

MS. 64

~~MS. 64~~

A brief account of some experiences among the Prairie and Wood Indians of Saskatchewan; from 1874-1903.

Away back in the seventies of last century, when that once notorious Sioux Chief called "Sitting Bull" was causing much trouble in the States, the writer while passing through that country en route to Canada, told a fellow passenger on the train that he was going to preach the gospel to the Indians. "The best gospel to give them is to put a bullet through them", was the rejoinder. By no means, Divine Inspiration has said; "The gospel is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth". "Every one that believeth" must include red skins as well as white and black. Beyond dispute the Indians of this Continent have at times given trouble to "the powers that be", and would probably have caused much bloodshed had they been very numerous and lived together in large bands; but since the different treaties with them, they have been generally kept under control on the respective reserves allotted to them. And such a wise distribution has placed them in a position to be reached both by the servants of Christ and the agents of the Powers.

Together with the companion who had forsaken her earthly all in England to share ("for better, for worse") the joys and sorrows of mission life in Canada to tell the Indian a better way through faith in Him who once died for sinners and now lives at God's right hand, "able to save to the uttermost all that come unto God by Him". And after many years experience it can truly be said that the Indians generally will compare well with the same number of other people in this and other lands. To be sure they have their faults, - and who has none? - and they show generally but little gratitude for what is done for them, but be it remembered, they have had a vastly different training from that of more enlightened peoples. And it is written: "To whom much is given, of him will much be required."