

population, shut out from the advantages of a civilized life—no rail-road, no market, no doctor, no *prison*, only one store, and poor at that, for they have not even thread or 'Coates.' The people live by trapping and fishing, which is now becoming a thing of the past. There are three reservations linked together, each Reserve being six miles square. Here we have a church and two schools, in the other Reserves a school in each; but we hope to have a chapel in one of the Reserves next spring (D.V.) There are five schools in all connected with this Mission, where there are nearly 200 children's names on the school register. At this Reserve, Fairford, we are only able to have a Christmas tree, and this is the only day these little creatures have a change in the whole year. Some of the children are preparing to recite and sing. They all have very sweet musical voices, and nothing cheers my heart more than to hear them sing. We have a choir, and fancy, we have now, since last October, a harmonium, and some of the young people can play three or four tunes, all by ear; this is quite a contrast to what it was formerly, when the Indian drum, with its gloomy and melancholy sound, broke the silence in the wilderness. We have three meetings every Sunday, in addition to the Sunday-school. The services are conducted in both languages, an address in Soto and English every service; and I may say that they worship and join heartily in the services, for mostly all of them can read and write, and they do like to read; they are never through asking for prayer books and hymn books, etc. My class, on a Sabbath, repeats the collect, gospel, hymn, and an article every Sunday, that is when I am at home, for I have to be always on the move. Travelling here is extremely awkward, the river is seldom frozen, and when frozen over is very treacherous. I sometimes use dogs, horse or ox, and sometimes have to walk. To-day a man called in, who lives 20 miles from here, and said, "I intend to come up with all my family to be present at the Christmas tree," for this is all the talk where ever I go; so you see very little excites these poor people. Another lad came in and said, "it is fourteen days to Christmas." Yes, are you going to take any part at the Christmas tree? "Oh yes," he replied, "I have only one song." Well are you practising that song? "No, I am afraid other young boys may learn it, and then I will have none to sing." I may say anything for the church will be most thankfully received, for our church is almost destitute of the essentials. There is always a great struggle whenever a building has to be erected out here, for all the workmanship has to be done by ourselves. The shirts will be very acceptable, and every other article, for I have a very large district of all poor people, who only see money at the annual pay day of five dollars per head. Will you kindly convey our warmest thanks to those dear co-helpers who have shown such interest and sympathy on our behalf, they decidedly strengthen our hands, and cheer us on to exclaim, "what hath the Lord wrought."