

cil to grant them power to erect our settlement into school districts, but it was February before all legal matters were settled, and the mission proclaimed a public school district. In March, three trustees, duly elected, assumed control, and the mission school virtually ceased. As the trustees desired me to continue school until the close of the year, I agreed to do so, giving them time to procure a public school teacher for next year. I wrote Dr. McLaren, giving him a statement of things in general here, and sent him a few numbers of our local paper. I mentioned that I would write you soon, but we were immediately after that thrown into a state of wild confusion, better imagined than described, and cut off from the outside world for months by the outbreak of the rebellion.

The second great change was the anticipated establishment of a high school here. I thought probably the authorities of that institution might see fit to equip it in such a manner as to make all necessary provision to educate our children in the North-West seeking a higher education within the pale of our own Church, and *more especially* so as to keep our Protestant girls, as very many of them now are, from being placed under Jesuitical influences, many of their parents being in communion with our own Church. Here we have what to me is a sad spectacle—a convent placed in the midst of an old Presbyterian mission, supported entirely by Protestants; this, too, in a country where the future of a great nation is being moulded, cannot but have a very disastrous effect. It is cheering to know that you are praying for us; it strengthens and comforts when one feels lonely and depressed. It is a cause of much rejoicing to read of the interest taken in the evangelization of the Indian, but no less zeal should be put forth for bringing into the Shepherd's fold the children of the settlers who will be brought more or less into contact with them; neither can we afford to leave undone. Were all connected with the Indian Department Christians, what a power for good they might be. Take, for instance, the Indian instructor's family; if Christians, what an auxiliary to the missionary.

You very kindly, in your last, offered to send clothing to our Indians. The Crees, with the exception of a mere handful, have gone to their reserve, and the greatest kindness we can do them is to use our influence to induce them to follow. We still have quite a number of Sioux, who are, as you know, heathen. I am sorry to say many of them joined Riel. We are scarcely