

SAMPLES FROM MY NOTE-BOOK.

BY REV. DR. ROBERTSON.

Instances showing the need of H. M. work.

FOUR through mining district when several villages and camps visited.

Village No. 1—Population 750; 1 church (Presbyterian); 15 saloons, open night and day, every day in the week; base play-house, gambling hells, and other stations on the road to perdition. Not one-third of the people attend church.

No. 2—Population 225; no church, no service; one attempted, attendance on first occasion 3, next 1; service discontinued. Manager of real estate company asked for site for a church, he replied, "You cannot serve God and mammon; we are here to serve mammon, and what is the use of humbugging about a church." Service to be started there in spring.

No. 3—Population 1,100; 3 churches; never more than one-tenth of population in church at the same time; 18 drinking places, gambling saloons, and still viler resorts.

No. 4—Population 2,200; 1 church (Presbyterian); 14 saloons, with fouler dens.

No. 5—Reached on Sabbath day; horse-racing that day, with drinking, gambling, and darker deeds attendant on such exhibitions.

In such localities, population largely from mining districts to the south. Capital, miners, trade largely American, about 35 p. c. Canadian. In all these places superior Christian men and women met, the very salt of society; shall we not make it easier for them and others to live honest, sober, and clean lives amidst such uncongenial surroundings? And shall we not extend a hand to raise the fallen? The mineral wealth of British Columbia is attracting capital and population; let us not stay our hand.

Instances showing result of H. M. work.

1—Mission begun in mining village. In 3 years mission self-sustaining, church and manse built, and congregation undertake to contribute annually at least \$250.00 to support a missionary elsewhere.

2—Work begun in another village; people indifferent, some hostile; in three years church costing \$3,000 built, and people contribute \$800 a year for salary.

3—Last spring a missionary sent to a new farming district, far from market and railways. Found about 150 families without any missionary. In the autumn a member of Presbytery dispensed ordinances, and 38 children were baptized and 43 admitted to the full communion of the Church.

4—Mission started in a rural district; three stations; people long neglected; Lord's supper observed at one point, 22 present, who at one time had been communicants in Scotland or

Eastern Canada in the Presbyterian Church, and yet no one felt he could accept the general invitation of the pastor—the past held them back—and the ordinance was celebrated by the missionary and his wife.

5—Mining and ranching locality visited; people found farming 3,500 feet above sea level, with wheat, oats, and barley, ripening. With a notice of a couple of hours, seats were erected in a poplar grove and an audience of 40 gathered. They begged for a Sabbath service, and pleaded for good offices in getting a school for their children. The government interviewed; a school-house to be built next spring, and school started. What about the service?

6—A camp visited. "Do you keep the Lord's Day here?" "Shure an' we would if we only knew what day it was; but nayther prayst nor parson comes here and we get lawst. I have not heard a sermon for thirteen years. An' shure an' the Father of us all will make allowance for fellows like us." We trust He may, but will He make allowance for us if we neglect them?

Salaries in the N. West. The salary now—it used to be higher, in name—of an ordained, unmarried missionary, in the Synod of Manitoba and the North West is \$700—and of a married missionary \$750 and a manse. Of this amount, part is promised by the people and part by the H. M. C. If the people can pay their share, well; if not, the missionary stands to lose. In the past, the missionary could depend on the part of the salary promised by the H. M. C.; it would appear now that this is uncertain as the rest—it is all muskeg—no sure footing. Let me give a few instances. The salary of a catechist was \$600, and one of them with a family paid house rent, kept a horse and supported a family on \$445, another on \$440, and another \$363. One minister paid house rent and supported a family on \$705, another \$468, another 607, another \$542, another \$570, another \$572, and another \$420. The rest of the salary lost. Shall the Church not make the burden lighter for these missionaries?—*Dr. Robertson.*

A Good Investment. Is there any investment of mission money that can show more gratifying results than that spent for home work? Is there any investment that promises larger, surer or speedier returns for the future? Does not patriotism demand that we Canadianize the foreigner, and help to make and keep our land Christian, from ocean to ocean? Are parents with children in the West prepared to leave them to blighting and blasting forces? Are not our young people jealous for the good name of their native land? Are we not all our brother's keeper? If souls are lost shall our skirts be spotless if we hold back? When the facts are known the Church may be expected to meet the need. The love of Christ constrains His people.