

THE WESTERN MISSIONARY

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IT IS HARVEST TIME.

Now the fields in Manitoba are a glorious sight. For three weeks up to the time of writing the most brilliant summer weather has prevailed, and the grain fields have ripened apace. Manitoba at present looks like one vast wheatfield. There is the promise of a most beautiful harvest, and by the end of August much of the wheat will be in the stook. We earnestly pray that good weather may be sent us in order that the crops may be safely gathered in. Last year we had an enormous yield but much was lost by the wet weather of the autumn, and early winter. As we see in our Lord's teaching it is an easy transition from the natural the spiritual harvest. The spiritual fields are white to the harvest. Manitoba has had the seed sown as few new countries have had it. The sowing has been liberal. Not too liberal. Our communities are moral. The late Temperance Plebiscite by which the province has declared by a majority of about 15,000 in favor of the total prohibition of alcoholic liquor as a beverage speaks well for the province. It is largely the result we believe of the faithful preaching of the Gospel. The field lies open to us. Let us thrust in the sickle and reap. May this season witness a gathering in of souls. May no untoward influences interrupt the workers. May the Lord of the Harvest smile upon our work!

SMALL-POX SCARE.

Commerce brings its dangers with it. The C. P. R. steamer from China and Japan brought over the small-pox to Victoria. Vancouver, and the American cities of the Pacific Slope. First on this side of the Rockies the infection appeared among the Chinamen of Calgary. The only locality affected in Manitoba was the Gretna district. We regret to say that our Missionary J. L. Small, a student of Manitoba College, as well as a Christian young lady, who were conducting a Chinese school in Gretna took the disease. Mr. Small has nearly recovered, and we are glad to say that quarantine regulations will soon be unnecessary. We congratulate our Government authorities on their firm measures by which this scourge has been checked. Manitobans have been generally vaccinated, and there is no alarm.

NEWS FROM NESBITT.

Mr. A. E. Camp, a student of Manitoba College is stationed for the season in Nesbitt a new railway point in Brandon Presbytery. He writes giving an account of a discussion which took place last winter in the College among a group of students. One stalwart student was greatly impressed with the prevalence of 'Natural laws,' and could hardly find a place for the efficacy of prayer. Like many another, our correspondent, though somewhat puzzled over the philosophy of the matter falls back upon concrete instances, and gives us a little bit of his experience which may be helpful to others:

"On arriving in my field at Nesbitt, the work seemed to present a more discouraging aspect than had been my experience in former fields, in which it had been my privilege to labor.

At one point especially, on the first Sabbath there were but few present, sitting in the back seats of the fairly commodious school house, and it seemed, almost as though, no one cared to hear the Gospel. Six weeks passed. There had been a gradual increase; but this beautiful Sabbath morning brought more than the usual number of new faces, including two or three aged people who had not been known to go to Church for years. Wagon seats were brought in, to seat them, and the overjoyed missionary trembled with joy at the thought that God was using him as a means of at least interesting so many in the old, old story of the Gospel of Christ. A couple of weeks later, riding home one night from Friday night prayer meeting with Mrs. R. a faithful and energetic worker at this, at first, discouraging point, the writer remarked "Mrs. R. do you know what I think, has at least, helped to cause the remarkable increase in our congregation at C?" "I don't know," said she. "Well said I, I wrote some time ago, the pastor of a large congregation, requesting him to ask the Young People's Society to make this place a special object of prayer, and I believe they have done so, and this is an answer to their prayers." Mrs. R. then informed me that she had written to the Y. P. S. C. E. of the congregation in Toronto of which she had lately been a member, and requested the very same thing, and that they had answered her that they were doing so. And now I believe more firmly than ever, in prayer.

A. E. C.

TWO NOTABLE SATURDAYS.

On July 23rd Manitoba voted as to whether the Province would stand by free, unsectarian schools. The Government was sustained by a two-thirds majority. On the same day by about 15,000 popular majority the Province voted in favor of Prohibition of intoxicants. On July 30th the Privy Council in London decided that Manitoba may have free, unsectarian schools. The sun shines brighter than ever in Manitoba !!

A GOOD MISSIONARY HINT.

We are in receipt of a private letter from the town of P. in Ontario, complaining that missionaries do not supply information as they might. Our correspondent says: "We support a missionary in R. in Manitoba. Excepting a few lines sent once a year by the missionary, who has generally to be asked for the information we hear nothing whatever of the people of R. or their work. We hear infinitely more about Formosa or points in Honan than we do of R." Now we say this is too bad. Dr. Robertson has with great energy induced many congregations in the Provinces from Ontario to Nova Scotia to support congregations in Manitoba and the West. The amounts given by each congregation vary from \$150 to \$250 or more a year. We submit such liberality deserves a better reward. At least once a quarter send down an account of your stations, your services, your people, where your people are from, any questions of public importance agitating them &c., &c. Don't let your pens rust. Some of our eastern brethren have had attacks of "cacoethes scribendi," judging by the Church papers. Can't you work off a little of this in the matter spoken of. Don't neglect the gift that is in you, oh hard worked missionary; and don't forget to send the "Western Missionary" a screed also!

MEMOIR OF DAVID MILNE HOME.

We have received this work of more than 200 pages written by the loving hand of a daughter of Mr. Home: Mr. Home who was born near Edinburgh was son of Sir David Home an officer of high rank in the English navy. After passing through Edinburgh High School and University, Mr. Home adopted the legal profession. This however he gave up to pursue scientific studies and to perform his duties in the county where his estate lay on the banks of the Tweed. Mr. Home gained some distinction in Meteorology and Geology. The Memoir contains a valuable paper on the geology of Berwickshire. Mr. Home took an active part in the discussions of the Church of Scotland at that critical time in its history—the disruption. Though sympathizing with the cry for independence he did not deem it his duty to leave the Church of his fathers. Fortunately for us in Canada the questions of that time are nothing more than "nomen et umbra." This work is pleasantly written, and Miss Home desires to say: "The authoress of the above memoir will be glad to present a copy of it to any library of Mechanics (or library in the far west) where there are any Scotch readers who might be interested in it. Application to be made to the Editor of the *Western Missionary*."

SIGNIFICANT.

It is stated that twenty-six out of the forty members of the new legislature of Manitoba are of Scotch descent, and that a majority of the New House are Presbyterians.

PERSONALS.

Rev. E. D. McLaren, of Vancouver, has come east to enjoy a month at Cross Lake. Rev. W. Pereival, of Richmond Hill, is supplying his pulpit.

Rev. Dr. DuVal has gone on a short holiday to Denver, Colorado; and Rev. A. Urquhart of Brandon has just returned from the Mountain State.

Rev. Dr. Bryce has gone to explore Moose Mountain and the Souris Coal fields.

Rev. A. Mogee, of Aylmer, Quebec, has come on a short trip to see our Western land.

Rev. A. F. Thompson, of Bathurst, N. B., is spending a few weeks in Manitoba.

CHURCH ITEMS.

Rev. Dr. DuVal opened a new Church at Creeford, Manitoba, in July.

Augustine Church, Winnipeg, has been enlarged by increasing the size of the auditorium and by adding a vestry and Sunday school-room. A furnace takes the place of the stoves previously used and pews take the place of chairs. We congratulate the south side congregation on increased comfort and increased opportunities for usefulness.

Rev. W. McK. Omand has been happily settled in Keewatin.

Rev. J. Baikie has we believe accepted a call to Miami.

Carberry, another vacancy, has been accepted by Rev. J. A. McLean.

Rev. H. F. Ross has been compelled by ill-health to give up Morris, Mr. A. Fowler, B.A., from the London Presbytery has been stationed there.

Rev. M. McKenzie, of Morden, has resigned that charge and is in the meantime stationed at Springfield.

Rev. A. Hamilton, B.A., is called to Stonewall, and we trust will accept it.

Rev. A. E. Driscoll, B.A., has accepted the call to Souris.

ANNOUNCEMENT.

This number completes the second year of the 'Western Missionary.' We have received scores of letters of hearty appreciation. We trust all in arrears to us will remit as we are a little behind. We shall be glad if Eastern Congregations send orders for 50, 100, or 200 for distribution among their families. It will pay. Begin with October.

MISSIONS TO THE INDIANS.

TO SEE IS TO APPRECIATE.

In paying sympathetic visits to the centres of our Indian Mission work, the Rev. A. H. Cameron, of New Glasgow, N.S., has done what we hope many of the ministers from the older provinces will do in the course of their western tours. Mr. Cameron's impressions are recorded in the following letter to the editor :

Rev. and Dear Sir,—In July I had the pleasure of visiting the Industrial School at Regina and the Indian encampment at Prince Albert. Our missionaries at these places are doing most excellent and self-denying work. In the school at Regina there are 96 names on the roll and the average attendance is 85. During the last quarter 33 names were added. In the classes there are 71 in the first book and 25 in the second. The work in the house and on the farm is done by the scholars under the watchful eye of competent instructors. My interest in the "Indian work" of our church is very much increased and deepened by my visit, and I would strongly recommend ministers and elders to seize the first opportunity to see this work for themselves. Principal McLeod says that there is a marked improvement in the conduct of the children. They certainly seem well content and give a prompt and cheerful obedience to the rules of the school and the commands of their teachers.

A boot and shoe factory, carpenter and paint shop, and a blacksmith shop are all necessary establishments, and should be provided as soon as possible by the government.

The work at Prince Albert is carried on at a great disadvantage. It would be well to press on the government the advisability of duplicating their work for the Indians at Regina by giving the Indians at Prince Albert the same advantages.

A NEW SENSATION FOR AN INDIAN MISSIONARY.

On the occasion of the Rev. W. S. Moore's departure for a visit to his old home across the Atlantic the people of his mission field and their neighbors gathered together to wish him and his wife a safe journey, a happy visit and a speedy return. The programme published in the local papers shows that they do these things as handsomely on the banks of the Qu'Appelle as anywhere. There were music and speech making; there were loaded tables and tables loaded more than once evidently for many of the participants came from a considerable distance and made a day of it; there was an address; and, last but not least, there was "a well filled purse." Well done, Muscowpetungs! It was seemly that you should send your missionary off with a well filled purse, for many a time within the past five years it has been emptied to provide for your Indians.

FORT PELLY IS A GAINER.

The Rev. C. W. Whyte, B.A., applied to the Synod's committee some weeks ago to find a teacher for the public school at Fort Pelly, a Hudson's Bay Company's post some twenty miles north of the Crowstand, where Mr. Whyte holds an English service once a month. The trustees had difficulty in getting anybody and would be glad to accept a recommendation from him, and for his own part he was anxious that the teacher there should be in sympathy with his work among both whites and Indians, for it would be in her power to do much to help or hinder. The committee was unable to name anyone off-hand, and while correspondence with likely persons was going on, Miss Whyte, a sister of the missionary, and one who has for several months acted as assistant in the mission, has offered herself for the position and been accepted. Miss Whyte is a school teacher of high standing, and while we hope the light work at Fort Pelly will prove less trying to her health than the crowded Crowstand boarding school, we are confident that her influence will be of a missionary character wherever she goes.

A NEW BUILDING AT BIRTLE.

The Birtle Indian school is to have a new building. Its work for the past three years has been done in a rented house, and good work it has been in spite of many inconveniences. Now the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, to which so much of the extension of the work among the Indians is due, has granted, after the approbation of the Assembly's committee was secured, the sum of \$5,000 for new premises. It is expected that the site, fencing and outbuildings will cost \$1,000, leaving \$4,000 to be devoted to the main structure. The most conveniently located and most picturesque site in Birtle has been chosen; suitable plans have been prepared; tests for water are now being made, and it is hoped that the work of erection will be begun within a week or two. The plans call for a frame building on stone foundation, 72 feet long; two stories high, besides basement and attic. One wing will be devoted to the boys, the other to the girls, and between will be the officers' quarters.

SOON RIPE.

Christian work among the Indians in the Northwest has suffered a severe blow in the sudden removal by death of Mrs. Nichol, wife of the Rev. F. O. Nichol, of Mistawasis. It is but a year since, a bride, she left her home in Port Hope to share the joys and trials of a missionary's life. After a busy winter and spring she returned to Ontario to spend a couple of months among old friends, and while there her story added fresh fire to the enthusiasm of many a willing worker. While on her way back to the Northwest she complained to friends who met her in Winnipeg and Brandon of feeling unwell, but, declining invitations to delay, she hastened on

to Prince Albert, where her husband met her and where it was found that typhoid fever had laid hold upon her. Her twelve days of illness were passed in the house of Miss Baker, herself an Indian missionary. The Rev. W. M. Rochester and Mrs. Rochester and other friends were, like Miss Baker, kindness itself, but human help was vain and last Friday (the 5th inst.) death brought release: her body was laid to rest in the soil that twenty-five years ago was consecrated to the work of our Church among the Indians of the Saskatchewan. Dr. Nichol, of Brantford, father of the bereaved missionary, arrived in time to stand beside the open grave and now accompanies his son back to Ontario.

Testimonies come from many quarters to show that brief as was the career of Mrs. Nichol, it had already been fruitful from the beginning. She was a genuine missionary. Her household being small, and allowing her leisure, she gave herself ungrudgingly to the advancement of the temporal and spiritual welfare of the Indian women and children on the reserve, and so enrolled herself among that band of self-denying workers for Christ to whom the church pays no salary, but who do scarcely less than their husbands for the establishment of the kingdom of God in the hearts of the children of the prairies. And how the women and children loved her! How they crowded round her in sewing class and Sunday school to see and to hear! And how heart-breaking was the grief when they learned that they could see her face no more! An eye witness says that old men among these Indians, who have passed into a proverb for stolidity, broke down and wept when the news came that told them of their loss. Her gentle dignity, her Christian sympathy, and her unworldly giving of herself in deeds of love and charity, only begin now to be seen in their true light. Her message was soon spoken, but its echo will live long in the hearts of those who heard it.

Loved daughter, sister, friend: we saw awhile

Thy meek-eyed modesty which loved the shade,
Thy faithfulness which knew nor change nor guile,
Thy heart like incense on God's altar laid.

But He whose spirit breathes the air divine,
That gives to souls their loveliness and grace,
Soonest embowers pure, faithful souls like thine,
In His own Paradise, their blissful place.

WILLING TO BE GUIDED.

Mr. Geo. J. Wellbourn, of the Stoney Plain, writes on the 8th of August:

We are trying to teach the parents to make men and women of themselves, by encouraging them in their work and by discouraging begging, and the results are very satisfactory. That they are anxious and willing to be taught what is right we have had a number of practical proofs.

An incident which occurred two weeks ago Sunday may serve to shew this. After the afternoon service we noticed a number of carts around Lazarus' shack, which is quite near, and about forty Indians. We soon found out that they were going to the strawberry patch to be ready for work Monday morning. We went over and spoke to them about it and they said that they were not going to pick any that day. We tried to explain that it was quite as bad to go that day as it was to pick, and urged them to wait till morning. All the Protestant Indians did so, but the Roman Catholics went.

The Rev. Hugh McKay had a visit some days ago from an Indian who, on taking his departure, said: "I have ten sacks of wheat at my house that I want you to have."—"What is the price to be?" said Mr. McKay, wary from long experience. "Oh," said the man, "I do not want to sell it, I want to give it to you. Many a good meal have I and my wife had at your house and I am ashamed not to do anything for you in return—I want to give you the wheat."

Mr. McKay is rightly gratified by this as an evidence of the revolution which is being wrought in Indian ways of thinking. From being helped, the red man aims now at becoming a helper.

Mr. Alex. Skene, of the File Hills, says incidentally in a recent letter: I am pleased to say that during the excitement of the berry season not one of the school children left the school bounds without first asking for and getting leave.

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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.