

ion, much more good could be done if we had a home to train the rising generation. An institution of that kind is greatly needed. On this river there are a number of children around us who would be glad of an opportunity to enter school.

Naas Mission.—Acting under the direction of our chairman, we left Bella Bella about the first of October, and came here to take charge of the work on the Naas Mission. On our arrival we found the majority of the people preparing to go up the river to Kit-wan-silth and Kit-lach-damux to a heathen feast and potlatch. The feast and the potlatch are the greatest hindrance to the progress of Christianity among the Indians. The people from our Christian villages cannot attend those festivities and mingle with the heathen in their homes without becoming very weak spiritually, while the debaucheries of such occasions increase their sinful passions and promote disease and death among them. Our people returned in November without any spiritual vigor, and not much desire to attend the means of grace. However, later on the public services were very well attended. Their interest in the Sabbath-school and their desire to study God's word increased, while some expressed a wish to live better lives. The population of Greenville has decreased so much during the past five or six years that it almost seems that in a very few years the place will not be worthy of the name of a village. This has affected the few people who remain to such an extent that they have lost their interest in the future prosperity of their village. They look back on the time when they first began, when their hearts were warm and their houses filled with new arrivals from heathenism. They compare the past with the present, and as they look upon the houses whose inmates have gone to swell the ranks of heathenism and death, their Indian nature leads them to indifference and despair. Their refusal to pay the balance of their subscription to the new church and to subscribe to the missionary fund, has been a cause of much spiritual decline.

R. B. BEAVIS.

Essington, B.C.—The period since my return to Skeena has been one of the most interesting in our missionary life. On the part of the people greater earnestness and zeal in the cause of Christ and far less inclination to border on the lines of their old life have been clearly manifest. The prospects that lie before the Christian seem brighter to the people, for we have heard the expression, "I cannot look back, I must go forward in the way of life." What we desire is that the people shall cut down the bridge lying between their old and the new life, so that it be impossible for them to retreat. These people are exposed to terrible temptations on almost every hand. There are those who, for the love of money, will sell that which degrades the man to the lowest level, caring not if both body and soul be lost and the Indian race become extinct, provided they can profit in passing. We have had to withstand this class of illicit traffickers in human blood. Death has taken away some of our numbers during the year, one a fine lad of fifteen years. I first knew this boy seven years ago. Since then I do not remember hearing him say a bad word or know him do a mean act. When in health he was usually present at the regular meetings of the children's class. He always

gave a clear testimony of his trust in the Saviour. Just before dying he asked the missionaries to sing. While they sang, he seemed to realize the presence of his Saviour, and exclaimed, "Jesus! Jesus!" and so passed away. A pleasing thought in connection with this boy is the spirit of resignation which his father and mother have shown in the loss of their only son. They have said, "Thy will be done on earth as it is done in heaven." Too often when Tsimshian parents lose their children by death they absent themselves from the house of God a long time; but the father of this lad, attended the regular prayer-meeting on the very day his son was buried and took part in the exercises. Our Sabbath-school has been well attended. It is now divided into classes, with native and white teachers. The scholars readily commit to memory passages of Scripture and the first catechism. Our day school, in care of Miss Tranter, has been well attended, and the pupils are making progress in the study of English. The attendance at both the class and the prayer-meeting has been most encouraging. Notwithstanding removals and deaths, we are able to report a small increase. The outlook on this mission is hopeful.

D. JENNINGS.

Bella Bella Mission.—The ordinary meetings of the Sabbath and week nights were exceedingly well attended. Nearly every family was represented every Sabbath by one or more, and often the whole family attended the morning and evening services. Our Sabbath morning prayer-meetings were often blessed seasons. Eighteen to twenty have, at times, engaged in prayer in one of these services. The Wednesday night class held in the school-house was also largely attended, and were very earnest meetings. We cannot report any special revival, but trust that the good seed sown from God's Word may spring into life. A few have testified to being strengthened and edified. There has been a very interesting Sunday-school every Sunday afternoon. Over forty children have, at times, gathered in the mission-house for religious instruction. If a lady teacher were here to take the day and Sabbath-school, we might hope for much improvement from the rising generation. The Kokite people moved here in a body, except a couple of small families, last fall. These people had their village burnt down last summer, while they were away working at the canneries. It was the turning point for them. They had long been receiving Christian instruction by visits of missionaries and from constant mingling with the Bella Bella people, but had never given up their heathenism. They have, however, thrown it all over now. Settling here brings them under constant religious influences, and we look for conversions amongst them ere long. Bro. Brett writes from Rivers Inlet that he has had a prosperous year. Though saddened by the backsliding of some who had been numbered with us, we rejoice that three had left their heathenism and joined us. Immorality, gambling, and the use of intoxicating drinks greatly degrade these people, and although efforts have been put forth to check these sins, they are still prevalent. A day school has been kept open part of the year, but the parents take so little interest whether the children attend or not, that it was impossible to always have school open. A small church at Wanuck cannery was erected.