

RELIGIOUS FESTIVALS.

Our holiday services were well attended, and with peculiar feelings we entered upon the New-year. The past has been one of unprecedented suffering: a three-fold scourge—war, pestilence, and famine—has been upon us. In view of these calamities, many were the earnest prayers offered, that, as our country was now entering upon a new epoch, the New-year might be one of blessings—both spiritual and temporal.

WEALTH IN THE COUNTRY.

There is now a prospect of a gold excitement on the North Saskatchewan. It is reported that last summer rich diggings were discovered on the North Branch, and a number of miners are prepared to start on the 1st of April. Gold-bearing quartz has been discovered in the neighbourhood of Bow River, and a reliable party informs me, that, if a treaty could be made with the Blackfeet, he has already discovered diggings, sufficiently rich, to bring thousands into the country. And if there was security for life and property, I could, from personal observation, say to the young men of Ontario, there is no necessity for crossing the mountains to seek for the precious metal; we have plenty of it here. The development of the mines will, without doubt, increase our labors and responsibilities. May the Lord help us to do our duty!

MURDERS BY THE BLACKFEET.

A messenger has arrived at Victoria, informing us that over two hundred Crees were killed by the Blackfeet, at Belly River, where the Americans have a trading-post this winter. The Crees were drawn into an ambush and shot down while attempting to swim the river.

MISSIONARY JOURNEYS.

The enclosed note will inform you as to where John is. He left for Edmonton last week, hoping to meet Mr. Campbell, and arrange for a month's sojourn among the Mountain Stoney. He has heard that Bro. Campbell is sick, and that a number of the Stoney were at the Mission; and feels it his duty to go on. My dear boy has never fully recovered from the small-pox, and I fear that his zeal may be greater than his strength. Our plans, at present, are (D.V.) to have John start in early spring for the Mountains, and select some point where, until some settlement is made with the Blackfeet, he can act upon them and the Stoney at the same time. We all regret that John has not been ordained, as he often visits bands of Indians which no ordained minister has seen for years. I regret that he has not been able to reach home, as he possesses important and interesting information, which I cannot get possession of to forward.

EDMONTON HOUSE AND WOODVILLE.

Letter from the Rev. P. CAMPBELL, dated Jan. 4th, 1871.

The past summer has been one of unusual anxiety and trial. We were in dread lest the small-pox, that swept like a desolating storm over the entire country, scattering woe and death through the various tribes, might also come to this Mission. The Mountain Stoney were afflicted by this fearful scourge early in the summer, and immediately many of the afflicted ones began to pitch towards this Mission. We were apprized of their coming, and anxiously awaited the issue. If we had been fortunate enough to have plenty of medicine on hand, our fears

would not have been so great; but since my coming to this Mission we have not been favored with any gifts of that kind, and what I brought from Canada for my own use, was long since given to the sick Stoney.

We knew there was only One who could deliver us from the threatened visitation, and to Him we directed our prayer, remembering the promise given to them who make the Lord, even the Most High, their refuge, and earnestly besought deliverance from the "pestilence that walketh in darkness, and the destruction that wasteth at noon-day."