



FORT SIMPSON, N. W. T.

August 28th, and Fort Simpson on the morning of Christmas Day. Mr. Kirkby's joy was as great as the arrival of his fellow-laborer was unexpected. He thus wrote of it at the time—"You will imagine better than I can tell you our delight at the unexpected arrival of Mr. Bompas. Such a thing as an arrival here in winter is never thought of, nor had ever before occurred." Mr. Bompas arrived in time for the morning service at which he preached from the text "Behold I bring you glad tidings of great joy which shall be to all people." (S Luke ii, 10). This is said to have been the text from which Samuel Marsden first preached to the Maoris of New Zealand exactly fifty years before. He remained at Fort Simpson until the following Easter, meanwhile associating with Mr. Kirkby and studying the native language in order that he might speedily enter upon an itinerating mission amongst the tribes scattered along the shores of the lakes and rivers of the North.

The enthusiastic missionary first took his journey to the region of the Great Bear Lake where he remained throughout the spring and summer living in the midst of and carefully instructing the Indians. He found them kind and attentive to his wants which were few and simple, and amenable to his instruction. He visited their wigwams regularly from day to day. He thus describes his mode of life at that time: "Living in the Indian tents is not hard to me; their hours of sleeping and eating are regular and they are mostly occupied in

some useful way, fishing, snaring rabbits, making snow-shoes and sledges, and other manual labor, while the women are chiefly employed in dressing deerskins." In January, 1867, Mr. Bompas proceeded to Fort Rae on the Great Slave Lake, which had never been visited by any but Roman Catholic missionaries, by whom a large number of the Indians resident there had been baptized. The journey thither occupied twenty days and the entire distance was accomplished on foot. After a sojourn here of six months, Mr. Bompas departed for Fort Chipewyan, on Lake Athabasca, where he spent eight months, during which time he was enabled to do some good work amongst the Indians and to obtain a greater familiarity with their various dialects. Fort Vermilion on Peace River was reached in January, 1868. During these first two years of his missionary career Mr. Bompas travelled on foot 1300 miles in order to preach the Gospel to about 1500 Indians. During his visit to Fort Vermilion he was rejoiced to find many Indian families who had been brought up at Red River some years before, of whom he wrote: "In education, habits of life, and deportment, they cannot be distinguished from Europeans. The seed sown at Red River is bearing fruit 1000 miles off."

In 1868 the Rev. W. W. Kirkby was compelled to go to England to recruit his health and Mr. Bompas having paid a second visit to Lake Athabasca returned to Fort Simpson to supply his place. Animated by a zeal which can be regarded as no less