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A MONTHLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO MISSIONS.

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Rev. E. Scott, New Glasgow, Nova Scotia.

The meeting of the Assembly in Winnipeg brings before us the rapid growth of the church in the North West. Before 1870 Winnipeg had no existence. About that time a Presbytery of Manitoba was formed consisting of four ministers, one of whom was a missionary to the Indians, and there were only eight or nine places in all the North West where the Gospel was preached.

Now there is a *Synod*, with four Presbyteries, *fifty-seven* ordained ministers, *fifty-four* other missionaries, and the gospel preached at *three hundred and fifty-one* different points. In addition to this there are four ordained missionaries and ten other laborers working among the Indians.

The meeting of the General Assembly at either extreme of the church is not to be commended. It is attended with great expense and loss of time. The meetings should be held as nearly as possible in the centre of the church and the expense should be equally borne by those living near and those more remote. The injustice of the present system to the parts of the church more remote from the centre can only be remedied by a mileage fund.

An occasional meeting of Assembly in the Maritime Provinces does not equalize the expense, for it means that each Lower Province delegate goes West five or six times for every time an Upper Province delegate comes East.

Martyr times and churches have, for the most part the halo of antiquity about them and looking at them through the mists of generations or centuries, we say: "There were giants in those days." But from Central Africa comes a story of trial and triumph as thrilling as ever has been told. Mtesa, king of Uganda, one of the leading potentates in Central Africa, though a heathen himself, welcomed the missionaries of the Church Missionary Society and gave full liberty of worship. The mission prospered. Upwards of a year since Mtesa died and his son Mwanga, being largely influenced by his chief men some of whom were hostile to the Gospel began a bitter persecution of the native Christians. On one occasion as many as thirty-two, many of them hacked and mutilated in a shocking manner, were burnt in one funeral pyre. Until their tongues were stilled in death they sang their hymns of praise, and although the persecution at latest accounts was still carried on, the good work was not stopped. The fortitude of the sufferers shewed the reality of what they had, and others were drawn to the Saviour, and at last accounts quite a number of baptisms had taken place. It is the same old gospel that made Stephen rejoice in his death, that made Paul and Silas sing songs of praise in the dungeon cell at Philippi, and that has sustained the children of God in every age. Truly He is mighty to save. That old gospel has lost none of its power and that latest martyr church in Central Africa takes its place worthily beside the churches of other ages who have come out of great tribulation and have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.