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THE WESTERN MISSIONARY

Published under the auspices of the Synod, in the interests of Presbyterian Home and Indian Missions.

Vol. II.

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No. 14.

THE DAY DAWNING.

Good news for our home mission field! At the meeting of the Synod just closed at Brandon the following motion on the summer session was moved by Dr. Bryce, seconded by Dr. Robertson, and after full discussion unanimously adopted:

"Whereas, there is throughout Muskoka, Algoma, Manitoba, the Territories, and British Columbia, a loud call to the Presbyterian church from the people of these regions for a supply of gospel ordinances, and

Whereas, it is estimated that no less than seventy important mission fields, including about 200 preaching stations in these districts, in which successful work was done last summer, are vacant during the present winter, and

Whereas it has been urged upon Manitoba College that it may the better serve the interests of Christ's kingdom, by conducting a summer session in theology, during the months of April to August inclusive instead of during the winter months, and may thus provide mission laborers for the winter supply,

Therefore, the Synod of Manitoba and the Northwest Territories declares that should the Senate of the college and the General Assembly approve of the proposed summer session the Synod is in favor of the same, but only on the following conditions: 1. That in addition to the two theological professors at present on the staff of Manitoba College, there shall be appointed, year to year, two lecturers or interim professors from among the professors of the other colleges of the church, or other qualified ministers of the church, who may be willing to undertake such work for the summer.

2. That the course of study in theology of the several colleges shall be made some what uniform, so that a student dropping out for a year of mission work, and then taking his course in the summer session may be able to resume his course in his own college without loss of time.

3. That in addition to the 20 or 25 theological students at present in Manitoba College, the General Assembly shall encourage a sufficient number of others of those in the colleges of the church ready for the 1st, 2nd or 3rd years in theology to give themselves up for a year's mission service and then to take the summer session provided.

4. That to meet the increased expense of the students occupying fields in the winter in the regions named the allowance to those entering upon this scheme shall be \$10 per Sabbath and board.

5 That the general assembly shall provide for Manitoba College the \$1,500 estimated extra amount needed to pay the expenses of the increased staff.

The Synod further instructs the presbyteries of the Synod to take up as soon as possible the consideration of the matter of a summer session, including the scheme now suggested."

OUR ICELANDERS.

Our mission work among these people in Manitoba is very interesting. There must be 6 or 8,000 Icelanders in the west, of whom 2,000 are in Winnipeg. They are chiefly Lutherans, but are threatened with dis-integration as a religious body. The congregation at Gimli the oldest Icelandic settlement in the province, have withdrawn from the Lutheran Synod, being completely honey-combed it is said with Unitarian doctrine. In Winnipeg an Unitarian Icelandic missionary is also at work. The Icelanders are an intelligent people and these signs of difference are what we may expect as they become Canadianized. Our church has for two or three years past by means of an Icelandic agent been doing work amongst them in Winnipeg, and has a commodious church building erected. Some 200 Icelanders are more or less closely attached to us, and the work is advancing. A number of earnest christian converts from this mission as they have gone to other places in Manitoba have connected themselves with our regular congregations. As the Icelanders are becoming much more accessible, it is not unlikely that we may send another missionary to the scattered settlements, where they are much neglected.

A HIGH MISSION.

Up in the Rocky Mountains on the C. P. R. is the station and little town of Canmore. Here during the past summer Mr. John Maxwell, a student of Manitoba College labored faithfully. He had two other stations viz. Kananaskis and Ghost River. His work was chiefly among railway hands, miners from the Anthracite Coal mines, and a few ranchers in the mountains. Mr. Maxwell writes: "In Manitoba one of the chief obstacles to the success of christian work is wheat, but here that can never be an obstacle, for nothing can be grown in the mountains, not even a potato. But, while wheat is no obstacle here, there is another thing, the name of which begins with W, that is an obstacle and that is whiskey. It is prohibited by law, but the quantity of permits seems to destroy the effect of the law. An old gentleman and his wife have been drunk every day for a whole month. This is the worst case I have seen. So much for the obstacles to christian work."

AMISSIARY COLLEGE.

The students in Arts and Theology in Manitoba College are all now back at work again. They are a goodly band of some twenty-five in Theology, and approaching a hundred in Arts. Upwards of fifty of them were in the mission field this season, and they have done splendid work. The Red River Valley is becoming, under God's blessing, a Presbyterian paradise through this valuable student labor. The new member of the staff, Professor Baird, took as the subject of his inaugural address "Christian Missions, an evidence of Christianity." All the professors take active part in missionary work, and we hear of one of them that has preached every sabbath, but two, in the last five months.

THE SCHOOL QUESTION.

Last week our Synod spoke out with decision on the School question. It declared its opinion that the Manitoba School case should be appealed to the Privy Council; that the Territories should be allowed to choose their own educational system; and that "no system of public school education can be permanent, or satisfactory to the people of Western Canada, which confers on any one Church rights superior to those enjoyed by any other Church."

PERSONAL.

The Rev. Joseph White, formerly of Ottawa, has arrived in Manitoba, and we heartily welcome him to the prairies. He has been placed in charge of Melita, a rising railway town in the south-west of the province. We trust, like St. Paul, he will receive "no little kindness" from the Melitans.

Rev. Archibald Matheson and Mr. Richmond, at the Synod meeting, spoke with true native eloquence as home missionaries. These brethren have never been at college, but we wish two-thirds of the college bred men could speak with the same power.

Rev. R. Frew, a graduate of Montreal College, has arrived to be ordained by the Minnedosa Presbytery and be placed in charge of Birtle congregation. We wish him God speed.

OUR TEARS :

There seems little doubt now that our faithful Home Missionary of Schrieber, the Rev. W. Neilly, has been drowned in the cold waters of Lake Superior. We were startled at the Synod by the telegram announcing this. Our brother had left a companion, and started in a canoe to go around a point in a storm. He seems to have gone down. Our devoted brother was one of the largest-hearted and most devoted missionaries in our service. Schrieber, Nipigon, and five or six other places on the railway will sorely mourn his loss. But our loss is his gain !

MISSION NUGGETS.

Hudson Taylor : " My dear friends, a thousand an hour are passing to Christless graves, and what will you do? The master says, " Go." The needs of the people cry " Come." What will you do? "

W. M. Taylor : " The Fijians have come up from heathenism to civilization in a single generation."

Wilson : " I can find no provision in the great economy of grace whereby a home church can be made healthy, strong and prosperous, where the evangelization of the world is neglected or ignored."

Punch : " During Exeter Hall missionary gatherings a street Arab accosted some clerical-looking members of the conferences with : " Please, ain't I black enough? "

Prof. Lindsay : " Foreign missionaries and their wives especially, have taught the Home Churches the value of women's work amongst women."

Bishop of Exeter : " The work of Christian women—truly the missing link—oh, we thank God for it."

Warden : " I believe it is desirable to have in every house a missionary box, and that the children should be encouraged to contribute from time to time for the kingdom of Christ."

A. T. Pierson : " May God impress this upon us mightily, that, as David said to Abimelech, " the King's business requires haste."

" Raise men's bodies still by raising souls
As God did first."

NEW CHURCHES.

Dr. Duval has opened new churches in Thornhill and Rounthwaite; Rev. D. Stalker a church at Rosburn; Rev. A. Urquhart another at Beaver Creek; Rev. P. Wright another at Wawanesa; Rev. John Hogg another at Belmont; and Rev. Dr. Robertson one at Moffat, to be followed soon by the opening of the fine new building at Prince Albert. Progress!

TO SUBSCRIBERS.

Our first year is ended, and the Synod has highly commended our little paper. We expect to send our paper to every Minister of the Church. The Synod says we have done much good in this way. We shall be glad to receive new orders from Churches and Missionary Societies. If all who have been receiving the bundles will remit to us we shall be able to meet all our expenses. On beginning our enterprise we expected the Home and Foreign Mission Committees to help us, as we are doing their work. We have not so far received this encouragement.

MISSIONS TO THE INDIANS.

WHAT THEY ARE DOING AT THE CROWSTAND.

The Rev. G. A. Laird writes as follows on the 26th of October. In the matter of the support of children spoken of by him, correspondence has been opened with the Indian Department to secure support for such a number of treaty children as is attending the school. Provision has been made by the Foreign Mission Committee for the support of non-treaty children.

“For some time I have been unable to write many letters owing to other engagements, but now that Mr. Wright is with me I shall be able to make up for lost time. Mr. Wright arrived a little more than a week ago, and has been busily engaged with hammer and saw making necessary improvements, with several of the boys under him taking their first lessons in carpentry. For a time at least he will be occupied in this way, besides relieving me at stated intervals of the charge of the boys.

Of late we have been making many improvements in the management of the school, some of which it would have been difficult to carry out before the opening of the stone building.

One thing I consider a great step in advance, i.e., securing regularity of attendance, or controlling the whole time of each scholar. We are gradually getting the Indians educated up to this point. They see that we are not asking too much when in return for food, clothing and training, we demand the whole time of the child. Of late, since this rule has been enforced, they have seldom come wanting to take their children home “for a few days.” However, sometimes the larger boys get restless and take upon themselves to go away, especially on Saturdays, without liberty, and we are bending some of our energies at present towards correcting this fault. We hope, partly by judicious infliction of penalties, and partly by making Friday evening and Saturdays particularly attractive, that all restlessness and truancy will be got over. There are about 60 children in attendance at present, and I think I am within the mark when I say they are doing as well as could reasonably be expected. At least we all feel encouraged. The scholars, in hymn singing for instance, can sing a number of the hymns in three parts, correctly and sweetly. They have learnt among others the following portions of Scripture: The 23rd, 32nd, 95th and 100th Psalms, 14th Chapter of St. John’s Gospel, Parable of the Prodigal Son, and at present are committing to memory the story of the Nativity as given in St. Matthew. The larger scholars take up the regular series of lessons in the Sabbath School. On Friday evenings they read, recite, sing and play in presence of the assembled school, the teachers and one or two friends. We have had two meetings of this kind. I think they will serve several useful ends.

The children have been comparatively free from sickness during

the summer months. At present there are two cases of scrofula. This is a loathsome disease. The glands of the neck first swell, then break and keep discharging, perhaps for a year and a half or two years. We have not the means for isolating these children as thoroughly as they should be. Although the discharges are almost daily, more or less, the general health of the children is not much affected. They are able to be in school and play as the others. Care is required in dressing the sores in order to prevent contagion, but we have not found it go from one child to another.

The Department has made provision for the board of 42 children for the current year. This is by no means adequate. Fifty-five should at least be provided for. The grant for the quarter ending June last was smaller than it should have been, and for the September quarter the number to be paid for would at least have been 50 had there not been three weeks holidays. Besides I have been keeping six non-treaty children for the past year, only two of whom are provided for.

Provision should be made here for at least 75 children as early as possible. We can easily secure that number in constant attendance. So far as sending children to Regina is concerned, nothing has been done, and I think when it comes to the point very few of the Indians will be willing for their children to go. I am perfectly willing to make the trip to Regina providing the Department makes some allowance for the transference of pupils, but I hardly feel like going at my own expense, especially as I have regular duties which occupy my time pretty fully. Then if the boys go the probability is that they will stay three or six months and come back, either with or without liberty, and the ordeal of taking them back a second time will have to be undertaken.

We are looking forward here to a fully equipped Industrial School, at least as fully equipped as we can make it. In this connection Mr. Wright has mentioned that the Committee is taking steps to secure a set of carpenter's tools. As little time as possible should elapse before forwarding them, in order that his services may be better utilized. We could very well have a blacksmith's shop on a limited scale if we had tools. We have the buildings partly provided for both."

The first communion since the arrival of the Rev. F. O. Nichol, was to be celebrated at Mistawasis on the first Sabbath of November. The names of eleven additional members were being added to the roll.

The Birtle Indian School has moved into new quarters in a large private dwelling owned by the mayor. Mr. and Miss McLaren hope to be much more comfortable than they were last winter.

“THE MOST IMPRESSIVE MEETING I EVER ATTENDED.”

Following are extracts from letters written by Mr. Geo. J. Wellbourn, the new mission teacher at the Stony Plain. The letters are dated the 2nd and 4th of November. The Messrs. McDougall and Nelson mentioned are Methodist missionaries to the Indians further South:

“The second Sunday we were here we had a service with the Indians in the school-room. It consisted of singing, prayer, reading, with explanations (?)—all in English. This did not seem to me to meet the case, so this Sunday we had a change, which resulted in, what was to me, the most impressive meeting I ever attended. We sang four hymns during the meeting—three of them by the Indians themselves in Cree. I read to them from the Bible, and then asked them to speak. Two of them, Lazarus and Four Souls, spoke at considerable length and with great earnestness. Five of them then took part in the prayers which followed, and the fervor and deep feeling shown by them was most touching, and I trust was heard with favor by the Hearer and Answerer of prayer.

The Rev. John McDougall is to be here to-morrow on his way home from Lake St. Anne, and will conduct a service in Cree. He and Mr. Nelson staid with us over night on their way up.

We find considerable difficulty in distributing the clothing. About five-sixths of it consists of women's jackets and ulsters, which do not seem to be appreciated here. Most of them need dresses, but there are none. There is scarcely anything for the men. The children's clothing has not yet come.

We try to get them to work for what clothing they receive, and most of them are willing to do so. Lazarus and Cecile want nothing but cash for their work, and are not backward in asking for clothing when they want it.

We are quite gratified at the change in the personal appearance and habits of the day pupils. They do not spit on the floor nor smoke in the school-room, and they come in the morning with their hair smoothed and their hands and faces comparatively clean. Most of the children too join in the singing, and are nicely overcoming their bashfulness in speaking English.”

At the recent meeting in Brandon of the Synod of Manitoba and the North-West Territories, the Rev. Joseph Hogg, of Winnipeg, presented on behalf of the Committee a report showing the recent progress and present condition of our work among the Indians. The Rev. Hugh McKay, and the Rev. John McArthur, gave addresses describing the missions in their charge.

The Bird Tail Sioux congregation, of which the Rev. John McArthur is pastor, took up a collection for the Brandon Hospital on Thanksgiving Day. It amounted to over three dollars.

CHANGES IN THE MISSION STAFF.

Miss Walker, who has enjoyed so much success of the best kind in her work at Portage la Prairie, has been promoted to be matron of the large school in Regina, which is in charge of the Rev. A. J. McLeod. The people of Portage la Prairie have parted from Miss Walker with great regret, but they are to be congratulated on finding so likely a successor in Miss Huston, who has already won a good name for herself in the town by Christian work. Miss Huston will enter upon her work at the New Year, and will take the position of teacher, and Miss Fraser, hitherto the successful teacher, will become matron. In the mean time, till the end of the year, Miss Walker's place has been kindly taken by Miss Agnes Waters, who once before came to the assistance of the mission during Miss Walker's absence.

ANOTHER INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL PROPOSED.

The Rev. J. A. McDonald, Alberni, B.C., writes on the 10th November :

" Since returning to Alberni I have been engaged in studying the Indian language, attending to the sick, and have organized two Sabbath Schools at the Opicheseht and Seshahht villages. The attendance at the former is 16, at the latter 14. I am within a few hundred yards of the Seshahhts, and about half-a-mile above the Opichesehts. Bob and Sewash, the chief's son, were here last night, and were very anxious to have me open a school for the Indian children. I told them I would write East about it. Mr. Guillod, the Indian Agent, says we can have the Government grant of \$12 *per caput* for day pupils. But they will not stay here in the summer months, so I propose to take in ten of the best boys and girls and keep them for the summer months if we can get a grant for boarding pupils.

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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.