

## WESLEYAN MISSION AT ROSS-VILLE

IN THE

### HUDSON'S BAY TERRITORIES.

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The Mission Village of Rossville, in the Hudson's Bay Territories is situated about three miles from Norway-House, one of the principal trading establishments of the Hudson's Bay Company, at the northern end of Lake Winnipeg. The Station was commenced in September, 1840, by the late Rev. James Evans. Having selected a site for the erection of Mission-premises and dwelling-houses for the native converts, he found the spot thickly covered with poplars and underwood ; but, with the help of Peter Jacobs, the Native Teacher, aided by the Indians connected with the post, he soon succeeded in clearing the wilderness ; and before the winter set in, ten comfortable houses had been raised, to which a mission house was added by the Honourable Company. The Indians for whose benefit the Station was especially designed, are a part of the Swampy Cree tribe ; some of whom find permanent employment as fishermen, boatmen, and labourers, in the service of the Company, while others procure their subsistence by hunting the fur-bearing animals with which the country abounds, the skins of which they sell to the Company's agents.

Four months previously to the commencement of the Station, the Rev. R. T. Rundle had arrived at the Norway-House on his way to the Saskatchewan district ; and while awaiting the arrival of Mr. Evans, to take charge of the Mission, he opened his commission, by preaching in English to the Company's officers and clerks, and addressed the Indians through the medium of an interpreter. On the first occasion of his proclaiming

the Gospel to the Indians, about one hundred were present, who manifested great attention whilst he unfolded to them the plan of redeeming love. On that very day some of them applied to him for baptism ; but wishing to instruct them further in the things of God, he declined complying with their request for a season. The Indians appeared to be a people prepared of the Lord. Donald Ross, Esq., the Company's officer, the gentleman after whom the village received its name, had taken great pains in endeavors to civilize them ; and he had been evidently rendered very useful in preparing them to receive the word of truth. Before Mr. Evans reached the post, several of the Indians were under deep concern for the salvation of their immortal souls, and one, a female, had been made a happy believer in Jesus. The Indians now came from a distance to hear the word ; and it was no uncommon sight to see groups of penitents, of every age, weeping under the subduing influence of the Spirit's power. Being united in Church fellowship, they steadily advanced in Christian knowledge and piety, and demonstrated to those around, that the grace of God can change the savage into a saint. Simultaneously with his labours in the formation of the village, the efforts of Mr. Evans were directed to the adoption of measures for the still further diffusion of Divine truth. Having invented syllabic characters, by which the reading of the Cree language might be greatly facilitated, he succeeded, after encountering many difficulties, in cutting punches, casting type, and printing,

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