

charming place; but as it is, it is very lonely, and too far from home to possess many charms. The Rev. Dr. Taylor will already have given you a description of the mission. Most of the Indians have gone to the winter hunt, and the few that are left will go, at least most of them, after the fall fishery. I find the language a great barrier between these people and myself, often I would like to talk with them but cannot. I have tried to preach four times, twice in English and twice in Cree, since I came. They are very attentive, and I hope to do them good. I have attended two funerals (of children), performed one marriage ceremony, and baptized one child, since I came.

John Sinclair left here for Norway House on the 28th; he has filled his contract with Dr. Taylor, except making a few seats for the school house; he made three and begun three more. He has made the school house very comfortable, having taken it down and rebuilt it, putting a new foundation under it. He was anxious to get some articles out of the Hudson Bay store here and have it deducted from his salary. I gave him ten dollars worth.

There is great need of a school here. If some heroic lady teacher would volunteer for this service I would guarantee her a large school, especially in the summer. Is it not indeed a pity that these poor children should be allowed

to grow up in ignorance, like their fathers before them? Can we not have a teacher for them? Surely some one will respond.

I would like to say a word now about literature for these people. "But," you will say, "why talk of literature for a people who cannot read." I am told, however, on good authority, that of the gentleman in charge of the fort here, Mr. Sinclair, that not only the Oxford and Norway Indians, but most of the Indians in this country can read more or less in the syllabic characters. The Bible (Old and New Testaments) is, in its present form, very cumbersome to carry, so that few of them are taken; the New Testament is also quite large. If smaller editions of these, together with single copies of the Gospel, could be printed it would be a great advantage, because these people must wander more or less as long as they follow their present calling of hunting and fishing. Then if a few other books of a religious character could be translated and circulated among them it would greatly aid the efforts of the Missionary; and indeed hundreds might be supplied both with the Scriptures and other books, to whom the Missionary cannot now, for many years to come, gain access. They could be given out at every trading post. I hope you will be able to send more laborers into the Northern harvest next year.

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*From the same, dated Oxford House, November 29th, 1873.*

Though I were to write you many pages, yet all that I should record might be expressed by "grace." I cannot but say it was the peculiar grace or favor of God that sent me to tell these poor ignorant ones of the "grace of God which bringeth them salvation." I was indeed a stranger among a strange people when I first came here, but the Lord has made them willing to hear the message of mercy at my mouth. Oh that I may be kept faithful!

Notwithstanding the difficulty which I often experience by speaking through an interpreter to make myself fully understood, yet the Word is not, I believe, unattended by the power of the Spirit. A great work is needed,

and I hope a great work will be done for and among this people. Is there anything too hard for the Lord? And, though there are many obstacles in the way, may not even this barren wilderness "blossom abundantly, and rejoice even with joy and singing."

As I stated in my previous letter to you, my congregations are small, both at Jackson's Bay and the Post, because most of the Indians with their families go to their hunting-grounds in the fall, and do not return till spring. The only way to see them is to take my dogs and go to their camps. But even this would be very difficult, as there is hardly ever more than one family in a place, the next neighbor being a day's travel, and