

Messenger and Visitor.

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MANITOBA AND NORTH-WEST MISSIONS.

Early History of the Work.

THE SPIES SENT OUT.

Letter from Rev. Thomas Baldwin, who visited the country with Dr. Davidson in 1868.

In April, 1869, at the semi-annual meeting of the Board of Home Missions, convened at Aylmer, Ont., on motion of Rev. Dr. Fyfe, it was resolved to appoint a deputation to visit the North-west Territories to look at the country, and to write a report of it, in view of sending a missionary at the earliest possible date, and on recommendation of Dr. Fyfe I was appointed, and a vote was passed to draw on the treasurer for the sum required.

Subsequently Rev. Dr. Davidson was also added to the deputation, and on June 12th we started from Ingersoll. After three days we reached St. Cloud, in Minnesota. This was at that time the end of the railroad. From this point we took the Hudson Bay trail for the town of Winnipeg. On this journey of ten days we met many caravans of northern traders, and gained much valuable information of the country even as far north as York Factory, and west as far as Edmonton.

We saw but two houses where people lived, during this space of over 400 miles. Winnipeg at that time contained but twenty-one log houses and one small brick drug store. At that time the whole country was open and uninhabited for over 400 miles east of the town. We journeyed to Portage la Prairie, via trail along the Assiniboine. Here at this point we found a small settlement and some three settlers, all doing some trading with the Indians. On our journey as we neared the Lake we encountered a band of Sioux Indians. They were, as I learned, that notorious band of murderers who committed the massacre in Northern Minnesota in 1862. They as refugees had fled over there for protection under the British flag. As yet the Dominion of Canada had not taken possession by the residence of any official in the country, but nominally the Hudson Bay Co. were holding rule in the interests of the Dominion and of themselves.

FIRST MISSIONARY EFFORTS.

Extract of a letter from Rev. A. McDonald, Pioneer Baptist missionary to the North-west.

When brethren Baldwin and Davidson returned from the West they reported strongly in favor of having a missionary undertake the work immediately. Their suggestion met with a hearty approval from the many throughout the churches in Ontario; and in a short time a sufficient amount was subscribed to sustain a missionary for three years, and a committee was appointed to obtain a suitable man to undertake the work.

In the winter of 1872-3, the committee's attention was turned toward Rev. A. McDonald, then pastor of the First Yarmouth and Sparta churches, and they urged him to go West in the spring and begin the work. After prayerful consideration, and being assured of the confidence and sympathy of the great mass of his brethren in the ministry, Mr. McDonald consented to the appointment, and having been formally designated to the work publicly in London on May 20th, 1873, he set out on the following day for this new, distant and wide field, reaching Winnipeg May 30th, nine days after leaving London.

During the year 1880, Prairie College was established at Rapid City through the efforts of the late Dr. Crawford, assisted by Prof. G. B. Davis and others. During the three years the college was in operation its existence was not in vain, nor was the noble, heroic self-denial of Dr. Crawford and his family for naught, as witness the churches formed and the fields supplied with earnest evangelical preaching by the principal and his students during those years.

In the spring of 1882, the "Missionary Convention of Manitoba and the Northwest" was organized; and at the solicitation of the Convention Board pastor A. McDonald resigned the pastorate of the Winnipeg church to enter on more general work throughout the province and in the east, in behalf of mission interests generally.

After a few months' interregnum in the Winnipeg pastorate, the services of Rev. A. A. Cameron, for many years pastor in Ottawa City, were secured.

Prairie College was closed and its students transferred to Woodstock and McMaster Hall. Student labor from the east was introduced, and amid many difficulties and obstacles the work progressed, and additional churches were organized at different points throughout the province.

An advance was also made soon after the above events took place, in the introduction of the existing plan of the

superintendency of missions. Bro. J. H. B. set was the first to occupy this position. He was followed by the late lamented Bro. J. H. Doolittle, and he in turn was succeeded by our beloved Bro. H. G. Mellick, who still holds the helm of our missionary ship, in this arduous and difficult position.

THE CONVENTION OF 1894.

The Thirteenth Annual Convention of the Baptist Churches of Manitoba and the Northwest Territories met with the First Baptist church, Winnipeg, July 9th, 1894. There were about 150 delegates and visitors present.

Extract from Annual Report.

THE EXTENT OF THE FIELD.
The field keeps continually enlarging. Our actual operations extend now from a point 10 miles east of Emerson to the Sturgeon River, 15 miles north of Edmonton, a distance of 1123 miles. Besides this we work on nearly 1000 miles of branch lines. There are other lines open that we have not yet touched, besides large country districts where they are calling loudly for the Gospel.

INCREASE OF POPULATION.

The population is increasing at a rapid rate. The country is filling up with people of various nationalities and types of religion. There are Germans and Jews, Scandinavians and French, Icelanders and Poles, Chinese and many other smaller bodies speaking a foreign language. The United States are also taking advantage of the opportunities offered in this country, and large numbers from there are coming here. But the great bulk of the population is from parts of the British possessions, especially from Ontario and Quebec, the Maritime Provinces and the British Isles. About 40,000 of the native Indians still remain. Of religions we have represented, Judaism, and "heathenism, Protestantism and Roman Catholicism and scepticism, and we are threatened with "higher criticism." The Gospel of Christ is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth, and upon its faithful proclamation the destiny of our country hangs.

ENCOURAGING CONDITIONS OF THE WORK.
Notwithstanding the difficulties that have been attendant upon the prosecution of the work, its present condition is such as to give abundant reasons to thank God and take courage. We believe that in proportion to the money expended there is no other missionary society doing an equal amount of work in the country.

There has been a marked quickening of spiritual life in the churches and a large ingathering of souls. About 350 persons were baptized, and 650 altogther added to our churches last year. Six churches were organized—two English, two German, one Indian, one Scandinavian. We have now 46 churches. Thus year by year we are forced to advance by the onward march of the country's progress. When the Lord bids us go forward and plant New Testament churches on new ground we cannot refuse. Who are we that we should withstand God?

HOUSES OF WORSHIP BUILT.

Five houses of worship have been built the past year, making fourteen in two years at a total cost of \$65,000.

THE GERMAN WORK.

Our work amongst the Germans began about eight years ago, when Brother F. A. Peteret, our first missionary amongst them, opened a mission in Winnipeg. There were only six families of Germans in the city at that time.

There are three thousand two hundred and sixty-five Indians from St. Peter's north along Lake Winnipeg, so we are reaching about one-tenth of the Indian population of the Northwest. We have about 50,000 Indians in the country.

Our Indian work is much in need of funds at present. There is no mission enterprise yields large returns, and to no people are we more indebted to give the gospel than to our Indians. These facts should prompt us to contribute even more liberally than we have in the past.

The Young People's Societies of our churches have undertaken the seating of St. Peter's chapel. If any society should be overlooked, or if there are young people in any of our churches who are not thus organized but feel disposed to give, send your contributions

along and make them as generous as possible. Time is short, "the coming of the Lord draweth nigh." Cannot everyone in our churches who has tasted that the Lord is gracious, do something more than we are doing for this neglected and fast dying race?

Churches or mission circles desirous of sending contributions of clothing for our Indian converts of St. Peter's Reserve and the north, will please address the same to Mr. Hugh McBain, 275 Portage Avenue.

SECY. IND. COM.

ST. PETER'S RESERVE.

We are making a little progress on this Reserve preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ to these people in our midst, and a few of those have professed conversion since my return from the trip east, although we have had no additions by baptism, but some have come and confessed that they are coming to fulfill the command.

The people are attending our meeting well in our chapel and at other places, although we have our enemies working against us. Praise be to God, He is on His children's side.

W. H. PRINCE.

OUR NEEDS.

By Superintendent H. G. Mellick.

I want to emphasize particularly the imperative demands of our present needs, and the bright prospect for the work if these demands are met now. If our brethren fail to heed our Macdonaldian cry—"Come over and help us"—a sad picture of lost opportunities will overshadow our future. Necessity is laid upon us to appeal to our brethren for assistance. We are unable to meet the demands of the work alone. We believe we owe it to them to lay the facts before them, and we are persuaded if we hold our peace in this matter they will not hold us guiltless.

1. WE NEED MONEY.
We have a debt of about \$3,500. That is a serious burden for a little convention to be struggling with. Our missionaries feel it sorely. Their salaries are small enough when they are paid promptly, but when they are compelled to pinch along at this cold season without the promised grant from the Board, it is trying. The work is hard even when the necessary means are supplied. Our brethren in the comforts of their Eastern homes should not forget the missionaries in the North-west. Part of your luxury would make them comfortable in their work. But our present deficit is only a part of the money we need. With a desperate struggle the deficit will be met after a time. But a large number of our promising fields are vacant. Organized churches with houses of worship are pastures, and outlying districts connected with them are lying waste.

2. WE NEED MEN WHO ARE WILLING TO BEAR HANDS: men with indomitable perseverance who will go to stay. When Garibaldi's volunteers asked what they would get he said: "I promise you many a wearisome march, hunger and cold, hard battles and a trench in the battlefield for a grave, and more than he needed volunteered. Christ wants volunteers for the work who will say "Here am I, send me" and who will say "Here is the money, go!"

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One of the New Testament orders; one who will do for the North-west what Isa. Wallace has done for the Maritime Provinces. Stay by the work year after year until his old age is crowned with glory. The fields are white for the harvest.

4. WE NEED THE SYMPATHY AND PRAYERS of all our brethren. This is not work that can be done on hard business lines only. The nervous strain is great and money cannot uphold the depressed spirit. "Prayer moves the arm that moves the world." Pray, brethren, pray.

5. WE NEED MORE MISSIONARIES.
I have travelled for the past three

months in the Maritime Provinces and Ontario and have not found one suitable missionary who offered to settle in the Northwest. "It is too far from home. The winters are too cold and the summers too hot. The fields are too large or too small" &c. So we need men. "Oh where are the called?"

1. WE NEED MEN CALLED OF GOD TO PREACH. Men who believe the Bible is the inspired Word of God, and who have a deep experimental knowledge of its saving power and a burning zeal to preach it to perishing souls.

2. WE NEED EDUCATED MEN. The grain grows strong in the west and a blunt scythe makes slow and scraggy work. Not necessary to have a B. A. or B. E. or D. D., but an education is essential. The missionary cannot teach what he does not know. (a) He must have a good English education, (b) He must know the Bible well. (c) He must know how to pray.

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REV. H. G. MELLICK,
Corresponding Secretary and Superintendent of Missions.

Long before the canvass was completed it became apparent that the means for building the Winnipeg place of worship were forthcoming; so in the early summer the contract was let and advancement made in the building, which was subsequently completed during the same season.

It was not till February 7th, 1875, that the First Baptist church of Winnipeg was organized. Its constituent members, all told, numbered seven.

In October, 1876, the church at Emerson was organized with a membership of seven, of which Rev. D. McCaul took the oversight, he having moved into the country in 1874.

In the latter part of June, 1878, Revs. John Stewart and Alex. Warren immigrated into Manitoba.

The latter part of May, 1887, Mr. A. C. Turner, a converted Roman Catholic priest, with his wife, came to Winnipeg from the Province of Quebec. He was ordained to the work of the ministry, and took the oversight of the interest at Portage la Prairie and High Bluff.

During this year also, the church at Winnipeg, which hitherto had been partly sustained by friends in the east, became self-sustaining, and the pioneer missionary devoted his exclusive time to the cause in Winnipeg city.

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2. WE NEED EDUCATED MEN. The grain grows strong in the west and a blunt scythe makes slow and scraggy work. Not necessary to have a B. A. or B. E. or D. D., but an education is essential. The missionary cannot teach what he does not know. (a) He must have a good English education, (b) He must know the Bible well. (c) He must know how to pray.

3. WE NEED MEN OF EXPERIENCE and good judgment. (Common sense) The foundations of a mighty empire are being laid, and the work assigned the