

There were special reasons however for the distress of last summer. La grippe had run its disastrous course; measles followed. Many, weakened by the first attack, were unprepared for the second visitation, and fell easy victims to its death-dealing power. Throughout the whole land there was mourning over the dying and the dead.

“There was no flock however watched and tended,
But one dead lamb was there;
There was no fireside howsoever defended,
But had one vacant chair.”

Many of those who passed away were heads of families, and their children were left to the care of neighbors, who had children of their own to support. What with watching by the sick, grieving over the departed, and caring for the convalescent, not much hunting was done all the long winter through; and when spring came, the meagre returns of fur did not suffice to prevent abject poverty. Thirteen children in school poorly clad, forty on the hillside in the camps with little or no apparel; one hundred people in church barely presentable, many more at home who could not go out at all for lack of proper covering. I can assure you it was a great pleasure to us to be able to offer some help in the name of the Christian women of Canada. The boxes sent were just enough to give one to each mission on the district, and while the goods were gladly given and thankfully received what were they after all among so many. Only the most needy received anything at all, and many were hurt to find that they were overlooked in the distribution.

This is a good work, and I trust the godly ladies associated with you in it will not relax their effort in this direction while the need continues to be so great. We bear our own proportion of the expense of transport, for it costs from one to three dollars per hundred pounds to move freight from this point northward; but we gladly bear our share of the burden so as to relieve the prevailing distress.

Let it be understood that we do not give indiscriminately.

There are two or three classes who are entitled to receive favors, and these only; widows, orphans, sick persons, helpless old people; but all who can work, are left to care for themselves. Many thanks for all the gifts received,