

FROM REV. G. A. LAIRD.

PRESBYTERIAN MISSION HOUSE,

COTE'S RESERVE, October 12th, 1887.

Your kind letter of the 23rd September came to hand last mail. I have not yet had word of the arrival of the clothing, but probably will next mail. I presume you addressed it to Russel Station, and when we have notice of its arrival we will lose no time in having it brought up to the reserve, and then I will be able to write you fully concerning it. Although the distance is between seventy and eighty miles I think the Indians will readily go for it. When you wrote you had evidently not received my letter, in which some details of our work were given. You will be glad to know that the interest is increasing. Our prospects are very hopeful. And let me say that the assistance your societies render us in the way of clothing is most helpful. The Indians, and especially the women and children, suffer much during our long severe winters for want of being properly clad. They huddle round their open fires in one corner of the house with often only a single ply of calico over them, and you may be sure, that with the thermometer 30° or 40° below zero, as it often is, they can't go far from the fire without shivering. You will not be surprised in such circumstances to learn that the boxes are eagerly looked for. Besides it shows the Indian that we really care for him, and are trying to help him. It opens his heart to higher influences for good. When he is warm and comfortable, and he feels that his comfort is due, in part at least, to the Mission, it is easier to approach him with the gospel of our Lord and Saviour. Our Sabbath services continue to increase in interest. Even during the present month when a large number are away hunting, the attendance is good. In a few weeks now we hope to hold our first communion, and we are earnestly looking forward to a time of special blessing. The school is not so large at present, owing to many of the children being away with their parents, but when our boarding school is in operation it will remedy this irregularity. I think I mentioned that we had six children in the house with us during the summer, and when we make some additions to our present premises, which we hope to have completed in the course of a fortnight, we will be able to accommodate eight or ten for the winter. But we are very much cramped for room, and will not