

house, and the cowardly mob set upon and savagely beat him. He might have been murdered, but for some going to his assistance, and driving off the Papists.

These statements, to many unacquainted with the conduct of the Romish priesthood in this part of the world, may appear improbable or exaggerated; yet they are plain, uncoloured representations of facts—of events occurring at the present day, and only a few instances out of many. Some will say, No civilized Government would suffer such proceedings in a country held under its jurisdiction. It is indeed astounding, but nevertheless true, that the authorities, whose duty it is to prevent such outrages, not only suffer them, but evidently connive at and encourage their perpetration. His Imperial Majesty's just and equitable order is most reluctantly submitted to, where it is not entirely evaded; and although the Governor is prevented carrying out his aggressive and destructive policy, yet if others can prosecute what he initiated, without directly involving him, no doubt he is content to allow them power and liberty to do so. It may not be Protestantism that is so obnoxious to him as the residence of English missionaries in the colony. It should be remembered our mission existed here before the islands were taken by the French; and before a Roman Catholic priest ventured upon them, our brave pioneer missionaries, the native teachers, were martyred here. We must retain our position among our flocks gathered out from the heathen, whatever may be the cost, or however violent and active the opposition against us.

I am thankful to be able to add, in conclusion, that God has abundantly blessed our labours on Uea, and sustained his cause against all the powers that have been brought to oppose it. Our people have all continued firm and steadfast, under most cruel and oppressive persecution. Notwithstanding that they plainly see (as plainly revealed) that as Protestants they are cut off from all favour with the authorities, virtually outlawed, and exposed to persecution and wrong on every side, yet they brave all, and faithfully hold the Word of Truth in which they have been instructed. The population of Uea is under 2,000. Upwards of 1,000 of these are Protestants, 80 are church members, and 150 candidates for admission to the church. The population of the other islands of the group is much larger. There our brethren have laboured for many years with very encouraging success. You are well acquainted with the proceedings on Lifu. On Mare, the Governor forbade our missionaries extending their operations among the remaining heathen; but he has just permitted two

Romish priests to go there, in opposition to the wish of the people.

In placing these particulars before your many earnest readers, I ask for their sympathies and prayers, in their private and public engagements to bear the condition of the Loyalty Islands mission in remembrance. "Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the Word of the Lord may have free course and be glorified, even as it is with you; and that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men."

PRESBYTERIANISM IN THE RED RIVER REGION.

At the last meeting of the Canada Presbyterian Synod, Rev. JOHN BLACK, the pioneer labourer in the Red River Settlement, gave the Synod a sketch of the present state and prospects of religion there. He had been there 16 years: when he went out, the Canada Synod consisted of but 23 ministers: now the number is ten fold.

The Red River Colony is in the centre of British America—latitude 50; longitude 97. From that to Toronto, by the road which was travelled, was 1,400 or 1,450 miles. In 1851, when he went there, the journey took fifty days. His recent journey from the Settlement to Toronto took fifteen days. Three-fourths of this being by railway and steamboat, it could be seen that the distance was great. The country was watered by the Red River, the Saskatchewan and the Winnipeg. In the centre of the large basin of these rivers was Lake Winnipeg, which received the waters from the north end of that lake and passed out the great Nelson River, which carried its waters into Hudson's Bay. The country from the Red River to the Rocky Mountains was one vast plain, plentifully watered but only sparsely supplied with wood. Upon the Red River and the Assiniboine, the settlers have established themselves. It was a rich, fertile country and produced great abundance of grain.

The Colony is about sixty years old. Its present population is about 10,000, and divided into various classes. At the North end, near Lake Winnipeg, there was a very considerable settlement of Christian Indians under the care of two missionaries of the Church of England, one an Englishman and the other a full blooded Indian. The latter, as well as the former, was received everywhere with great favour. Coming further South, there was a large body of settlers, principally of mixed blood, and it was there that Mr. Matheson's field of labour and place of residence was. Further South