

The Indians' contributions to the Missionary Society, at Skidegate and Gold Harbor, are in advance of last year.

We are busy now preparing Christmas carols.

### THE INDIAN WORK.

*Letter from REV. A. N. MILLER, dated SKIDEGATE QUEEN CHARLOTTE ISLANDS, B.C., Jan. 15th, 1890.*

I DID not succeed in posting my letter December 20th, last mail, as the boat came in on Sunday, so I add a little more.

Our Christmas and Watch-night services were times of encouragement. Some of those who had led lives of sin and shame in Victoria during the summer started afresh, and others seemed to take fresh courage. At our class-meeting a week ago, God graciously poured out His Spirit, and we had a time of refreshing. Two professed to give their hearts to God. One was a woman who had lived unmarried for eight years with a white man, about two and a-half miles from here. Since his death, last summer, she has been living in the village with an Indian. She never before professed Christianity.

Last Thursday morning I started by canoe on a second visit to Clue, and arrived there the same evening, as the second bell was ringing for prayer-meeting. There was a good attendance and a good meeting. On Friday evening I preached, after which we held a council, at which we succeeded in making peace between a man and his wife who had separated. Friday and Saturday were spent visiting the people from house to house, giving advice and settling various difficulties for them. Saturday evening the young people had a Bible-reading, after which we had a class in arithmetic.

We had good Sunday services, which were attended by nearly all the people in the village. The fellowship meeting in the evening, after the preaching service, was very warm indeed. Over sixty persons spoke in less than fifty minutes. We held the services in one of their old houses, in which lived a young woman who returned from Victoria about three weeks ago, after burying her husband a month or two previous. Her child (eighteen months old) died on Saturday night, and in the fellowship meeting on Sunday night, in the presence of her dead child, she promised to reform and from that time live for God, as did also a young man who returned from Victoria the same time as she.

I found the people in very good spirits indeed. The native teacher keeps school, in which the children and young people seem to be very much interested. The church is again well under way. The roof of the spire and the inside lining are yet to be put on, and the windows and doors are to be put in their places, and then it will be as it was before. It was no small undertaking for them at this season of the year.

We returned home on Monday. Had a slight head wind for twenty or twenty-five miles of the way, and consequently had to pull that distance. We got home just in time to see a boy of nine or ten years of age breathe his last. He passed away while we were praying. By the way, these people are decreasing very rapidly. Since last Conference there have been eighteen deaths on this mission and only two births.

### THE INDIAN WORK.

*Letter from REV. J. A. MCLACHLAN, dated VICTORIA, ALTA., February 22nd, 1890.*

I OUGHT to have sent you a report of the state of the work on this mission some time ago, but on the principle, "Better late than never," I now give you what information I can. Last year, as no doubt you already know, the crops in this section, with some slight exceptions, were an entire failure. This winter the weather has been very cold, and the snow unusually deep, making hunting difficult; besides, fur-bearing animals are scarce, altogether making it very difficult for the people to keep the wolf from the door. The Indians have been receiving aid from the Indian Department, and have not had as hard a time to live as the Half-breeds. Lately, however, their rations have been cut down so low that they, too, are almost starving. All last summer, when plenty of wild fowl and fish were to be had, they received one pound of flour and half a pound of bacon per head per day. But at present, when it is impossible for them to supplement their rations, they only receive eight ounces of flour and two ounces of bacon. Last summer's ration was a premium for laziness; the present gives them the choice between slow starvation and killing the cattle with which the Department has supplied them. To make matters worse, the prevailing epidemic, in a severe form, has reached us, and nearly everybody has been stricken down; several have already died, and others are still very sick. Still, as yet there has been no case of actual starvation, as the Half-breeds nearly all have more or less cattle, and are living on them, while the Indians were killing the cattle that were supplied them. The outlook, however, is bad. Yesterday a public meeting was held at the mission house for the purpose of petitioning the Government for seed grain. If the Government grants their request, I trust all will yet be well. In our Church work, I am glad to say we are not without signs of the Master's presence. Especially is this the case among the Indians, though quite a number of the Half-breeds have also professed conversion and united with the Church. Brother German passed through here a short time ago on his way to Calgary with Mrs. German, who is ill. He will have a terrible trip. Think of three hundred miles through such a country as this is, at this season of the year, with a sick and helpless woman. Enclosed you will find a statement of some improvements I wish to make in the Victoria mission house. At the time the new mission house was built the kitchen belonging to the old one was retained, and has been used ever since. Now, however, it has become useless, and must be renewed. If the Society will make a grant sufficient to purchase the lumber, etc., I will supply the logs and put up the building at my own expense. I write you, instead of waiting for our district meeting, because it is necessary that I should raft down the lumber from Edmonton during the high water.

### THE HOME WORK.

**Beaverton** (Bay of Quinte Conference).—This year is proving a year of success with us. God has blessed us with His presence and grace during an eight weeks'