

STRANGER THAN FICTION.

BY THE EDITOR.

CHAPTER XVIII.

CONCLUSION.



THE history of the settlement at Metlahkatlah during the last five years may be summed up in two words, "*steady progress.*" Of difficulties, drawbacks, and occasional discouragements, there has been no lack. The spirit in which they were met as they arose, is well indicated in Mr. Duncan's own despatch of November, 1868: "The enemy is only permitted to annoy, but not to destroy us, only to make us stand more to our arms and look more imploringly and constantly to heaven: nor is he permitted to triumph over us. To God, to our Triune God, is all the praise and glory."

One of the latest signs of increased religious earnestness was a spontaneous movement amongst the young and middle-aged Indians to form adult Sunday-classes for Bible-reading. "The adult males, numbering about one hundred, are superintended by four native teachers, and the females, who assemble in separate houses, are taught by the young women who have passed through a course of training in the Mission Home. All the teachers come to me at the close of each service for special instruction for a few minutes, and then proceed to the several classes. All read over carefully the text, translate it word by word; simple comments and addresses are offered by the teachers, concluding with singing and prayer."

The next important step in advance which Mr. Duncan contemplates is the sending out native teachers to the heathen tribes around. "Many of the tribes," he says, "are stretching out their hands for help, and God seems preparing His servants at Metlahkatlah to carry it to them. Whole tribes talk of soon joining us; but this I do not anticipate will be the case yet—the way is very difficult and the door narrow for them." Still, the constant communication with Metlahkatlah, and the unmistakable evidence there presented to them that godliness has