

MISSIONARY WORK IN THE NORTH-WEST.

THE field which the writer occupied during the past summer months embraced the district lying along the line of the Canadian Pacific Railway between the points Dunmore and Kananaskis, 242 miles in extent. The country is mostly a great level or, in parts, hilly prairie furrowed by old water courses, and covered with short nutritious grasses which formed excellent pasturage for the large herds of buffalos which once roamed over those plains; and as, in passing, the eye falls upon the thoroughly bleached bones lying promiscuously about, and the countless well beaten paths which invariably lead to water, we cannot but feel a pang of remorseful pity for that noble race of animals which was slaughtered by the ruthless cruelty of the early white hunters.

The country is still new to a great extent to the arts of civilization, but here and there a number of people are settled, and having overcome the difficulties peculiar to a new country, are now doing well. The best settled district, however, is about Calgary, that prettily situated and splendidly built town which has grown almost marvellously, and testifies to the rich and valuable qualities of the land for grazing purposes. But, as in past years, the great tide of immigration has been to Manitoba, miles upon miles of land in the North-West, good for settlement, still remain unbroken by the plough, and consequently mission work at present is largely with railroad men. Services were held at eleven points in this field. It was impossible to reach all on Sabbaths and do effective work, so the three leading places were selected, one receiving fortnightly services, the other two services once a month. Sometimes, however, by walking ten or twelve miles on a Sabbath two places could be reached, but this was not always feasible. The remaining points were visited on week evenings. The three leading points mentioned were Dunmore, Gleichen, and Cochrane.

At Dunmore the Galt line from Lithbridge meets the Canadian Pacific Railway, and extensive chutes are erected for the transfer of coal, which gives employment to a large number of men. Near here also are the colonization farms, and a number of settlers have taken up land in the vicinity. This place was visited fort-