

THE SPIRITUAL FATHER OF MANY.

The Mission work of our Church among the Indians of the Northwest has sustained a great loss in the death of one of our oldest and most successful missionaries, the Rev. John McKay. This sad event took place at Prince Albert, on the 26th of last month. For the last two years Mr. McKay was not in good health. In October last he paid a visit to Winnipeg with the intention of remaining here a few weeks under medical treatment; but the sight of old friends and the scenes of his youth benefitted him so much that after a few days he returned to his mission and resumed his labors among his people. Early in the year, however, he was obliged to give up his duties and go to Prince Albert for medical advice. Here dropsy soon set in, and he gradually grew worse till he sank in death. He leaves a widow and a large family to mourn the loss of a kind husband and affectionate father.

✓ Mr. McKay was connected with our Indian Missions from their beginning at Prince Albert, in 1866, under the Rev. James Nisbet. His whole missionary career was passed in that place and neighborhood. Until Mr. Nisbet's death in 1874 he acted as his interpreter, and thus received under that devoted missionary an excellent training for his future work. After nearly four years of probation, he was ordained in 1878 and placed in charge of the reserve of Chief Mis-ta-wa-sis, whom years before he had been instrumental in leading to the truth. Among the Indians of this band Mr. McKay's labors have been very successful. He found them a band of wild, blanketed nomads; and to-day they are a civilized and Christianized community of fairly comfortable farmers. Most of them—taught by the missionary—are able to read and write in their own language. And they form a good congregation of over 50 communicants, who feel keenly the loss they have sustained.

Mr. McKay was a Scotch half-breed, and a man of more than ordinary ability. He was considered one of the most eloquent orators in Cree—his mother tongue—in the Northwest, and was chosen by the late Governor Morris as his interpreter in negotiating the treaties of Forts Pitt and Carlton in 1876, and used his great influence with the Indians to secure their acceptance of the offers of the Commissioner. His death leaves a gap in our work that will not easily be filled.

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Will ministers to whom this leaflet is sent confer a favor by passing it on, after they have read it, to the Secretary of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, or of any other organization in the congregation devoted to mission work? With a view to sending specimen copies, the editors will be pleased to receive the names of persons likely to be interested in the work the Presbyterian Church is trying to overtake in the West.