

LESSER SLAVE LAKE, PEACE RIVER DISTRICT. *Jan. 3, 1893.*

Dear Miss Wallis,—When I tell you that it is now nearly three months since we had an opportunity of sending letters to the outside world, you will not be surprised that I have not been able to fulfil my promise ere this. I think, since Mrs. Holmes wrote to acknowledge the safe arrival of the bale, we have only had one out-going mail, and that was just at the time we were so busy fitting up the Boys' Home, consequently I was unable to take advantage of it. Before proceeding to give you a brief account of our school, I must again express our sincere gratitude for the beautiful warm clothing, also for the handsome wedding presents, sent us by the members of your branch of the W. A. Were it not for the kind help of the W.A. in Canada and the "Church Missionary Leaves," in England, we should not have been able to take in a single child this winter. So from such a statement, you may form some idea how dependent we are upon the help of ladies.

Owing to absence of the Indians at the fishery, and the difficulty we had in fitting up the Boys' Home, it was not until the first week in November that we were able to make a beginning. We had only nine scholars for a start, but now I am thankful to say we have 20, 18 boarders, and two day scholars. Mrs. Holmes has eight girls in the Mission House, and Mr. Muller, our new teacher, has ten boys in the Home—or rather in the house we are occupying as the Boys' Home, for the winter.

As you may suppose, Mrs. Holmes has her hands quite full; the girls, though able to do a good many things for themselves, require constant attention. Some of them on entering, were, to use a mild expression, literally filthy. Some of their clothing we had either to burn or to bury in the snow. It is almost inconceivable how human beings can live in such a state. From our brief experience we find that it will be utterly impossible for Mrs. Holmes to do all the work in connection with the Girls' Home alone, besides all her other household duties, especially when the girls are removed into a separate building, as we hope they will next fall, for that reason she has already asked a lady friend in England to come out as assistant, the question of her salary we leave with Him who has promised to supply all our needs.

Mr. Muller, I am thankful to say, is getting on very well with the boys, he is a general favorite with the children, and I think they will make good progress under his tuition. It is almost astonishing the change that two months indoor training has made in these poor children. Both whites and Indians were quite surprised to see them at our Christmas festival. We are often surprised when catechising them, at the intelligent grasp of the truths they have heard either in church or at daily prayers. What we need so much is the power of the Holy Spirit to write those truths upon the tablets of their hearts. . . .

To the Peterborough W. A.

From MR. HOLMES.