

wards, on what looked like the scattered contents of the bag of some enterprising Jew in the old-clothes business ; making a mental calculation of whether I might not possibly get to sleep before the insect population succeeded in turning the corner. I possessed two advantages, one that I was in the remotest corner from the blazing fire that roared up the mud chimney, and the other, that one of the two cotton covered windows was at my bedside, with at least a suggestion of fresh air. From this vantage ground I could survey the general arrangements. The owner of the house, an elderly Indian and his wife had a low bedstead on one side of the chimney, a son-in-law, his wife and child occupied the other side. A third family group had the space between my host's quarters and mine, whilst a bedstead on the other side of the door was allotted to my two travelling companions and another young fellow. The middle of the floor when not required to do duty as a table for meals, served as a resting place for a long, lanky boy. The rafters were so low that one could stow things handily upon them. Sixteen fish were being thawed for the dogs on a rack over the fire. This combination added to the fact that every man and boy, also two of the women, smoked, will give some faint idea of the density of the atmosphere. After supper I drew out my syllabic book ; I did not as yet know whether these people were heathen or Romanists ; at once a general interest seemed aroused, a piece of candle was produced, Colin and two of the young fellows squatted on the ground by my side to share in the candle light and look over C's. book. I found that they knew some of our hymns and tunes and had come in contact with our Missionaries at White Fish Lake, and I spent a most pleasant and profitable time with them.

Two days quicker travelling, with a better track, brought us to White Fish Lake. Mr. A. S. White, is in temporary charge during the absence of his brother, the Rev. W. G. White, at Lesser Slave Lake.

I was cordially welcomed by the Indians attached to this Mission, and that evening and the morning of the following day were occupied by seeing and talking with those who came to see me. In the afternoon whilst visiting the houses near our Mission, we were much struck by the contrast they presented in point of cleanliness to those belonging to Indians not under Christian influence.

The following morning, accompanied by A. S. White, we started for Lesser Slave Lake, a distance of 40 miles. The trail was fairly good and we reached our Mission there about two hours after dark. Twenty-eight boarders are being trained here. The Rev. W. G. White, who is in charge during the Rev. G.

Holmes furlough in England, has everything well in hand and in good order, both he and his wife taking a warm interest in the spiritual and temporal welfare of the children in the school. Miss Durnal is most conscientious in the performance of her duties as matron, and the children under her charge look bright and well. It was pleasant to mark the spirit with which the Indian boys threw themselves into foot-ball, giving the staff and me, in the two games in which we joined, plenty to do. Most of the families attached to this Mission were away trapping and hunting, two were on their way in for the Sunday I was there, but lost some of their dogs and were unable to reach the Mission before Monday evening. I confirmed some of the older pupils on the Sunday, and held a school examination during the following week, showing a fair amount of progress under Mr. D. Curry's painstaking care.

I had postponed spending a Sunday at White Fish Lake until my return journey. A deeply interesting incident occurred during this second visit, the sequel to which has only just come to my knowledge. While visiting one of the unbaptised Indians, who had, however, with his wife frequently attended the services, Mr. White, who was with me, noticed on a ledge near the chimney an idol (these are generally kept in the background) ; before we left he observed that it had been covered up. No remark was made at the time, but this led me on the following Sunday to address them, taking for my subject the first and second commandments and associating them with the scathing utterances against idols and the gracious invitations to trust in the Lord contained in the 115th Psalm.

The man was seated near me. He grew restless and yet evidently convicted ; sometimes his head was buried in his hands, then he would look up and listen again. Some of the others said, " We did not come to hear these things, let us go." " Nevertheless," I said, " these are true words." At the close of my address, the man, evidently under conviction, spoke thus : They liked our words, they were good ; they liked us, but as for these customs, they were the customs of their fathers before them, and they did not want to give them up. Of course my reply was that their and our fathers had done thus in ignorance, but that they now, like ourselves, knew through God's Word the right way and I warned them of the danger of hearing it and not doing it.

It was with mixed feelings I left the Mission, sorrowing that many still clung to their old superstitions, yet thankful for this collision, feeling sure that it would make them both think and by God's grace arouse their consciences. I have just received letters from the Rev. W. G. White, under date of March 9th. After