

The Field.

OUR INDIAN MISSIONS IN THE WINNIPEG DISTRICT.

BY REV. E. R. YOUNG.

[NOTE.—It is due to Mr. Young to say that this article was written for use by a scholar in a S. S. Missionary Meeting, and with no expectation that it would be published.—EDITOR.]

NORWAY HOUSE is the oldest Indian Mission in the North-west. It was founded, or commenced in the year 1840, by the Rev. James Evans.

Norway House is situated on a little lake about twenty miles north of the northern end of Lake Winnipeg. The Indian Mission is at the village of Rossville, about two and one-half miles from the large fort of the Hudson's Bay Company, which is called Norway House, and from which our Mission takes its name.

THE INDIAN VILLAGE.

is composed of about fifty houses which are very comfortable, and a vast improvement on the poor little bark wigwams, or tents, in which the poor Indians used to shiver throughout the long, cold winters of that northern land. The distance of this Mission from the city of Winnipeg is nearly four hundred miles; due north. The nearest Mission to it, until lately, was Oxford House which is two hundred miles away.

James Evans, the first missionary at Norway House, was one of the most successful missionaries the world ever saw. By his labours hundreds of the poor pagan Indians were induced to give up their wicked, foolish heathenism, and to accept Christ as their Saviour. He succeeded in getting them to build little houses and to commence to cultivate the land. He had built for them a

SCHOOL-HOUSE AND CHURCH

in which the children could be educated, and all of them taught about Jesus. He invented a wonderful new alphabet, called the Syllabic characters, which is such a grand thing for the poor Indians that Lord Dufferin once said to me, after I had explained it to him, and showed him how by the use of it Indians could learn to read God's Word in a few days, "It is one of the most wonderful things I ever saw. We have honored many a man with a title, and a pension, and then with a resting-place in Westminster Abbey, who never did half as much good." "That is very true, my Lord," I replied. "How is it, Mr. Young," he asked, "that I have never heard of this Mr. Evans before?" My answer was "Perhaps it was because he was a humble Methodist preacher." Mr. Evans

CARVED OUT HIS FIRST TYPES

with his pocket-knife; used birch-bark as his first paper; made his ink out of the soot from the chimney, and manufactured his own printing press.

For six years Mr. Evans laboured and toiled in the great North-west; making Norway House his home. He used to go off on long journeys among the pagan bands of Indians, preaching to them of Jesus and his love. He would often be away from home for months, and in that time would travel thousands of miles. He went home to England on a visit made in behalf of the Indian Missions. He attended a large number of missionary meetings, and created a great deal of sympathy for the poor red men of our country. After attending a great meeting, he

DIED SUDDENLY

at Keelby, in Lincolnshire, England, Nov. 23rd, 1846; aged 46 years.

The old Indians have hardly ceased mourning for him. He led them to Christ in hundreds, and was without exception the grandest and most successful of all our Indian missionaries.

After Mr. Evans' death those Indians of that far-off land were not looked after so well as could have been desired, for several years; but in the year 1854 a party of missionaries set out from Ontario to that far-away country. Rev. Thomas Hurlburt was appointed to Norway House. He remained there three years, and was followed by Rev. Robt. Brooking who came up from Oxford House Mission. Mr. Brooking was followed by

REV. GEORGE McDOUGALL,

who, after remaining at Norway House for four years, went off to the great Saskatchewan to commence our Mission there. He was succeeded by the Rev. Charles Stringfellow, who gave eleven years of faithful service to our Church at Oxford and Norway House Missions. He was succeeded by Rev. E. R. Young, Rev. J. H. Ruttan, and Rev. Orrin German who is now the resident missionary at this our finest and most successful Indian Mission.

Before a large number of the Indians emigrated from Norway House to establish a new home and Mission for themselves at Fisher River, we had about a thousand of them who had

RENOUNCED PAGANISM,

and were called Christians. About four hundred of them met regularly in Class, and professed to be conscious of the blessed truth that God, for Christ's sake, had pardoned their sins. We have a fine large church and school-house there, and Mr. Orrin German, the present missionary, is able to talk to them in their own language. He is doing a good work among them, and with his devoted and talented wife we hope will long be spared to labour among a people so interesting and at a place which must yet be of much importance.

Along the Line.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Letter from REV. T. CROSBY, dated Port Simpson, October 6th, 1880.

I have just returned from a trip to Bella-Bella, where I went with Bro. Tate, at his request and that of the people. It was difficult for me to leave home at this time on account of crowds of work pressing me; still, as I had visited those people and they were part of my mission, and on my visit to them in July last, as I wrote you, many of them had promised to come to where a mission should be commenced, and they also promised to add to the subscription already commenced by some of the tribes, I thought it was important to the work that I should go. We left on the H. B. Co.'s steamer *Princess Louise*. Called at the mill, five miles from here, where we spent the first night, and took on board 27,000 feet of lumber for our new mission. We arrived at Bella-Bella Wednesday 22nd, at 9 a.m. After all was landed, we were staying in the house of the head chief, Umsit, who had moved here with all his tribe since my last visit. Here we had a meeting of all the people, and at night met again, and laid before them the subscription which was started two months ago when I was there. So the chief, who had, according to his promise, come here to live, led the way, and many of the people followed with blankets, money, &c., till the subscriptions in all ran up to about \$320; and with Mr. Tate and Wm. Henry Peers at the singing, we sang "Sweet By-and-by," "Over there," &c., in that large heathen house, 55 x 50, with plank roof, where the heathen dance had often been performed,

We had a blessed time, and those poor people rejoiced that so soon a missionary had come to their help.

Th. 23—Mr. Tate took off five men to get foundation timber for mission house and church; and I, with all the children and young people, went to work to carry up the lumber; and it really did my soul good to see with what glee they worked. A poor woman came on the ground and brought some rice and molasses, and cooked it for the workers; and we had singing and prayer at noon, about thirty present.

Fri. 24—We worked again at the lumber, so that by night, weary, and some with arms very sore, we had the whole of the 27,000 feet on the ground, while Bro. T. was away again to secure the number of sticks we needed. We had a blessed prayer meeting, thank God. Many of these poor people, who told me when I was here last that they could not pray, have learned to pray.

Sat. 25—Was a wet day, so we worked at the foundation some. In the afternoon, put all the window casings together, which had been prepared here before leaving, both for church and mission house.

Sunday, 26—A lovely morning after the storm,—fit emblem, I trust, of the introduction of the Gospel amongst those poor people after a long dark night. Prayer meeting at 7 a.m., preaching at 11 a.m., in the large house which we live in, and where all the family does the cooking; not only our family, but four or five others, besides a large number of strangers. Here, in this heathen house, we preached from "God so loved the world." Bro. Tate preached in the afternoon and evening, and we had a blessed day, although many had left for salmon fishing.

Mon. 27—A lovely day. Laid the foundation of the mission house, 16 x 40, with a wing on it 20 x 20; to have five rooms on the ground floor and three upstairs.

Tues. 28—Worked hard; laid the foundation for a small mission church or school-house, 24 x 40, with 12 feet walls. Preaching this evening.

Wed. 29—Worked hard in the rain, got very wet, rested in the afternoon. A large canoe arrived from Bella-Coola with a party to invite Chief Umsit to a feast (potlatch). He says he cannot go as the missionary has come.

Th. 30—Worked hard to-day; got part of the shingles on the roof of the mission house.

Fri., 1st Oct.—We had the shingles so far on that we moved into the house. A blessed meeting at night.

Sat. 2—Lovely weather; worked hard, as the missionaries have to be chief carpenters, and Mr. Tate is very good at such work.

Sun. 3—A blessed day. Services the same as preceding Sabbath, and many were back for the day from their fishing camps. It is really a blessed thing to see how attentively they listen, both old and young, to the word of life, and how lustily they sing the hymns taught them by Wm. H. at the day school. Wm. H. has done good work in the short time he has been here. He has a school of about 30 or 40 when the people are at home.

Tues. 5—At 9 a.m. the steamer *Griffith* came, so I bade Bro. T. and the people good-by, and left the house well on the way and the walls of the church up. Pray God that our brother and his wife may be made a great blessing to these poor people. He is in a good position to reach the Bella-Coola tribes from here, where there are hundreds who have never had a visit from a missionary; and this will open our way to the tribes of the interior, as many of them come to trade at the H. B. Co.'s post there. This place is about 60 or 70 miles distant. Weeke-noo is another place where a large number of the Bella-Bella speaking people live; these will be easily reached, for already some have come to live at Bella-Bella. The ground, as at Port Simpson, is owned by the H. B. Co., or one

hundred acres of it; but they have promised to let us have four acres of it. I understand that the Rev. Mr. Smith will write to England on the subject.

All well here, but we need a teacher much, and I wish I could be at home more.

NEW CREDIT INDIAN MISSION.

Letter from REV. WM. CROSS, dated New Credit, January 27th, 1881.

Our Missionary meetings are over. They were a great success; far in advance of last year. We have secured and paid for an organ for the church. On the 14th inst. we had a tea-meeting and Indian concert in aid of the organ fund, and netted \$125. On the following Tuesday the Indians held a social in the church, and made \$20, which Chief Herkimer, in a very nice address, presented to their pastor. This was a very pleasant surprise.

On Sunday, the 23rd, the Missionary sermons were preached by the Rev. T. S. Howard, and the meetings were held on the Monday and Tuesday evenings following. Revs. T. S. Howard and A. Cunningham formed the deputation. The proceeds in collections and subscriptions were \$100. In our pastoral visitations we find anxious enquirers, showing that the Spirit of God is working among the people.

MUSKOKA.

Letter from REV. JAMES WOODSWORTH, Chairman of the Bracebridge District, dated Bracebridge, January 28th, 1881.

The brethren on this District are working away cheerfully and hopefully. Many of our Missionary meetings have been held. Notwithstanding the poverty of most of our people, we hope to raise as much as was contributed last year, though we have fewer agents in the field. Gravenhurst will be considerably in advance. Bracebridge promises well. Severn Bridge will give a good account. Perry and Armour (which is being worked by Bro. Craig, a hired local preacher, a noble Christian brother) will nearly double last year's contributions, besides sustaining the other connexional funds and treating their preacher well. Have not heard particulars enough from the other Missions to form an opinion as to how much they will raise.

DONATIONS TO SPECIAL OBJECTS.

The following have been received by the Treasurers since the last announcement:—

FOR THE CROSBY GIRLS' HOME, PORT SIMPSON.

A Friend, per Rev. J. Douse	\$5 00
George Robinson, Esq., Yorkville (Yonge St.)	50 00
"Thank Offering for Special Mercies," per Rev. Robert McArthur	5 00
Miss E. Hyndman, Muncey	2 00
Proceeds of a Parlor Concert given by the young Ladies of Mrs. McRossie's S. S. Class, Kingston, per Mrs. E. McRossie	16 00
Mrs. George Snyder, St. Ann's, Ont., per Rev. J. C. Slater	50 00

FOR THE McDUGALL ORPHANAGE, MORLEY.

David Aylsworth, Esq., Odessa	9 50
Mrs. George Snyder, St. Annis, Ont., per Rev. J. C. Slater	50 00

FOR THE WHITEFISH LAKE CHURCH.

Mrs. George Robinson, Yorkville (Yonge St.)	5 00
John Macdonald, Esq. " "	30 00

John Macdonald, Esq., Yorkville (Yonge St.)—

For the Ladies' Mission to Japan	50 00
For the French Educational Institute	50 00
For a Mission Boat, Labrador	50 00

STATEMENT OF INCOME.

Amount received on account of the Ordinary Missionary Fund to 28th February	\$8908 35
Total amount received on account of the R. & E. Fund to the same date	90477 91