

That, in traversing the Rocky and the Selkirk Mountain ranges, the Canadian Pacific Railway has created a vast mission-field, possessing several large villages and a floating population to be numbered by thousands: that, at all too many sad centres along this length of line, virtual heathenism and palpable vice are meanwhile throwing shadows denser than those which fall from the mountain peaks: that not only has our own church too tardily and timidly visited it, but by all denominations this mission-field has been so passed by, that over an unbroken reach of four hundred miles from Calgary to Kamloops, there is no place of worship of any kind, nor any religious agency at work, in a way or on a scale adequate to the occasion: and that there is here a great opportunity and a greater responsibility, — with these thoughts uppermost I have returned to Calgary from a mission-tour to the west. Of Protestant Churches, ours has so far done most in the endeavour to preach the gospel in the Mountains—most, but not much. Omitting references to occasional services by some passer-by; the following are the facts which apply to our share in the work. Rev. Angus Robertson, now of Pino Creek, N. W. T., laboured during part of last summer and laboured at his own charges, among the construction gangs mainly, working then in advance of the railway. Some points near the entrance to the Mountains, up the Bow River, were at the same time supplied by the missionary at Calgary. This summer, for a period of two or three months in all, the work was further developed by Rev. Donald McLeod, of Priceville, and Mr. D. C. Cameron, student. At the present date, we have a promising young student, Mr. A. W. Jones, on the field, under conditional commission, and with customary energy, the Superintendent of Missions has secured the definite appointment of Rev. A. H. Cameron, a well qualified missionary, and ordained. And the work in these Mountains, let me observe in passing, has been, and will still only too probably be straitened, not in respect of Presbyteries, or Boards, or Committees, or office-bearers in the Church—but straitened in available missionaries, and in money. My claim is, that we should have three men permanently employed. The huge special gangs of snowshedders and bridgebuilders will indeed be shortly disbanded. But for years to come there will be heavy work to be done all along the line before it is brought up to final efficiency; and even to fight the regular train-service through landslides and rockslides and snowslides will mean, summer and winter, the maintaining through the mountain gorges, of an army of men. And then there are the towns and villages, the tourist and the tradesman, the lumber mills and the gold, silver and coal mines. In my humble opinion, we should have a man stationed at Banff, another at Donald, and another at Revelstoke. How much these places would contribute towards

their support is a question which—except in the case of Donald, which is able and willing to do well—can only be determined after closer enquiry and faithful instruction as to the duty of giving. Meanwhile it may be asked, what is the nature of each of these proposed mission-fields?

I. The missionary at Banff would have supervision of the Bow River Valley, on the Eastern slope of the Rockies, commencing as far East, if thought practicable, as Gleichen, and taking in all the chief points along the line of the railway, up to the Kicking Horse Pass. What are some of these places like? GLEICHEN is a divisional point on the C.P.R., with roundhouse, repair shops, about a dozen dwellings, two stores and a post-office; and contains several families, section hands, engineers, firemen, and general employés. There is an experimental farm at hand, and some miles away, divided into two camps, live in their lodges on a large reservation the warlike Blackfeet—up to the date of Crowfoot's reported conversion to the Roman Catholic faith, all persistently Pagan. An interesting little place is Gleichen, likely also to grow slowly, and with a population largely Presbyterian. COCHRANE, 23 miles west of Calgary, is beautifully situated along the banks of the Bow. Here is a force of section-men, and at times a very large one, also a company working for coal; half a mile up are the buildings and headquarters of the celebrated B.A. Ranch with its big bands of horses and sheep; two miles west is the large Cochrane saw-mill, and still further along is Major Vaughan's coal mine, in vigorous operation; while some miles again to the north the country is settling up with small ranches. The families around Cochrane are few, but men are numerous and the settlement is thriving. KANANASKIS, which is just at the closing-in of the mountains, possesses two families, with two gangs of section-men, a large saw-mill, which employs many hands, and a logging camp a few miles away. The mill belongs to Major Walker of Calgary. This spot is in the vicinity of the old Padmore settlement, represented now by a few roofless log buildings. CANMORE, well into the mountains, is a divisional point on the railway, and has a considerable number of families, and dwellings and stores, along with the R. R. offices and a large roundhouse, and, to its credit be it recorded, a school-house and a lady teacher. Canmore is one of the most beautiful spots imaginable. Behind the town are three pyramids or "monuments" of nature's carving, with a solitary fenced-in grave lying pathetically under their shadow. Ah! there are many graves along the line, some solitary, some in company, for the work of construction was vast and sanitary arrangements were often defective, and "mountain-fever," and accidents, and vice and crime abounded. BANFF is a spot so favoured for position and endowment that the Government have wisely selected