

BRITISH COLUMBIA DISTRICT.

From the Rev. THOMAS CROSBY, dated Fort Simpson, January 31st, 1877.

We have had a very mild winter, which has favoured my travelling to neighbouring places : still the winds on this coast are terrible. Last week I made a trip to Rit-cat-lah, sixty miles south of us. This is a village of about two hundred people, grossly heathen. We found the dancing and feasting going on, but most of the people gathered at a meeting we held the day after our arrival. Some of the younger people are desiring to turn to Christianity. Quite a number of them spent some weeks with us at Christmas, but the old people are not willing to give up the conjurer's drum and medicine bag. Eighteen of our Indians went with me. We had one of the largest war canoes, but it was none too large for the sea that dashed over us on our return trip. The wind was blowing a gale at times, and we made the sixty miles in eleven hours. I intend to visit these people again when I have opportunity. To-morrow, if the weather be favourable, I start for Naas, forty miles north. There is an English Church Mission at the mouth of the Naas River, where a village of one hundred or one hundred and fifty people has been built up : this is about fifteen miles from any other village. The Missionary has a trade shop also, to which, it is said, he gives most of his time, and the Indians say they will not leave their own homes to go there. They want a Missionary to be sent to them ; and I go now to visit them at an urgent invitation conveyed in a letter, written for the Indians by a white man, a J. P., who is fishing on the river.

Now I do trust we may be able to enter this field. If Mr. Green has to leave Nanaimo, he would be just the man for this place, and now is our time before the land question is settled—it would be a great advantage to secure a good site. The

work might be carried on for a time in connection with Fort Simpson—and thus we could feel our way. This is as promising a field as Fort Rupert, and a better one for a single man without long experience. If Mr. Green cannot be sent, let us send a native teacher till we can do better. How can we say we have no help to give them, while they are begging for the bread of life.

I am anxiously waiting to hear from the East about "Wrangle." I have had two boys there all winter at my own expense. We must do all we can to save the perishing.

Our work here is doing well. I think you will say that was a noble subscription at the church-opening—\$400 from these poor people ; for many of them are very poor.

The public means of grace are all well attended. Our church has been quite filled all winter. I think we have the largest Indian congregation in the Connexion. I have had to form two new classes, so we have six in all now. I baptized twenty adults a few weeks ago, and more are desiring baptism. There are many of them eager to take the word of life to the heathen around us. When I go to visit other tribes my crew is always composed of volunteers, and the only expense I incur is the board of the men for the time. I am obliged, however, to take large canoes and good crews. Two weeks ago, with a crew of ten men, we were wind-bound for forty-six hours, not able to move either way—and cases have occurred in this part of the coast where canoes have been delayed thus for two or three weeks.

Miss Knott has had good attendance at the school all winter, (it has been as high as one hundred and sixteen,) but now the people are beginning to scatter hunting, &c. Quite a number of houses have been built during the last year, and we