

In conclusion, much,—something at least—may be done by those of us whom God has honored with office in His church, to help the better influences at work, and to counteract the worse. It will be much even if the interests of religion, the interests of man's salvation and of God's glory, are sacred in our eye—are objects of solicitude to our hearts. We have all need, those of us especially who are in the ministry, to cultivate nearness to God, to abound in prayer. It is where we come to our people, directly from God, from prolonged fellowship with Him and devout contemplation of the truths which are seen in His presence, that our words will have power; and that, if the face does not shine, the heart will be inflamed with a degree of devout and holy emotions, which will tend to set other hearts on fire, and to purify other lives.

Missionary Intelligence.

LETTER FROM THE REV. JAMES NISBET.

SIR :—The date reminds me that I may expect the arrival of the winter packet in the course of a few days, and that I ought to have a brief review of the year's work ready to send therewith.

At this time last year we were weak-handed at the mission, two of our principal helpers and their wives being absent on account of ill health. Through the mercy of God they were restored to us during the course of the summer in better health, although not perfectly well; but I am happy to be able to report that they continue to improve, the services of a French doctor, who is now among the French half-breeds who winter at the South Branch of the Saskatchewan, having been beneficial to them.

This year I have not much to report in the way of progress among the *pure* Indians. Preservation from the sad disease which prevailed during 1870 has not had the beneficial effect that we might have expected. The influence of the old men is prejudicial to the work, although they continue to be friendly to us personally.

During the year settlement has progressed much more rapidly than I had anticipated. Nine new homes have been put up, besides outhouses connected with some of them. The population of our settlement is not less than one hundred and sixty-six (166) persons. Of these not more than twenty are pure Europeans, although a considerable number are very nearly so. The majority understand and speak the English language to a greater or less extent, while there are very few who do not speak the Cree language fluently. Seeing that so many understand English I have now the Sabbath morning service in English alone, the attendance is usually about seventy (70), we have Cree in the afternoon, when about fifty (50) attend. There are thirty-seven (37) children of school age.