

FROM REV. W. BEATTIE.

Virden, Jan. 4, 1896.

I did not receive the Christmas presents sent by the "Bright Sunbeams" Mission Band, Orillia for the Indians, in time, and the parcel is still in my hands. It arrived one day after Christmas, and for the last few days a wild blizzard has been raging and all communication between Virden and Pipestone prevented. I do not expect to see John Thunder for some time, unless the weather becomes somewhat milder. We had 42° below zero with a strong wind yesterday. It is 32° below zero now, at noon, so that you may know that eighteen miles in such weather is a task few will attempt. I will keep the presents till I see John; they will be none the less acceptable for being a little late in the season. I will get him to write to you as soon as I see him. I enclose shipping bill as usual, signed by myself. We are all well. Mrs. Beattie joins me in wishing you a Happy New Year.

FROM MR. R. C. M'PHERSON.

Okanase Mission, Elphinstone, Jan. 6, 1896.

Your kind and welcome letter of Dec. 16th came duly to hand, also the twelve bales of supplies from Chatham Presbyterial Society, for which I thank them very much, and beg to enclose receipt for same. The weather for the past fortnight has been very stormy and cold. Christmas was a very bitter-cold day, yet that did not prevent our people, old and young, from attending church. We met at the usual hour, 11 a.m., and, after a short service, we gave all present a gift of clothing. The women, girls and children all got new petticoats, and the boys got clothing suitable for them. The men's were made up in parcels and put into a large sack, and they drew by turns. The parcels contained such as a good overcoat, or coat and vest, or pants and vest, and so on; and I explained to them that it would have been great confusion to have had them choose what they wanted, and if some got what they did not require they could exchange with one another. Everyone was well pleased. I explained to them before that these were special Christmas gifts from their kind lady friends in Ontario, and that they wanted to be kindly remembered to them to-day, and hoped that they all would feel very grateful to the ladies who had been so good to them.

Altogether we had a very pleasant Christmas, but I should like if the Indians would try and get the true Christmas feeling in their own hearts and know that it is more blessed to give than to receive. I trust, God willing, that if we are spared to see another Christmas with them that they will

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