

I commenced my labors, as the Missionary appointed to Woodville Mission, on the 12th of September. To my knowledge this is the oldest station ever occupied by a Wesleyan Missionary in the Saskatchewan. Mr. Rundle was the first, and when he went home in 1848, it was still a Wesleyan Mission Station, under the charge of Benjamin Sinclair, one of our old local preachers,

and he left it and had gone to Lac la Biche; and in 1856 it was again taken up by the Rev. Thomas Woolsey, and after him came Mr. John McDougall, then Mr. P. Campbell, and in 1872, Mr. John McDougall, and now the present incumbent, your correspondent,—and I thank the good Lord, who has hitherto been my helper.

*From the Rev. P. Campbell, dated Victoria Mission, January 8th, 1874.*

In reviewing the labors of the past year, I cannot but record my gratitude to Almighty God for his preserving care over us, and extended goodness to myself and family. We have enjoyed many tokens of the Master's presence and love; not only in our domestic circle, but also in connection with the discharge of our more public duties. The "Lo, I am with you even unto the end," of the great Captain of Israel's hosts, has removed many perplexities, and filled the heart with hopefulness. There are circumstances in one's life, when the promises of our God appear to wear robes of immortal loveliness and beauty, with which they hold the heart spell-bound, as they carry it upward to God in blessed and enrapturing communion, and the seal of the divine approval thrills the soul with unutterable emotions. I say the truth when I tell you that we have passed through those circumstances;—we have experienced the consolation and blessedness spoken of. God's sustaining and comforting presence, has cheered and invigorated our souls in hours of loneliness and trial. Pardon, dear sir, these personal allusions; my heart prompts their utterance, and perhaps it may at the same time be a source of satisfaction to your mind to know that your agents, while holding up the cross to perishing immortals, are trying to do so with "clean hands and a pure heart," that at the last they may "stand in the holy place," having an "inheritance with the sanctified."

The people of this charge, though not so numerous as in the past, are trying to work out their salvation, and many appear deeply in earnest to obtain the entire sanctification of their souls. This falling off in numbers is owing to the nomadic habits of many of our congregation. Such habits cannot have a

good effect upon the moral or religious progress of a people; and until the hunt, with its accompanying dissipating influences, is abandoned for the more ennobling pursuits of the agriculturist, the advancement of all these Missions must of necessity be slow and very fluctuating. I know others may express themselves differently; but let me ask what other effect can an annual absence of from three to five months from the means of grace have upon a people? It is well known that in the absence of a preached gospel, the natural tendency of the heart, is to seek the things that are below, forgetting the things which are above. I have never known prosperity in godliness to be the result of a "trip" to the plains. On the contrary, lamentable confessions of sins committed, and duties neglected, form the burden of the returned hunter's experience. For this reason, I never encourage this precarious and uncertain mode of procuring temporal supplies. Its tendency is to destroy the permanent prosperity of the mission. Such a dependence will force a people, even against their will, to make frequent removals, so that they may always be within easy reach of the buffalo range.

To illustrate. At the present time, this station is suffering from the temporary removal of 14 families, who, having failed in the summer's hunt, and not having sufficient planted to afford provisions for the winter, were necessitated to seek winter quarters elsewhere. Some have gone to those lakes where white fish abound, and others have gone to the plains. These removals have affected us thus,—55 are taken from our congregations, 22 from membership, 30 from our day and Sabbath-schools. This mutilating influence will continue to retard the permanent progress of our cause here, unless agri-