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THE WESTERN MISSIONARY

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A PARABLE—"THE FARMER AND HIS SONS."

John Bluebanner has been engaged for many years in extensive farming operations along the upper lakes, the St. Lawrence, and down by the sea. His farm has been fairly worked in some districts where the Scotch Thistle grows, but where noxious weeds of other kinds abound his crops are poor. His failure has been chiefly in neglecting his work in winter, while doing it fairly well in summer. Some of his neighbors spend their winter in what John thinks excessive exhilaration in robbing his granary, and especially in removing to their farms without his leave some of his dead and useless material. A few years ago John took up a large and valuable tract of country in the Northwest. His neighbors are surprised at his recent energy, for the old farmer is waking up in his western work.

Not long ago farmer Bluebanner gathered his sons around him to discuss the prospects. His most vigorous son, Peter Summer-session pleaded for a new plan, and said the Muskoka, Manitoba, and far western farms might be thoroughly worked, in winter as well as summer, if the workmen were better distributed. This startled farmer John. "We never did it before," said he, "and I don't care for changes." But replied faithful Peter, "God fulfils himself in many ways." "Why should we be the slaves of precedent?" "Are we not men enough to rise to our opportunities?"

But John Bluebanner has another son, Thomas Extra-Mural. He is a very sickly fellow. He strongly opposed Peter's plan, and promised great things if his advice were taken. Lately however Thomas has been suffering very much from heart-failure, and it is thought will not live long.

A third son of this good husbandman is J. Catechist-School. He is said to have a scheme in his mind but has not thus far made it fully known.

The latest probabilities are that farmer Bluebanner will adopt Peter's plan, and have his promising son take up his permanent abode in Winnipeg and oversee the western estate.

AUGUSTINE CHURCH, WINNIPEG.

Rev. R. G. McBeth M. A. has accepted the call to this church. He is likely to be settled about the 20th inst. We trust he may have a long and useful pastorate.

PRINCE ALBERT.

Two hundred and forty seven miles northwest of Regina by rail this rising town of 1200 is reached. It was begun in 1866 by Rev. James Nesbit as an Indian mission, but is now the centre of a thriving white settlement. The town may be said to date from 1882, when Rev. James Sieveright, our missionary, introduced a liberal policy and secured the town at the mission. This part of the North Saskatchewan holds out great attractions to immigrants. About it are good land, plenty of timber and fuel, excellent pasture, plenty of hay and abundance of good water, while far to the north of it are said to be large areas of the best farming land. The people claim for their district immunity from all blizzards and storms, exemption from early fall frosts and complete freedom from grasshoppers. This year they reaped a very fine crop, and can ship out, if it is required for seed, a large amount of superior Ladoga wheat. The M. & N. W. Ry. is expected to reach the settlement next season. The Presbyterian, Methodist and Anglican churches have congregations here and the Roman Catholic church is going to erect a cathedral, Prince Albert being the centre of the new diocese. The town has good schools and a Roman Catholic convent. Emmanuel College (Anglican) is only two miles distant. Prince Albert Presbyterian congregation is under the charge of the Rev. Mr. Rochester and through his efforts and those of his accomplished wife the congregation is making gratifying progress. There are about 70 families connected with the church and about the same number of communicants. The old church being found too small, a neat brick structure capable of accommodating 350 people, has been erected this year at a cost of about \$5,000. The congregation met one half of the amount this year, and the balance will be wiped out as speedily as possible. In 1893 the congregation expects to become selfsustaining. Ladies Aid and Missionary Societies, Sabbath School, Bible Class, etc., are all in operation and doing good work.

ON THE SASKATCHEWAN.

In the Prince Albert district are a number of places of promise, but read the Superintendent's sad story about them:

Colleston.—This mission is without any supply this winter, although there are now 30 families connected with it. Mr. G. Gunn, student of Manitoba College, did good work in this field last summer, but during the long winter the fruit of his labors will be largely lost.

Kinistino.—This place, 55 miles south-east of Prince Albert, is supplied this winter for the first time in the twelve years of its existence. The settlement is growing steadily and the Mission promises to become a good congregation in a short time. Mr. Muirhead, of Queen's, did excellent service there last summer.

Saskatoon.—Within five or six miles of this centre are about 50 families, while at Alvena and Duck Lake are other growing settle-

ments. This important Mission is without supply this winter, and the good work done through Knox College Missionary Society last summer will be largely thrown away.

Longlakeeton lies south-east of Saskatoon. The Presbytery of Regina united it to the Pense Mission for the winter, and although these had nearly 100 families, besides a number of young men with homesteads, no missionary could be found for them. Here are four Missions in a string, with 16 stations and nearly 200 families without any services this winter. How long must this continue!

OUR OLDER CROFTERS

One of our most successful student missionaries from Manitoba College has been Mr. Kenneth A. Gollan, who for three summers has been laboring among the Crofters of Hilton and Bellafield in Southern Manitoba. We make the following extracts from his notes:—

Bellafield—This settlement is south of Pelican Lake. The people are from the Island of Lewis. Many of them have made rapid progress. This year one man threshed 2100 bushels of grain. There is a very good day school in the settlement and the children are making rapid progress in speaking, reading and writing the English language. Gaelic service is held in the school house every alternate sabbath, attendance 70; prayer meeting 20.

Hilton—The people of this settlement numbering 12 families are from the Island of Harris. This year the people of this settlement escaped the frost and have excellent crops. Services as in the other settlement are held here.

I may say that in both districts the greatest content prevails. Indeed ever since I went among them it has been so. I don't think in either district one man could be paid to return to the old country and live as he did before. They are all good Presbyterians, but many have the Highland dread of becoming members of the church.

SCHREIBER.

Rev. John Pringle, of Port Arthur, writes: "The place which Mr. Neilly, whose sad death by drowning we recorded last month, held in the hearts of the people places our Church in a peculiarly favorable position there. They desire an ordained missionary at once. The people are obtaining a painting of Mr. Neilly, and will place a tablet in the church."

BADLY WANTED.

The H. M. Convener of Winnipeg Presbytery, we observe, is calling loudly for laborers. Gretna, Greenwood and Schreiber need active ordained missionaries, whom they will support liberally. Posen and Ignace ought to be filled with Catechists. Indeed all our Presbyteries are at their wits end to find men for the most promising fields.

In Memoriam.

With sadness we have to state that our pioneer Icelandic Missionary, Rev. Jonas Johnson, died on Sabbath 6th instant, after a short illness. Our brother was taken at the age of 27 years. He was a native of Iceland, and was converted a few years ago in New York, under Rev. Mr. Murphy, at the Mariner's Church. Four years ago he came to Winnipeg, and working with his hands gained a good livelihood, and held cottage meetings at his own expense among his countrymen, of whom there are between 2,000 and 3,000 in Winnipeg. At his earnest request the work was undertaken by the Presbyterian Church, and has been much blessed. A commodious church, holding 400, has been erected, and thrice every Sabbath, and on Tuesday evening, one of the most devout and earnest congregations in Winnipeg assembles. It is refreshing to see the congregation provided with Icelandic Bibles follow the preacher in his references. Moody's Gospel Hymns have been translated into Icelandic, and a hymn book printed. The singing is most hearty, and a large proportion of the converts lead in prayer. Mr. Johnson was ordained in 1890, and was still attending classes in Manitoba College when taken ill. On the Sabbath evening of Mr. Johnson's death, Rev. Dr. Bryce and Mr. Larus Johnson, a brother of the deceased, met with the congregation, which was deeply affected and pledged itself to faithfulness. The funeral was on Tuesday, 8th inst. Rev. John Hogg, Moderator of Winnipeg Presbytery, conducted appropriate services in the "Martin Luther Icelandic Church." Rev. James Allan (Methodist), Rev. Dr. Duval, Rev. Dr. King, Mr. Larus Johnson, and Rev. Hugh Pedley (Congregationalist), took part in the service. The scene in the crowded church was most impressive.

"Servant of God, well done!"

A HAPPY CONFERENCE.

The question of a summer session in Theology is being well considered in the west. On the afternoon of Tuesday, the 8th instant, the professors and forty-six students of Manitoba College, who are preparing for the ministry, met and conferred for an hour and a half on the matter as to whether the Theological Session should be changed from winter to summer. Dr. King occupied the chair, and the various phases of the matter were presented by Dr. Bryce, Prof. Hart, Rev. Mr. Farquharson, Prof. Baird, and the chairman. No expression of opinion was taken from the students, but from the applause given when appeals were made to their zeal and self-denial it may safely be said that mission work in the west will not suffer in their hands.

MISSIONS TO THE INDIANS.

HIS WORKS DO FOLLOW HIM.

The Rev. W. S. Moore writes on the 6th of November :—

Our average number of boarders this quarter so far is light, there being ten on the roll; this is a slight improvement and is likely to be the average this winter. This does not include the ten day scholars, who are steady pupils.

I wish also to say that last month, Musakepenes, a headman on Muscowpetung's, the first one on that reserve baptized by me, and the leader of our church there, and the father of the young man James Kepenes, died. Just before dying he charged the Indians to get a church built on the hill, to hold to the Christian religion, and to bury him at the church site. He was buried there, and the Indians have asked me, and also Mr. Lash, to get the church up, so I desire, now that the Indians have come out of their own accord for the church, to ask the committee for a grant for a stone church to be erected in spring, also for leave to ask the Indian department for two acres of land for a church site, all parties in this case being agreed on the place.

A CHANCE FOR SOME SABBATH SCHOOL.

Mr. Wellbourn, the teacher of the Stoney Plain School, near Edmonton, is anxious to get a church bell for the use of his mission, otherwise it is impossible to get the day scholars together in time for school, and on Sabbath the people come straggling in to the service until it closes. A suitable bell would cost about \$25, with an additional \$10 or \$15 for freight. Any Sabbath school or Mission Band, or any individual wishing to help Mr. Wellbourn in this practical matter, will please address Mrs. A. Jeffrey, 142 Bloor Street, Toronto, Secretary of Supplies for the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society. Mr. Wellbourn's school is larger than ever before, with ten pupils in the boarding school, and eight more in the day school.

There are several families of Sioux Indians in the neighborhood of Deloraine. For the most part they have been spiritually neglected, but recently they were visited by a Christian Indian belonging to our Bird-Tail mission, who is now engaged in a correspondence with the Winnipeg Foreign Mission Committee, urging that measures be taken to train these people, and especially their children, in the ways of Christian enlightenment.

A NEW KIND OF INDIAN FEAST.

The Rev. F. O. Nichol writes on the 14th of November :—

“ Yours of October 26th has been unanswered owing to press of work in repairing the mission house, and also on account of our first communion. This we celebrated on Sabbath, November 1st, and it was a day long to be remembered by all. Those who have been here the longest tell me that our attendance that day was the largest ever in the church, the church was filled, some sitting on the floor and pulpit steps. Over one hundred were present, and in spite of the fact that the service was somewhat long, they paid the best of attention, although some of them found it hard to leave their pipes for so long a time. Fifty-two of this number took communion, of whom fifty were members.

After carefully purging the roll I found there were thirty-three members, thus you will see that the roll at present is :—

Members from roll of 1889.....	33
Received on certificate, November 1st 1891.....	3
Received on profession.....	14
Total.....	50

Of the additions, three were councillors of the tribe ; three women who had in infancy been baptized in the Roman Catholic church, were re-baptized. In speaking briefly after communion I took occasion to speak of the changes since last it was celebrated, particularly in the death of Rev. John McKay ; many eyes were wet, evidencing the deep regard in which he was held by all. Mr. McVicar acted as elder and interpreter, and did excellent service. We are encouraged greatly in our work that the Master has so early blessed us. Mission matters are progressing fairly. We have been busy the last few weeks giving out clothing sent by the ladies of Hamilton Presbytery. The selection was admirably made. Several large pieces of cloth and print were sent which will be used in the sewing class. Sabbath school last week had an attendance of twenty-seven. The children take great interest in the work, and come long distances on foot to be present. The mission and day school are to receive a fine bell, the present of Messrs. J. O. Anderson and Robert Kilgour, of St. James' Square Church, Toronto, of which I was a member. This has been wanted for a long time, and will be greatly appreciated.

In the school Mr. McVicar is doing admirable work ; the scholars take great interest in their work and attend much better. The average has been over twenty since Mr. McVicar began.

It is to be regretted that the committee was unable to build a small house for him as his quarters are somewhat confined. I regret that school equipment and accommodations are not sufficient to do the work he would desire. We have at last moved into our new rooms, although the finishing touches are still to be put on.

ONE MORE CHINESE MISSIONARY.

For several years past, as most of our readers know, a Chinese mission has been carried on in this city under the care of Mrs. Watt, the sister of Principal King. This mission has already been the means of accomplishing much good. Most of the Chinese in the city have attended its classes, and been greatly blessed, and the manifestations of their gratitude show how they appreciate the efforts put forth on their behalf. Three members of the classes were received as communicants last April in connection with Knox Church, and their earnest, consistent Christian lives show the depth and reality of the work of grace on their hearts. Of these three, two, Lee Wing and Lee Yang, are exerting an excellent influence over their countrymen in the city, and in a most important sense, proving zealous and efficient missionaries among them. The third, Sam Sih Hin, soon after his baptism went home to China on a visit to his family and friends, and the following letter received from him a few days ago shows that even amid heathen opposition and darkness, he is faithful to the truth he has received. The letter is almost verbatim.

Chain Sou Country, China, August 8th, 1891.

My dear Teachers :

Mr. James Thomson, Mrs. Thomson, Mrs. Watt, and Miss McCracken. I am got home very well. My mother and we people very glad. All our people said your people very kind. I tell the doctrine of Jesus. Some men believe. Some very hateful. I ask Jesus help me, give strength, and make them good. I tell you of some one go as teacher to Shanghai. He have me sing very much on board ship. He very kind to me. I hope God give you peace in Jesus Christ and blessedness too for every one. Please Miss McCracken give street number to me.

Sam Sih Hin.

HE MAKES THE MOST OF HIS OPPORTUNITIES.

The Government Inspector of Indian schools says that Mr. Skrene, of the File Hills mission, is conspicuously successful in teaching the Indian children to speak English. The number of pupils at this school has always remained small in spite of the diligent efforts of Mr. Skrene to increase the attendance. It is a pleasure to know that the smallness of the number on the roll is compensated for by the efficiency of the teaching. It is always much easier to get the pupils to speak English habitually, when their number is not large enough to overbalance the influence of the teacher and his family. Indeed the question may well be asked, if it is not advisable in all our schools to make the tuition approximate as closely as possible to family training.

LIFE'S WORK SOON DONE.

The Rev. A. J. McLeod writes from Regina on the 30th November. Since his letter was received, news has come that fifteen additional pupils have been transferred from Crowstand to the Regina school.

We have just completed a large root house, with a capacity of 3,000 bushels. On account of the urgency of our having our potatoes, and general root crop under shelter as soon as possible, Mr. MacKenzie devoted himself to the carpenter work, and I was left in the sole charge of the school, this meant six hours of teaching during the day and an additional study hour in the evening.

On the Sabbaths I have been supplying some of the mission points left without any missionary since the departure of the students to the colleges. As this meant, for some stations, a drive of fully thirty miles on Saturday, you can see I have some excuse for the infrequency of my letters.

The number of pupils is 24 boys and 20 girls, but before long if we have no addition to our numbers, we must write 24 boys and 19 girls. Julia Moore has been suffering for a long time with the Indian's enemy—consumption. Yesterday her friends came on a second visit to her, and all were very anxious that she should be taken home. To this we at length agreed. The day was beautiful and we did all in our power to make her comfortable for the journey. Lying on her mattress, well covered with quilts and blankets, in her covered sleigh, we have every reason to hope she will have a safe journey to a not uncomfortable home in the Qu'Appelle Valley. But we have bidden her "good bye" never again expecting to see her at the school. The parting message we gave her was that Jesus loved her more than tongue can tell, and she confessed that she loved him.

During the days she was confined to bed she took great delight in that excellent book for children "Peep of Day," often she was found reading it for herself. We gave her a copy of the book together with a hymn book, catechism, etc., and she seemed very greatly pleased to receive them.

The rest of the children are now enjoying good health and making progress. If you can give any suggestions how to enforce the speaking of English by the children, I would be very glad to receive them. The speaking and understanding of English is the foundation of the religious instruction.

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