

prevents that fixedness of purpose, and stability of pursuit, which might otherwise exist. But on this part of the subject I have spoken before. The Company, however, have sixteen hundred square miles of frontier land upon their hands, which if not productive now, must be so some day in the future.

On the other hand we cannot forget that here are four hundred and fifty souls, whom Divine providence has placed in our hands, to watch over as those for whom we must give an account to God. These poor people have none beside to care for their souls; they are strangers, for the most part, in a strange place; and no longer held by the restraints of home, nor quickened by the examples of worshipping multitudes, large chapels and churches, and the awakening religious activity of the father-land; they are in danger of sinking into a state of disregard of everything heavenly and divine. They have a claim upon our christian sympathy; they must not perish for lack of knowledge; we must teach them the words by which they shall be saved. If we have not the assistance of others, we have not their opposition; the field is our own.

Again the number of the children gives a fine opportunity to sow the seed of life, with hope of success; for if the ground is not cultivated to our hands, it is not yet grown over with briars and thorns. Exceedingly do I deplore the absence of my family from the place. I feel anxious to have the teaching of the children in my own hands; being firmly persuaded that they would be better taught in all respects, than by the means of such other teachers as would come here. Secular teaching, by pious teachers, becomes in their hands religious teaching; and while the little ones acquire the rudiments of useful learning, they learn from the counsels and examples of their teachers, "the fear of the Lord."

And if the mines have not yet proved profitable, and if the people be unsettled, and not likely to stay long in the place;—still we have no reason to suppose the place will be deserted for some time to come. The amount of capital invested by the two companies; the extent of territory held by them; and the example of

the Americans on the southern side of the Lake, will induce them to continue their efforts to find metal as long as they can; and should these companies give up, others will be formed to take their places. Men will no doubt be long on the ground; and this circumstance will afford opportunity, for the shepherds to go into the far wilderness, to seek the wandering sheep.

Another thing may be here noticed: though the place does not contain resources sufficient to support a minister, and though too many in the place care nothing about him nor his work, nor indeed about the God that sent him; yet there is a kind and respectful feeling towards the ministers of the Lord Jesus Christ in the hearts of most.—Judging from their conduct towards myself, and from all I have heard of their conduct towards my predecessor, Mr. Hill, I should have no fear were their ability equal to their inclination, to trust the support of myself and family, to their liberality. They would not like to come under an engagement to raise a minister's salary, perhaps even in part; but they wish, in the way of adding an *extra*, to increase his income, which indeed amounts to the same thing under another name. I have had reason to acknowledge their kindness; and especially that of Mr. Barron, the manager of the mines. The amount of help thus rendered, will be in a great measure regulated by the esteem in which the minister is held by his hearers generally.

To this amount of help, may be added that of a school for the children. It has been intimated that, perhaps, upon a fair representation of the case, to the department of public instruction, some little assistance might be rendered towards the support of a teacher of the school. If this were so; what with the payments of the parents, capable of paying a little; and the other items taken together; I should see no reason to fear, not being able, by the Divine blessing, to conduct a mission so far efficiently, as to meet the wants of both parents and children, provided they were disposed to avail themselves of the advantage, without being a very great burden to the mission committee.

The isolated position of the station, and the uncertainty of conveyance, make