

INDIAN WOMEN HELP TO BUILD A CHURCH.

Miss May Armstrong writes from the Crowstand to a friend in Winnipeg on the 17th of March, and permission has been given to make the following extracts from her letter. The "Ellen" spoken of, is a little girl of six years who had sent a specimen of her handiwork to Winnipeg. The little house in which Miss Armstrong and her sister live is a temporary building intended for their use only until the new stone house, the walls of which were erected last summer, is completed this spring and ready for occupation.

"I am very thankful for your kind remarks about Ellen's work. Hers is not exceptional. The rest of the class make their own mittens and knit many for the big boys as well. They sew very nicely too, and Miss Mattie is about to teach them to make button holes and to darn. Now, I hope you do not think we keep the little girls at *work* all the time. No indeed, they run and romp and laugh and shout enough to exercise their limbs and lungs in the fullest degree.

I do not think I told you that we have an "Indian women's sewing circle" in aid of the "Mission Church building fund" for Côte's reserve. We have been working since January, and we are making very good progress. Meetings are held every Wednesday afternoon. Upwards of thirty women are members of the society; fortunately they do not all come at once, I mean, on the same Wednesday, for, as each woman brings her baby, and sometimes one of the older children—and our house is only 16 x 20 feet—I fear we should need to move the walls to get room. How often we wish for more room! surely we could do better if we had it. I hope the Church building will be started this summer. We do not intend to keep the "circle" open very long, but close before we get tired, and open again later on. The work done is chiefly silk embroidery and beading on leather and plain knitting and sewing. We have been kept busy filling orders, but as the quality of work improves, we shall try to make something for sale in town. I am glad to see them (the women) come together so willingly and to understand what they are doing.

The school attendance still keeps up remarkably. We seldom have "runaways." The children are making very good progress. Our Sunday-School too is improving, the singing is very good: we do not use the organ. We often have hymns sung in the Cree: one man prays in Cree. The children keep very good order and most of them are attentive during the lessons. As the children understand English better we find less difficulty in holding their attention. The next step is to see that they put in practice the lessons they learn, this is very hard, I think we shall make more impression on the children by example than by precept. I daresay, if we combine the two we shall succeed very well. How much I need to watch myself, and how often I come to grief, I need not tell you."