

the State of Religion says:—"The ordinances of the church are attended for the most part with reverence and regularity. In regard to the grace of liberality, there is an evident growth throughout the church." Generally our people bear testimony on the side of righteousness, and against Sabbath-profanation, intemperance and other forms of iniquity. We recount the facts and figures of last year, not for the purpose of display, for, "Having done all, we are still unprofitable servants," but for our encouragement, and in the hope that we shall strive to do better this year.

Our Foreign Missions.

REV. DR. WARDROPE, Convener, Western section, writes as follows:—Our recently appointed missionary to the North-West, Mr. Hugh Mackay, has been engaged for some months in exploring parts of the land destined, we trust, to be his field of labor for years to come. In some parts of his tour he has been accompanied by our veteran missionary, Mr. Flett; and, together, they have had many opportunities of speaking and preaching to bands of Indians on various reserves. I give you a few extracts from one of his recent letters. "We have taken up," he says, "a broken quarter section of land, beautifully situated at Round Lake and the Qu'appelle River, containing perhaps 80 acres. On this land we have been building. About twelve miles west, we have taken another lot, which is fine hay land, and conveniently situated. We are now about prepared to begin work."

On Saturday I left the mission house at Round Lake, crossed the river at the ford, passed over the valley, the way leading through fields of wheat, oats, potatoes, &c., belonging to the Indians; then up the high hills, when a beautiful drive of a few miles brought me in sight of the Indian camps. Here I met with Mr. Flett, and, going into a very large tent, we found about 30 Indians gathered together, among whom was the chief, with a number of his councillors. The object of the meeting was to discuss school matters and mission work in the tribe. We met with a friendly reception. The chief did not wish to consent at once, but would wait a while. He said many of his Indians were away, and he would not like to take such a step without consulting them.

"After leaving the reserve we came to the camps of the Ke-wis-ta-haw (Hover about). Dined with the chief, who was willing that a school should be started in his reserve. He lamented the ignorance of his young people. At the third reserve, where the Roman Catholics have been doing a little work, we dispensed the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, when six united with us. Afterwards the chief had a talk with his people, who are also anxious to have a school for their children. In the evening we had another service, Mr. Flett preaching in Indian and I in English. A large number of the Indians were gathered, some of whom came more than ten miles; a good number came into the house, some stood at the door, others listened at the windows,—no doubt some of them hearing for the first time the preaching of the Gospel. These Indians are superstitious and still worship unknown gods. As I am writing this letter I look out and see fires built on the hill to strange gods, and I hear the sad and doleful cry or song of the medicine man as he is practising his evil art over the prostrate form of some sick person lying in yonder camp. A few weeks ago they had their sun-dance. At this dance (which they have once a year) the Braves of the tribe are chosen. If a young man can dance for three days, constantly looking at the sun, eating or drinking nothing, he gets the title 'A Brave.' A person visiting this dance on the third day would never wish to see it again. See these young men, perhaps six or eight, a spike is passed through the skin on the breast, and about this spike a cord is wound and the cord tied to a rope over head, and there they hang in agony."

"Dear sir, I cannot give you a description of this dark picture, you have to see it to know something of its cruelties. I spoke to some about the wickedness of such, and they said the great spirit is pleased to see his children brave. Mr. Flett is about to leave me. I wish he could stay all winter. I feel like a child undertaking this great work. Our friends can assist us very much by their prayers and sympathy, and by other means. We have about us in the winter hundreds of Indian children shivering for the want of proper clothing, I see in many houses in Ontario cast off garments, a little faded or out of fashion. Could not boxes of such be gathered and sent to us. Any such would be thankfully received at Broadview Station, N. W. T."

Boxes of clothing are being forwarded in accordance with Mr. Mackay's request. They have been provided by the Women's Foreign Mission Society. Along with our contributions, whether of clothing or of money, let our prayers be given. 'God be merciful to us and bless us, and cause His face to shine upon us; that Thy way may be known upon earth, Thy saving health among all nations.'—THOMAS WARDROPE, Convener.