

all had perished in the most painful manner; but, during our stay, an Indian came to the fort, to inform the officer that the empty boat was lying on the beach, about six or seven miles to the south of Churchill river. He immediately sent men to the spot, and to search along the coast, for some remains of the bodies of the crew; but not the least appearance of them could be discovered. The boat filled and went down, with the sail set and fastened to the mast, which was the state in which it was found; but whether she struck upon the point of a sunken rock, or swamped at the conflux of the waters off the mouth of the river, at the return of the tide, not a man survived to tell."

In returning to York factory, Mr. West came to a tent of Indians, who were encamped on the shore, for the purpose of killing bears; and in front of the little encampment, he observed the head of one of these animals, which had been recently shot, placed upon some pointed sticks, in expression of some superstitious notions. It seems that these people have a great dread of bears, and are in the habit of wearing necklaces formed of their claws, as amulets or charms to preserve them from their ferocious attacks. "A short time before I left the Red river colony," says our missionary, "an Indian came to my residence with a necklace strung with some large claws; and, being induced to part with it for some tobacco, he addressed it in a very grave speech, when he took it from his neck, and laid it for me on the table, in language to the following effect:—'My grandfather! you and I have been together some time; but we must now part.—Go to that chief; and, in leaving me, be not angry, but let me kill buffalo when I am hungry, and another bear when I meet with it; and then I will make another necklace of the claws.' I smiled at this address; when, looking at me very seriously, he said, 'If you offend the bear (meaning, I suppose, the spirit of the animal whose claws he had given me), the bears will be sure to eat you.'"

Two days after this occurrence, Mr. West arrived in safety at York factory, after having walked, on his return, the supposed distance of one hundred and eighty miles, through a trackless country, abounding in swamps and long grass, and dreadfully infested, in many parts, with mosquitoes. Here he had the pleasure of meeting with the Rev. David T. Jones, who had arrived from England three days before, in his way to the Red river settlement, and with whom a conference was now held on the concerns of the mission. After a few days, Mr. West sailed for his native country, and Mr. Jones proceeded with the two Indian boys, who had been placed under Mr. West's protection, to his place of destination, where

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he arrived on the 14th of October, after a tedious passage, occasioned by what is termed a head wind on the lake.

The Rev. D. T. Jones left England for the purpose of carrying the society's plans into effect; directing his attention, in the first instance, to the settlers and half-breeds, but considering the spiritual welfare of the native Indians as the ulterior object of his labors. A school-house and church having been erected, under the superintendence of Mr. West, it was soon found that they were inadequate to the accommodation of those who were desirous of instruction: in consequence, a second church and school were erected; and, in 1825, the Rev. W. Cockran sailed from England to share in Mr. Jones's labors. The progress of the mission, from the period of its formation to the date of the last report (1832), has been uniformly encouraging. Those vicissitudes, of various kinds, which have proved so trying to the faith and patience of missionaries at other stations, appear to have been, in great measure, unfelt here. The dawn of gospel light seems gradually to rise on the mountains and lakes of North America, slowly indeed, but regularly and in peace, and gives hopes of the speedy arrival of the perfect day.

Three churches have been erected in different parts of the settlement. The settlers and half-breeds, to the amount of eight hundred, were tolerably regular in their attendance on the means of grace. Many seals to a faithful ministry have been granted from each of the above classes; nor are there wanting some few of the native Indians, who worship God in spirit and in truth. To the education of children much attention is paid; and the Sunday schools are well attended. The advantages of daily instruction, however, do not seem to be much valued by the parents. The spiritual state of this interesting church in the wilderness is thus described by Mr. Cockran, in 1829:—

"I think that the pure gospel of Christ is still an interesting subject to those who have made a profession of religion in this settlement. They behold as much beauty, excellency, and true riches in it, and feel as much their need of it, as they did when the Lord first stretched out his arm, and drew them out of the horrible pit, and set their feet on Christ the Rock. With many, religion is viewed as the one thing needful; and other things are, in a great measure, kept in subordination to it, and regarded as good or evil, just as far as they will accelerate or retard the interest of Christ. I believe that our little visible church approaches as near to primitive simplicity and sincerity as any other to be found in any part of the world. The most of them are Bible Chris-