

Yet the College is languishing for necessary support; and the question whether the College can afford to have a Principal at all—one who devotes his whole time to the work—is perhaps forcing its way to one man's mind where we never want it to enter! Let the very considerable number of churches that have this year *done nothing* for the College, ponder what we say; as well as others who have done much less than they might. *The next three months will determine the question.*

### THE INDIAN MISSION—IMPORTANT.

#### EDITORIAL.

In a visit we made a few days ago to Wiarton, we were startled, at the hospitable home of our good Brother Bolton, at his receiving a telegram, "Mr. Bigcanoe died last night."

None of us had heard of his being seriously sick. Death must have come somewhat suddenly. Mr. Thomas Bigcanoe was recognized as the resident native Congregational missionary at French Bay, Saugeen Reserve, Ont. He had been there a couple of years, was a godly, useful man, and with a growing influence for good among the people to whom he stood in the relation of a pastor.

His family consisted merely of his wife and himself. One grown up son is able to take care of himself. His widow will probably take up her residence among his and her relatives at Georgina Island, Lake Simcoe.

And now the question arises, "Who is to take charge of the Mission?" Evidently what it needs—and which has been felt all the time even that Bigcanoe was there—is that a white missionary and his wife should be among that people: to give them the good example they need, in housekeeping, family life, cultivation of the soil, and general industry and thrift; as well as more direct religious teaching.

And such a man should set himself to learn the Ojibway language. It does not contain a great many hundred roots. It has never been expanded by literary use, or intercourse with the great world beyond; and what seems to us its quaint and wonderful figurativeness, is only a proof of its meagerness—for it has scarcely a term to express abstract ideas, deep thought, or vivid imagination.

This by the way—only as asserting that such a language need not be hard to learn.

Rev. C. E. Bolton of Wiarton, Ont., who is a kind of volunteer superintendent, and a very good friend of the Mission, has been bestirring himself of late to obtain the services of some capable and godly young woman, to act as mission school teacher, and general assistant in the Mission. Now the circumstances are changed. A missionary is wanted, a married man, whose wife would be a counsellor and friend to the Indian women, and who would himself, perhaps with the assistance of a native teacher, oversee the religious education of the young. No city man could be of the first value in such a work; nor would a college training give the special qualifications for the place.

Where is the young married couple, ready to do the Lord's work, and prepared to go to the Saugeen Reserve? It is not out of civilization. The Indians are rising in the scale of refinement and intelligence. They have a post-office seven miles away, and the Government would no doubt establish one at French Bay if petitioned to do so. Each family has a decent log-house to live in, with the ordinary furniture and decencies of civilized life. There are no professed pagans among them. All the young people can read and write. A number of them have each a pair of horses. All of them cultivate more or less land. The Government has had the Reserve surveyed, and is about to give each family 50 acres in fee simple. A resident Government Agent sees that they are not wronged by surrounding settlers. No liquors are allowed to be sold on the Reserve; no white men allowed to live there, except missionaries and teachers. A railway station is within ten miles. A missionary family would have no difficulty in obtaining the use (not the ownership) of 50 acres, among the rest. Lake Huron is within half a mile, and the Indians frequent the shores, and make good use of the fishing season, spring and autumn. A church-building has been erected for many years; and more recently a good brick school house, (with dwelling attached.) The pioneer difficulties are over. Now we want some one to go there, and settle down as spiritual guide, and instructor-general to this people!

### Official Notices.

#### THE REDUCTION OF THE GRANTS.

The Executive Committee met in Kingston, December 17th and 18th. The debt of the C.C.