

Farewell Services.

FROM MR. R. C. M'PHERSON.

Okanase Mission, Elphinstone, Nov. 11, 1895.

On behalf of myself and wife, I beg to thank you for your kind letter of congratulation and encouragement on our entering upon our new duties as teacher and missionary to the Indians on this reserve, and it is a great incentive to us in our work to know and feel we have the prayers of you and the ladies of the W.F.M.S., and our earnest prayer and desire is that God will lead us aright and use us as instruments in His hand to do good among our flock.

We have only been two weeks here and cannot say much about it, but our first impressions are indeed very favourable and we do think we will like the work. We have been very kindly received by all and had part of two days in the school with Miss McIntosh before she left, so that when she left we were able to continue the children's studies without any interruption, the more so as they took to me without any shyness.

The attendance has been good every day except last Tuesday, which was very stormy. There were only ten that day; to-day there was a full attendance—eighteen—being all that is on the roll.

Our first Sabbath here was a very impressive one, and it being the Rev. Mr. Flett's valedictory services, the Presbytery thought it advisable to have special services, and sent the Rev. Mr. McArthur, of Beulah, and the Rev. Mr. Frew, to conduct the services. The Rev. Mr. McArthur preached a very able and instructive sermon, which was much liked by the Indians, and the Rev. Mr. Frew addressed the congregation and introduced me to them. Mr. Flett asked the congregation to meet again at three o'clock, when he took farewell of them, and asked me to address them, which I did. I spoke to them about the long connection Mr. Flett had with them and the sorrow they must all feel at seeing him retire through failing years, but hoped that both Mr. and Mrs. Flett would long be spared to join us every Sabbath day in worshipping God. And I also asked them to be patient with me, as they must find it different with me speaking to them through an interpreter, and asked them to pray for me and for themselves, because without earnest prayer we could not expect God's blessing.

Before the congregation dismissed the chief said he had something to say to me. He said they were all glad to see me and that if the attendance was not good for some time I was not to be discouraged, because many of them were away hunting just now and he was going away himself; but he was sure they would all like me, as what little they had seen and known of me pleased them well. This was indeed very encouraging.

Last Wednesday evening we had our prayer meeting at the chief's house, twenty-two present, and had a very enjoyable meeting. Two of the Indians led in prayer. Yesterday was my first Sabbath in full charge. At ten o'clock we had Sabbath school, the attendance, I am sorry to say, was not what I would like, only ten present. I will try and get a better