

*By whom is missionary work carried on among them?*

In Ontario, Manitoba and the North-West, by all the different denominations; in British Columbia, by the Methodist, English and Roman Catholic Churches. The Presbyterian Church has lately sent out a missionary to work among them on the North-West Pacific Coast.

*Where are the missions of our Church?*

(See General Society Report, pp. 29-49.) As a Church we are among the pioneers in the Christianizing and civilizing of the Indians, beginning work in Ontario as early as 1824, in the North-West in 1840, in British Columbia in 1862, on the North-West Pacific Coast in 1874. From the establishing of this last-named mission, the work has spread from tribe to tribe, even reaching Alaska, and opening the way for missionary work in that country.

*In this work wherein lies our chief hope for success?*

In the education of the children. Old men and women often open their hearts readily to the Gospel, and at times are swept by multitudes into the kingdom, grasping and appropriating the truths of the Gospel in a child-like unquestioning way. Among these, not unfrequently, there are found those who develop a really beautiful and consistent Christian character, but as a rule stability and intelligence are not secured without such training as only the young can be subjected to. The missionary looks upon the children as the most hopeful material he has to work upon, and finds a powerful incentive to effort in the neglect and cruelty to which heathenism subjects them. Who knows how many a little fevered child has been tortured to death by the hideous rattle and frenzied antics of the medicine man, who plies his vile arts as long as a blanket can be extorted from the parents. When the fire-eaters and dog-eaters, and those who have reached the distinction of being able to bite human flesh, rush wildly through the camp and into the houses, all the little children can do is to fly in terror or hide away trembling in some dark corner. When the yearly dancing and feasting come round no one must be absent, and as distant villages often unite on these occasions, sick children are often carried ten, twenty, or forty miles, in the depth of winter. The Indian boys, and sometimes the girls, when they reach a certain age, have to undergo initiation into the rites of conjuring, etc., according to their rank. This is done by a process of fasting, dreaming and dancing. Sometimes children have been taken by heathen parents from the mission schools and forced to go through these heathen rites.

*What is the most effectual way to uproot these evils?*

The establishment of boarding-schools of an industrial character, where children may be gathered in from their wild and wandering life, and brought under discipline and teaching regular in its working, where habits can be formed, and the benefit of an orderly, regular life, shows itself.