

till lately, with few exceptions, if any, have used their influence to prevent the Indians of these Provinces from learning to read. Every conceivable obstacle has been thrown in their way. One cannot but recall our Saviour's words—"Woe unto you lawyers," ye professed ministers of religion, "for ye have taken away the key of knowledge; ye entered not in yourselves, and them that were entering in ye hindered." Until very lately the Indians did not know there was such a book as the Bible, and had they known of the book there was no possible means of their knowing its contents.

COMMENCEMENT OF THE MICMAC MISSION.

No persevering attempt was ever made to give the Scriptures to the Micmacs until about twenty-three years ago. Some attempts had been made to *civilize* them and to settle them in villages; but these attempts had proved abortive, or nearly so. But at the period referred to the success of the colportage system among the Roman Catholics of Ireland, France, Germany, Canada, and other places, was attracting attention, and the thought was suggested that the Micmacs might be reached in the same way. If we could read the Scriptures to them in their own tongue, and speak to them thus of the love of Christ, and tell them how they are to be saved, was it not to be expected that the Holy Spirit would exert his quickening, saving power on them as well as on people of other nations. What the duty of Christians was in the case was plain, and by the blessing of God the attempt was made, nor has the blessing been altogether withheld.

LEARNING THE LANGUAGE.

This was the first step to be taken. Their knowledge of English was exceedingly limited; their prejudices against the whites were great, and were reciprocated with compound interest. Helps for learning the language there were next to none. There were no books; the prayer book above referred to was of no avail whatever, until considerable progress had been made in the language. But for a number of very striking providential interpositions the work would have been abandoned at the outset.

But in the year 1846, without any reference to this work, I took up my residence with my family, in Charlottetown, Prince Edward