

an important part as means of transportation to Prince Albert. The writer and family travelled and camped in a wagon drawn by a yoke of oxen. As yet, there were no bridges spanning the rivers in these parts, but a Ferry was found at the crossing of the South Branch, only we never used it; for a sudden rush of water during the night following our arrival there carried the craft away. The crossing of everything (save the animals and vehicles) in a skiff, occupied days; the beasts being made to swim and carts and wagons made into a raft. At Prince Albert some five weeks were spent waiting the arrival of the old steamer "Northcote". This was the boat that figured so prominently in the Rebellion of 1885; and the writer has a picture frame made from some of the wood of it. Boarding the worthy vessel at the H. B. C. Post one Saturday morning, early we started, passing Captain Moore's Mill and descending the Coal Falls and many other rapids, until at top speed the Pas was reached on Sunday afternoon while the Indians were in church. The arrival of "Steamboat" (as the Indians used to shout aloud to each other from either side of the river) was an occasion of much excitement and interest among the natives; and many assembled at the Landing. As the clergyman (Rev. Henry Cochrane) was to go aboard, the congregation at once turned out. During this voyage a baby was born to us on the boat and as the Hon. David Laird and other notables were on board, they wished him to be called after the boat and the appellation was given him. (The writer has been informed that it was the wish of the boat's crew).

In those days the Pas presented a vastly different appearance from now; though the Wood Indians themselves were far more advanced in civilization than the wanderers of the Prairie. Moreover, the church and Mission House were fine buildings, partly I believe the workmanship of some of the search party sent out after Sir John Franklin. The good work of the church Missionary Society had been instrumental in bringing the majority of these Indians out of heathen darkness into Divine light through the gospel of Christ, and in leading them to settle in peaceable habitations. This latter work was enhanced when the Government treated with them.