

you acquainted with my present views, and act as the good Providence of God shall appear to direct.

Since writing the foregoing, I have had some further conversation with the gentlemen respecting my residence during the winter; and find, that in consequence of the greater abundance of provision in the neighbourhood of Big River, the Indians connected with that post, who are very numerous, pay many visits to it during the winter; while at other places they are dispersed over their hunting grounds; so that by taking up my residence there, I should have access to them at a time when it could not be obtained to any others. In addition to this, I find that favourable opportunities for acquiring the language would be enjoyed, while the summer season would be at my own disposal, for the purpose of visiting other places; and as some Esquimaux visited the post in the spring of this year, it is most probable that a second visit will be paid at the close of the ensuing winter—which would enable me, if present, to speak words to them whereby they may be saved. Most of the party mentioned had never before seen an European. These considerations have almost induced me to resolve on taking up my winter quarters at Big River.

My want of acquaintance with the country, and the circumstances of the natives at other places, necessarily renders me uncertain what steps to pursue; and, sometimes, after coming to a conclusion on the best course to adopt, some statement which I had not previously known, effects an entire change in my views, as it has done in reference to the subject just mentioned. I trust, however, that God will incline me to adopt that course eventually, which will be most conducive to the advancement of his glory in the accomplishment of his gracious purposes; this I wish, and by his grace am resolved to consult. I believe, that

"By his unerring Spirit led,
I shall not in the desert stray;
I shall not full direction need,
Nor miss my providential way."

Extracts from Mr. Burdley's Journal.

I COMMENCED my operations amongst the Indians on the morning of

Friday, June 12th, 1810, about half-past eleven, A.M., by meeting about fifty of them. I explained the great object of my mission. I told them it was customary in my country, when we met to speak and hear about the Great Spirit, to commence by asking him to afford us help, and accordingly offered up a short prayer, as simply as possible, pausing at intervals, that it might be interpreted. After telling them of the sympathy of British Christians, and that it was a book, which the Great Spirit had caused to be written, that had taught them to send me, in order that the Indians might feel the same love to each other, and be happy in feeling that the Great Spirit loved them; I endeavoured to show them that the bible was worthy of their attention, by adducing its evidence in as plain and familiar a manner as possible. My observations were almost entirely confined to the evidences of, and happy effects produced by, the sacred volume; because my aim was rather to fix upon their minds a sense of its importance, and excite a spirit of inquiry, than at once to gratify such enquiry, or even anticipate its necessity. I was pleased to observe the degree of attention and order, which was better than could have been expected, considering that this was the first time of their attending the public and scriptural worship of God.

15th.—Arrangements having been completed for commencing the school, this part of my duty was, for the first time, undertaken to-day. I devoted an hour and a half in the forenoon to this exercise; and, from the apparent anxiety of the pupils to learn, have considerable hope that good will result from the establishment of it. The subject of instruction to the Indians was, "the attributes of God;" and I informed them of the happiness I should feel in giving explanations of any thing which might not be clear to their apprehensions. To me the group, as they retired, was an interesting sight; and while I gazed upon them, I lifted up my heart to God for his blessing upon the instruction communicated.

18th.—I assembled the Indians, and discoursed to them on the original state of man, urging them

to think of the vast difference between his present and former condition, and tried to improve the account of the first man's formation, by pressing on their attention, 1. The sinfulness of polygamy, which, in a few instances, prevails among them. 2. The claim of wives on the affection and protection of their husbands. 3. The kindness, obedience, and fidelity which are required of the wife. Looking upon them as they slowly moved from the place of meeting, my mind was forcibly struck with the inquiry, J. r. xiii. 20: "Where is the flock that was given thee, thy beautiful flock?" and as I felt its force, I prayed that, in order cheerfully to answer the question satisfactorily, when my work should be completed, I might be endowed with wisdom, power, and fidelity.

Sunday, 21st.—After the regular English services, I went further in my proceedings with the Indians than I had previously done, and introduced to them an account of the birth, life, death, resurrection, and offices of Jesus Christ. Before the service commenced, two or three of them, addressing the interpreter, said, they very much wished to understand; the rest expressed a participation in the same desire. To me this was cheering and delightful. May the Lord carry on the work which appears to be commenced! I should be glad if some means could be adopted for instructing the Indian children; but this appears at present quite impracticable, from the unsettled life they are compelled to lead.

22d.—Some canoes from Abittibi and Grand Lake having arrived, we had a large influx of strange Indians, most of them professedly Romanists; our own Indians are almost all absent; but I purpose meeting the new comers, and endeavouring to make them acquainted with real Christianity during their stay.

Sunday, 28th.—Previously to the commencement of the service, my interpreter informed me that the subject of last Sunday's address had frequently formed the topic of conversation during the week among the natives, and that he had often been called upon to give some further explanations of what he had interpreted. I was thankful to hear this, although I have to regret their diffidence when in my presence. I find it almost impossible to elicit an answer to any question.

July 1st.—The vessel from Albany, a port about one hundred miles north-west from this, having arrived to-day, I resolved to accompany it on its return, although led to suppose that, probably, not many Indians would be found there, reflecting, 1. That though the number of people might be small, if they were affected by what they heard, they might be instrumental of much good, in telling others what they had learned; 2. That as Christ had not yet been named there, so favourable an opportunity of penetrating into the regions beyond, ought not to be neglected; and, 3. That perhaps other engagements might prevent my visiting it next year. Consequently, on the

21.—I took leave of my scholars and Indians, feeling more than I could have expected from so short an acquaintance.

3d.—I embarked. During the voyage we had fair weather, but not very propitious gales; so that our progress was not very rapid. During our voyage, at one period, when a great distance from land, our vessel suddenly struck with considerable force against a sunken reef; but, as the weather was calm, and the tide flowing, we were soon afloat again, without sustaining any injury.

6th.—I was both surprised and gratified to meet about thirty Indians, including men, women, and youths of both sexes; the period of their stay was uncertain; and, anxious to teach them as much as possible of the Gospel of peace, I set before these wanderers a concise summary of its facts and doctrines. Much surprise, and some interest, were evidently excited in their breasts by the strange things which had come to their ears. It was gratifying also to see most of the females belonging to the establishment present—the greater part of whom had never, until now, heard that Gospel which must eternally become familiar to the ears of every nation, and people, and tongue. I found it a season of refreshing to my own soul; and I was deeply impressed with the solemn thought, that although unseen by us, the inhabitants of another world, in their various orders, and with very opposite feelings, were intently gazing on this first attempt to build the old wastes, and

spread spiritual fertility over the desolations of many generations.

10th.—To my great satisfaction, I was informed that the Indians had frequently expressed a strong desire to comprehend all I said, and regretted the necessity of employing an interpreter. This was particularly the case with an old man, known by the name of Laughing Willie. "O," exclaimed he, "how foolish I was not to learn English when I was young; I should have now been able to understand every thing that is said just as it is told us;" and he appeared to think, that perhaps it was not even now too late.

14th.—As the Indians were making preparations for their departure, I again met them, and took an affectionate leave of them, shaking hands with each one as he departed, praying that the small spark which has been kindled may be fanned into a mighty flame. One of my hearers on this occasion, had only arrived on the previous evening. His features at once struck me as exhibiting ferocity and cunning, and I was informed that his hands had been imbrued in blood more than once. As this was made known to me before the service, I endeavoured to make him feel, by adapting my observations to his case.

On one occasion, after I had been setting before them the intellectual and moral perfection of Adam, I promised to make known, on the following afternoon, the manner in which he fell. This awakened their curiosity, and I understood that they were remarking to each other, "Now we shall know how such and such a one became wicked;" each person, I suppose, fixing his eye on some individual with whose evil deeds he had a more particular acquaintance. No doubt the person just mentioned was included in the number.

23d.—As many of the Indians had returned in order to commence hay-making, I had an unexpected opportunity of once more collecting them together; and, addressing them on the nature and necessity of repentance, I endeavoured to leave a deep impression on their minds, of the vast importance of those truths to which they had listened; and about half-past five, P.M., I bade adieu to Albany. I believe my departure was regretted by all the people.

I have now given you a brief sketch of my labours at the two establishments already visited. I have laboured under very many and great disadvantages from want of acquaintance with the language; but I hope that, by the Lord's blessing on my endeavours to overcome this difficulty, which is I think the principal one, I shall have a more interesting report to make when I next have the happiness to correspond with you, should the Lord be pleased to spare me. It will not, however, I think, be possible to visit all the principal posts even during any one year, while there is but one Missionary in the southern department of this vast territory. I am, as far as human counsel, sympathy, and help are concerned, quite alone; and the vastness of the work is almost enough to discourage a far stronger mind, and much more fervent piety, than mine. Knowing the urgent requests which pour in from other parts of the world, and the great expense of existing Missions, I scarcely dare ask for a second Missionary here—but hope the subject will be taken into consideration, and that, among the subjects of Christian benevolence and beneficence, the poor Crees of Hudson's Bay will not be forgotten.

We have received, per last mail, a copy of the Missionary Notices for March. The intelligence is chiefly from the Missions in South Africa and the West Indies.

The Missions in Namaqualand, Albany and Kaffraria appear to be in an encouraging state.

WEST INDIES.—The St. Vincent's District, including the islands of St. Vincent's, Grenada, Trinidad, and Tobago, exhibits a degree of spiritual prosperity highly encouraging.

It is pleasing to learn from Mr. Brown's letter, that the Charribs of St. Vincent's, almost the only remnant in the West India islands of their original inhabitants who have survived the effects of European cupidity and violence, are disposed to receive with attention and gratitude the instructions of a Christian Missionary. Surely the means should not be wanting for thus compensating, to these their representatives, the fatal wrongs inflicted on their race.