

and half-breeds, and it was amongst them that the work first began; for, though something had been done in the way of education by the Hudson's Bay Company, great was the ignorance and irreligion that existed. Mr. West's labours were, however, blessed amongst them. Those who were willing to learn were instructed; and a school was opened for the young people, which promised some encouragement. But it was over the *Native* Indians his heart yearned; and his first effort for them was, to try and entreat some of the parents to give up their children to him to train and educate, with the hope of eventually forming a school for these poor children of the plains and forests. Mr. West's difficulties were very great in persuading any of the Indians to send their children to him—they could not understand his objects; but, after patient endeavours, he at length obtained three boys; the friends of one boy saying, "As Mr. West had been sent by *the Great Spirit*, they could refuse him nothing." The Committee of the Church Missionary Society were now determined to make a beginning, and to take up their first Station at the Red River Settlement; and the Rev. D. T. Jones was appointed to go out as the Missionary. Mr. West returned to England in 1823, but before leaving the country he had the happiness of baptizing four of these boys; of seeing a small wooden church erected, with a schoolroom and both fairly attended; and some real conversions to God amongst the people; so that by the time Mr. Jones arrived, in 1823, the first difficulties had been partially overcome.

The congregation and school went on favourably, and in 1825 another church was built,