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The Meaning of it.

OUR General Assembly will meet in June in the city of Winnipeg. Twenty-five years ago this was a lonely outpost of our Church. Fifty years ago, Presbyterianism in the North-west was represented by a small but faithful band of Scottish Highlanders, who were looking anxiously, but vainly, for a minister from Scotland. It remained for our own Dr. Black to win the honors of a pioneer and to lay the foundations of our Church's work in the North-west. We need not recite the story of the swift march of events—the opening up of the country, the rapid growth of towns and villages, and the multiplying of churches and mission stations. A great deal of work has already been accomplished by our Church in Manitoba and the North-west. The transcontinental railway has opened to us the whole country to the Pacific coast; and in the name of the Lord we have taken possession.

Our Assembly goes to Winnipeg in order duly to recognize the greatness of our mission as an evangelizing agency. We are not the Church of Ontario, or Quebec, or the sea-provinces,—we are the Church of the whole of British North America. It is difficult to appreciate and understand a

country without seeing it. Our heritage extends from sea to sea, and we should be as well acquainted as possible with every part of it.

It is to the future we must mainly look. We are now laying the foundations. By-and-by the college at Winnipeg will be one of the largest and most prosperous in our church. The Synod of Manitoba and the North-west will be one of our strongest Synods. As our people from the older provinces move westward to take possession of these vast territories, they will be met or followed by the ministrations of the church. Happily, there is no danger of a repetition of the sorrowful and trying experiences of the Red River settlement. If our church should fail to do all the people expect of her, it is not for lack of will. The fact of the Assembly meeting here is proof enough of that. The Indians of the Dominion have claims upon us which we have been too slow in recognizing. It is true that the work of teaching them the truth has not been wholly neglected; but we were late in making a commencement, and we have not pressed forward with all the ardor that might be expected from a body like the Presbyterian Church in Canada. We trust that one of the results of our meeting at Winnipeg will be a deeper interest in the evangelization of the Indians.