

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

FORT SIMPSON.

Visit of the REV. WILLIAM POLLARD, Chairman of the British Columbia District.

We left Victoria about 4 o'clock A.M., on the 3rd April, and reached Fort Simpson at 8 o'clock on Wednesday morning—making the trip in about four days. Most of the Indians were away at the Naas River catching small fish, or oolahans. This is the great fishing season with the Tsimpshans and Naskahs or Naas Indians. The oolahan, which is a little larger than a smelt, is a salt water fish which comes up this river to spawn, and they are so abundant that the Indians take hundreds of tons of them in one season. They constitute their staple food for the year; they use them in every conceivable form, and for almost all purposes. The first catch they generally use for making oil or grease; the second run, which includes chiefly the male fish, (which is plump and hard,) they salt or dry, and what they do not need for their own use they trade with the other tribes and with the white people. The oolahan is a general favourite; it is exceedingly rich and oily, and, when properly salted, is very delicious, and finds a ready market. The grease is used by the natives as butter and for all cooking purposes. This fish is to the Tsimpshans, what the dog fish is to the Hydahs on Queen Charlotte Island, and the salmon to the Indians on the Fraser—it is the principal source of their wealth.

Mr. Crosby was quite poorly from cold. He had just returned from the fishing station, where he had been exposed to the severe weather, and was suffering from the effects. Mrs. Crosby and baby were well, and all were in good spirits. The mission house stands on the side of the mountain, about a quarter of a mile from the beach, is prettily situated, and presents a good appearance as you enter the harbor. It is built of wood, and

was put up by the Indians under Mr. Crosby's direction. It has four rooms on the ground floor and two up stairs, which are not finished, and a kitchen and woodshed behind the main building. The house is conveniently arranged and quite comfortable. We are indebted to Thos. Trounce, Esq., architect in Victoria, for the plans and specifications both of the house and of the church, who presented them as his subscription to the mission. We take this opportunity of expressing our thanks to Mr. Trounce for his liberality, especially as these are not the only instances in which he rendered material service to the Church in this Province. Mr. Crosby has worked hard himself, and everything has been done in the most economical way.

The Day-school is in a most encouraging state. The registry shows that the number of pupils in attendance is 278. Three teachers are daily engaged in this work. In consequence of the large number of scholars, and the smallness of the school-house, they have been necessitated to teach the adults on one part of the day, and the children the other, and they find they have quite as much as they can do to teach one-half of them at a time. The efficient state of the school is no doubt owing, in a great measure, to the energy and wisdom of Mrs. Crosby, who, from the time of her arrival at the Fort, has taken a deep interest in training the native mind, and having had such a thorough training herself, she was especially qualified to give it the best possible shape. Mr. Angus McKenzie is now in charge of the school, and is assisted by Alfred Dudoward and his wife.

The site for the church has been well selected and will soon be ready for the foundation. The blocks and