

interpreter, as it is never safe for fewer than *three* to travel in company in these wild wastes; and there must always be more horses in summer, and dogs in winter than there are men in the company.

2. The Indians do not cultivate the soil, hence a mission establishment must have working oxen attached to it as well as other means of agriculture.

3. It is necessary to send from time to time far into the plains for provisions (i. e. buffalo meat and pemican,) and a good many horses, and oxen or dogs, as the case may be, are required for this service.

The expense of a mission is increased by the fact that all the supplies that cannot be raised at the station, or brought from the plains, must be sent from this Settlement, and such supplies, (consisting of groceries, clothing, hardware, ammunition, &c.) are imported from Britain and the United States. Besides, you cannot get work done without payment. The Indians are not like the natives of the South Sea Islands, they know all about hiring and paying wages. Many of them are employed by the H. B. Co. and private traders and travellers.

Perhaps the Committee may think that an exclusively *itinerant* mission might be sufficient at the outset. Mr. Woolsey acted on that plan for several years, but he and all the other missionaries are of the opinion that to effect permanent results among the Indians, you must have a station, and try to induce them to settle it and cultivate the soil, and allow the young people to attend school, while for a long time it may be necessary for the able-bodied of them to go out to their periodical hunts.

We are far from saying that it would be useless to appoint an itinerant missionary alone at the outset, but if the work is to be well done there should be a station at once, and even an itinerant missionary must provide some place of residence for himself where he might abide at the period between the hunts. Perhaps from £300 to £350 per annum, would sustain such a missionary with an interpreter, and enable him to hire such guides as he may require from time to time.

While it may be necessary for the missionary to keep a stock of useful articles on hand we would not advise the adoption of the practice of *giving away* such property to the Indians, except for work done, or provisions supplied by him, cases of sickness and infirmity, of course, always excepted.

In establishing schools the parents might be expected to supply provisions for the children, but clothing and school materials would require to be furnished by the mission.

Now, I have done. May the Good Lord direct the counsels of the Committee, and may they be led to such conclusions as shall be glorifying to His name, and be productive of permanent good to the wandering tribes of this great land.

Mr. Woolsey sends a specimen of printing in the syllabic characters, to which he has added a key or *alphabet*. He left us a week ago and should be in Canada about as soon this letter.

With kindest regards, in which Mr. Black joins.

I am your fellow labourer,
JAMES NISBET.

MISSIONS OF THE UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Intelligence in last month's *Record* of the United Presbyterian Church is interesting and encouraging. In India the machinery for the fourth station—Todgurh—is in working order, and the prospects are cheering. In China the mission work is resumed by Dr. John Parker, medical missionary. In old Calabar the work is not without encouragement. In Old Town the attendance on ordinances is good, and efforts are being made to secure the attendance of the children at school. At Duke Town too the usual meetings are larger than usual, which the missionary takes as a token for good.