingly accepted the invitation.

At last year's annual Missionary Meeting held in this church, we had the pleasure of listening to an able address from the Rev. Mr. Robson, giving an account of the progress of of Mission work on the west side of the Rocky Mountains, British Columbia and the North West Coast. This evening we have the pleasure of welcoming the Chairman of the Saskatchewan District Missions, who will give you an equally interesting narrative of the mission work on the East side of the Rocky Mountains.

Having during a residence of many years in that country become intimately acquainted with the Natives and Missionary work, I shall endeavour to give you, in as few words as possible, a brief account of both.

The North West Territories, formerly known as the Hudson Bay Territories, were transferred by the Imperial Government to the Dominion of Canada in 1869, the transfer being finally effected in 1870. Those vast Territories, called by a recent writer

"The Great Lone Land," comprise the country from Lake Superior in a direct northerly line to the Arctic Sea, bounded on the west by the great chain of the Rocky Mountains. In olden times it was subdivided into eight Districts, most of which are as large as the Province of Ontario.

As some of those Districts may be mentioned this evening, I shall enumerate them, in order, as we find them laid down on the maps. On leaving Lake Superior the first is the Lac La Pluie or Rainy Lake District, covering the country between Lake Superior and Lake Winnipeg. It is through this District that "the Dawson Route" passes, destined, I trust, soon to be the high road to the North West, and through which channel the imports and exports of those vast territories will be conveyed through the Dominion to the seaboard.

Next is the Red River District, now the Province of Manitoba. As much has already been written on that Province, I shall not now trespass on your valuable time by a repetition of facts already well known to the public, but pass on to the next and adjoining District—Swan River District, through which passes the great overland road of five hundred miles to the Valley of the Saskatchewan. On this overland road we cross the Assiniboine River by ferry at Fort Ellis, about two hundred miles from Fort Garry. It was with the Indians of the Swan River District that a Treaty was made last summer, at "The Q'appelle Lakes," by the Queen's Commissioners.