

Along the Line.

JAPAN.

LETTER from the REV. C. S. EBY, B.A., dated Kofu, Yamanashi Ken, July 23, 1880.

[This letter reached the Mission Rooms during the absence of the General Secretary in the North-West, and was overlooked subsequently among a large accumulation of documents of various kinds. Though late, it will interest many of our readers.—EDITOR.]

After the District Meeting held in Tokio, now nearly a month ago, the Chairman asked me, as Secretary, to send you, besides a copy of the Minutes, also a less formal account of our gathering, the work done, and the prospects for the future. Before the outgoing mail by which the copy to the Minutes, &c., were sent, I had no time to comply with his request. But now, in the quiet of my own home, and in time for the very next mail, I will try to pen a line or two.

After two years and more of exile, it was thought wise and proper for my wife and little ones to accompany me to Tokio; so down the river we went, shooting the rapids in a flat-bottomed boat, and then by a rolling dirty little Japanese steamer to Yokohama, where we arrived safely, but rather disreputable looking from the battering about we received during a very uncomfortable passage. We were all delighted to meet old friends and some signs of civilization once more; and after a stay of about two weeks turned back over the mountains, and eventually arrived safely in Kofu. During the whole time of our absence the land was being drenched with the floods of the rainy season, which somewhat militated against our public meetings and the pleasure of getting about, but did not hinder our work.

The brethren met in good spirit, and our work was conducted with promptness and despatch by our energetic Chairman. The young men preparing for the ministry show that they are working hard at their studies, and amid many difficulties show, most of them remarkable, all of them most satisfactory, progress. In connection with the annual meeting this year, we held a series of public meetings. Temperance, Bible, Missionary subjects were ventilated. Considering the weather, these meetings were a real success, and cannot fail to do good. The reports of the work were thorough and exhaustive, and added considerably to our stock of experience; showed the wisdom displayed in preparing two or three little chapels which we now have, notably the one in Numadzu—and the great disadvantage of having to trust to the uncertainties of a hired house, as in Shidzuoka.

In looking over the report of our work this year, you will be struck with the fact that we report a decrease in membership. You must not conclude that we are retrograding. Considering all the circumstances through which we have gone, and the thorough cutting down and pruning that we have done this year, we have no reason to fear from the result. The sort of revolution through which we have gone,—my coming from Tokio to Kofu; Dr. McDonald's removal from Shidzuoka, and absence from the country for over a year; Brother Meacham's removal from Numadzu; and, worst of all, Mr. Cochran's return home, could not all occur without creating a break in the upward progress in which we were two years ago rejoicing. We are really only getting thoroughly into shape again. Then, as I have mentioned elsewhere, this has been a trying year for all the churches, none being able to report large increase. Then again

the nature of our work is different: formerly, nearly all of our societies were in connection with schools; many students became members; but when their term at school closed, of course they scattered. These were for a time reported, although not in our immediate vicinity. This year all these, besides many more who still claim to be Christians, but who have become lax in their attendance on the ordinances, have been left out of the count. We are anxious to have a pure, living, acting Church, and so have done a great deal of pruning. And yet, after all this is done, if we compare our numbers with those of other churches, taking time and number of missionaries into consideration, we still are about at the head of the class. The same may be said of the financial return which we make. This is but the beginning and promise of greater things. Friends at home have compared our small returns with the larger ones of the Presbyterians, &c. But they should remember that the Presbyterians, &c., were here and at work nearly twice as long as we have been *before they said a word about native giving*; also that they have been able to sow—in men, and churches, and schools, &c.—vastly more largely than we; and in Mission work, as elsewhere, as a Church sows, so shall the reaping be. Altogether, we are thankful for what God has done for us and through us, and go forward in trusting hope.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

LETTER from REV. THOMAS CROSBY, dated Port Simpson, Aug. 24, 1880.

[The records of Mission work on the Pacific Coast remind one of the heroic age of Methodism, when "in labours more abundant" was the badge of a true apostolic succession. Extracts from such records might be read in the Missionary prayer-meeting with good effect.—EDITOR.]

I am just back from my three weeks' trip to the Forks of the Skeena. I write to let you have an account of it. By the kindness of R. H. Hall, Esq., of the H. B. Co., I took the trip in their freight boats. Our party consisted of two boats and five canoes, with forty-four men in all. Left on the 3rd of the month. After reaching the mouth of the Skeena we travelled two days together, and then the men in the canoes thought they could go faster up stream than the boats, so it was agreed that they should go on ahead. I embarked with the canoes in order to save time.

The weather was wet. We had only one day dry the whole trip; and the mosquitoes made it lively by night, not to mention them by day; still our Indian friends are a jolly lot of fellows to travel with, and have a pleasant way of making the best of everything.

Our party now consisted of twenty-one men and boys, with four canoes loaded with freight. The river was at a good stage, so we were told; still there were several places where we had to have ten or fifteen men at the ropes to haul up the canoes, and then it was hard work to get them over the rapids, or "make the ripple," as the miners say. There were three portages to make, when the freight had to be taken out, or part of it. It took us sixteen days and a half from here to the Forks, the distance being forty-five miles to the mouth of the river and then 180 up—in all 225.

Our men were always glad to attend prayer night and morning, and the first Sabbath we preached to a number of our people at their fishing station on the river, as well as having regular services with the men in camp. I preached a number of times at the different villages on the way, besides visiting hundreds at their fishing camps. All seemed very glad to see me.

At the forks I met Mr. Collison, of the C. M. S., who

had just been sent to open a Mission there. This is the place where we began two years ago, but the young man, Mathison, left the work. Since that time, of course, we had promised these poor people and the hundreds round that we would do all we could to get them a missionary or teacher; but now we are met with the fact that Bishop Ridley has sent a man there. I told the people that we had no desire to go into a field where another evangelical church was established, and explained our position to them—that we had secured them a missionary, but still we should look to some other part of this great field; so with the advice of the Chairman, Rev. Mr. Tate, will go to Bella-Bella. There are many other tribes on this river who need light, and who would be glad to have us come to them, but we are not able to take them while such a loud call comes from Bella-Bella. Many of these poor people express themselves sorry that we are not going to take up a Mission at present among them.

The trip back was a grand one. The canoe having left me, I came to the mouth of the river with three white men; reached Port Essington by the third Sabbath at 2 p.m., and at 3 p.m. preached in our little church. A good congregation, and a blessed time both afternoon and night. And on Monday we got home by 10 p.m., having been sixteen hours on the way from Port Essington, in a very small canoe with a man and his wife. I had to paddle hard all day. All well, thank God.

Now Mr. Tate has commenced to get out window casing &c., for his new mission-house and church at Bella-Bella—for we Missionaries have to be carpenters as well as preachers. We also had a lot of real hard work at our new school house here. We have the frame up and roof on, and I intend to try and finish it this winter or next summer if the lumber gets dry.

September 18.—The steamer came two days ago. We have been without a steamer for some time, on account of the wreck of the H. B. Co.'s steamer "Otter." Brother Green and family returned from attending F. D. M., and they have with them a Mr. Wellwood and family, who go to open a trade store at Greenville. I hope it will succeed, for we need more such men in connection with all our missions. They also have a young lady teacher for Greenville, a Miss Sturton; but, I am sorry to say, no teacher for us yet. I would take the school myself, for Miss L. has more than she can do, but I have very little time at home for the next three months. I leave now with Brother Tate for Bella-Bella and then Kit-a-mat; and I must try and get our little church finished at Port Essington, and opened this fall. And then Brother Green's work needs a visit from me; so that you will see by this how much we need a male teacher to help to take the work while I am away. I hope you will get one that is a man of faith, full of fire, and music—a man ready for all work, and a first-class teacher.

SASKATCHEWAN.

Morley.—The Rev. John McDougall, Chairman of the District, writes under date of Nov. 18th. The letter was not intended for publication, but we make a few extracts:—

"We are glad every one of us because of your safe arrival home, and I trust that notwithstanding all the hardships of the trip you will have gained in health and vigour. At any rate our cause will be understood as it never has been heretofore, and I have no doubt many will reap benefit.

"Our trip home [from Victoria] was a hard one. All the streams between Edmonton and Red Deer were swimming. We had to make rafts and ferry the best way we could. Our provisions gave out at the Elk River, and you may depend we drove from there home pretty lively. Since then I was necessitated to go to McLeod on Indian matters

and about the goods for self and all the party. Bro. McLean is doing well. We have been very busy at home, and I have not had any let up; hands and head and heart all busy; but the Lord is blessing us and we are hopeful.

"I am glad to have you mention the Orphanage. I have already done considerable in that way, and will (D.V.) steadily keep the matter in hand."

✓ *Woodville, N. W. T.*—Bro. Nelson, sent out last summer as a Teacher, writes under date of Nov. 16th:—

"We are all well; Mrs. N.'s health very much improved. Found things very much out of repair—a great amount of work to be done. The Indians are coming in to the Lake,—over 30 families, or about 150 people. They are building houses and settling down. They seem glad some one was sent among them. I talk to or with them every Sunday morning, and have class and prayer meeting in the afternoon. They all turn out to morning service, and are very attentive. The class is well attended. We have some real earnest soldiers of the cross."

✓ *Whitefish Lake.*—We have advices from the Teacher, Bro. Youmans, to Sept. 28th:—

"We are all well and hearty. . . . I am trying to learn the language, but it is very difficult to remember,—all polysyllables, and can get no order as to formation, &c. But perhaps I want to learn too rapidly. We feel our isolation more on Sunday than on week days. We go to preaching at 10.30 a.m. I sing Cree with them and read the lesson and text; but the rest of the solid hour and a half is a blank. We have a long class meeting after a long sermon,—10.30 to 1.30; Sunday School, 2.30 to 4; Prayer Meeting and Lecture, 5 to 6.30. We are very much pleased with the earnestness they display in religious matters."

✓ *Edmonton.*—Bro. Glass, left in temporary charge of this Station, reports up to Nov. 28th:—

"We are at work here,—head and ears into it. The day school has been in operation about two months. The attendance is 20, but will be about 30 during the winter. The scholars are apt, and very anxious to study. I commenced a Sabbath School very soon after you left here. It is a success as far as attendance goes, and I think in other respects it is also successful. I am encouraged in the mission work as far as the sympathies of the church-going people are concerned. The attendance at church is from 30 to 40. I trust you will pray for us, and get the sympathy and prayer of many Christian people to bear upon the North-West fields of labour."

STATEMENT OF INCOME.

Amount received on account of Ordinary	
Fund to December 31st	\$2146 24
R. & E. Fund,—Amount received to June	
30th, 1880	74819 54
From July 1st to Dec. 31st, 1880	8437 20
Total	\$83254 85

The second instalment on this fund is coming in too slowly. As shown by the Subscription Lists there are upwards of \$33,000 yet to be collected. It is very undesirable that this should be left to the end of the year,—the time when special efforts on behalf of other interests have to be made.