

Norway House, or Oxford House, came down nearly every summer. It was not until 1854 that the work was taken on permanently by the Church Missionary Society, the Rev. W. Mason, who had been engaged as a Wesleyan Missionary, being ordained by the late Bishop Anderson in that year. For many years the Word of God does not seem to have entered the heart of the poor native. There were other enticements, such as gambling, conjuring, dancing, drinking, and all-night revelling. Some who are living here can tell of the awful havoc made by the demon fire-water, and of the jarring that the few church-goers had to contend with. It was only last week that a woman told me of a terrible fight that took place on the other side of Nelson River, in which some lives were lost, and it was all due to fire-water.

"But little by little God's Word advanced; some from one tribe, and some from another came forward and sought admission into the visible Church by baptism.

"When my predecessor, Archdeacon Kirkby, came to take charge he found a good number standing aloof. He took charge in 1870, and I see in looking into the registers that in a few years there were large additions to the Christian church in 1875, 1876, and 1879. Father, mother and children are entered on one page.

"The last tribe to embrace Christianity was known as the Samatawa Tribe, a name derived from the river on whose banks they lived during the winter. The most notable person among them was their chief, who has been spoken of as a good, honest, straightforward man, and if it had not been for the multiplicity of his wives he would have been baptised long before. He asked to be baptised, but wished to retain his wives at the same time. The missionary could not, of course, accede to his request; but by and by, in the year 1877, he came forward boldly and said, 'We have agreed to separate and be baptised, and live as Christians.' For some years previously the old man had had serious thoughts about religion, and seemed to envy those who had become 'praying people.'

"I took charge of York Factory in 1879, and one of the first to shake hands with me was 'Old Beardy.' He visited the post every summer, and was always glad to come to the Mission House and spend some time in conversation, but he seemed particularly happy in the house of prayer.

"In 1884 I was compelled to return to England, and when I returned in 1886, in a shipwrecked condition in a small boat, he had departed for the woods. But before the next summer he had become very ill, and was greatly distressed at the thought of not being able to see the Mission Station, and the Missionary. However, he made the attempt to get here, for as soon as the river broke up, he got into his canoe; but he died on his way down. His sons

told me he had no fear of death, and was quite happy at the prospect of being soon with Christ.
"J. S. WINTER."

OUR next letter is from the very opposite side of Canada, viz., the Lower Youcon River. We give it because some of our readers are working for Mr. and Mrs. Canham. It is reprinted from *Missionary Leaves*, and was written by Mrs. Canham to one of her English helpers.

"ST. JAMES' MISSION,
LOWER YOUCON RIVER, July, 1890.

"MY DEAR MISS LARGE—It is, I think, more than twelve months since I last wrote to you, and no doubt you will wish to hear something of how that time has passed with us. The first and most important event, which happened before the close of the autumn, was the accident which befell the Alaska Company's new steamer, the *Arctic*, and which was near causing the loss of all the goods for the various posts and missions on the river. We were kept in suspense for some time, and as the river was expected to close any day, the look-out for provisions for the winter became rather serious. However, cheering news came at last. Part of the cargo had been saved, although in a damaged condition, and the vessel taken back to St. Michael to be repaired, etc. To our great surprise, she arrived here late in September, with what little they could spare at St. Michael's; and with all haste provisions were carried up the river, but were unable to reach as far as Buxton Mission. Mr. Ellington was fortunate in having got up some of his goods earlier in the season; and we were very thankful that freight expected from England, both through our agents and from '*Missionary Leaves Association*,' were not received at St. Michael's, or they would, if not altogether lost, have been seriously damaged. How many and great are our mercies! 'Surely goodness and mercy' have followed us all the days of our life; and if we would rest simply and solely on the precious promises given to us in God's Word, we should never have an anxious thought, or feel concerned about the wants and necessities of either soul or body. May our faith daily increase.

"We never expected to have to pass another winter in this place, but the work of building was so very slow that we were obliged to remain in our old, and rather uncomfortable, quarters. We are now looking forward with great pleasure to a change of residence, and hope in a couple of weeks to be in our new home, and to get settled before the winter sets in. I think we shall be very comfortable when the house is quite finished. We are having a fence put up, which will enclose the Mission premises, and give us space for a small garden, and playground for the children. I forget if I told you