

also received a package of clothing from Minesing, Barrie circuit, forwarded by John Moren, Esq. With the generous gift of our Kingston friends I have taken the liberty of applying it to another object, and have written to the ladies making the explanation.

When we reached Morleyville the season was far advanced, our animals, after their twelve hundred mile journey, required rest, so we resolved to winter at this place.

I found my son earnestly at work on the mission buildings, and was gratified to find that a large amount of building material had been procured. The pressing want of the mission is the completion of the church, for which purpose at least 2,000 boards, in addition to those already collected, will be required.

The appropriation for the entire mission [premises] was only \$500.* It will require four times that amount for the church alone, and the work cannot be delayed without serious loss, as a congregation of at least 600 natives have long anticipated the time when they shall worship the "Great Spirit" in the new house of prayer. To employ workmen is utterly impossible, wages being enormously high, so we have resolved to do the work ourselves, and I have handed over to my son the clothing so generously provided by the Kingston ladies, requesting him to employ mixed bloods, or Indians, or anyone willing to saw lumber, in order that the Lord's house may be finished.

Our prospects are brightening in this western land. Contrasting the past with the present we are greatly encouraged—a spirit of peace rests upon the tribes. The present policy of our Government, if faithfully carried out, will without doubt be eminently successful. The Mounted Police have done a good work, and we are grateful for their services, but at the same time we would most earnestly recommend the strictest vigilance on the part of the authorities. The small number of whites amidst the overwhelming number of aborigines, who but a short time ago

received the harshest treatment at the hands of the pale-face, and who saw their country, which to them was a terrestrial paradise, changed by the whiskey trader into an infernal region, these men are not going to forget in a few short months all past grievances. In view of these facts we have felt that a strict discipline was necessary on the part of the military, and that it would be for the good of both natives and soldiers if there was less familiarity between the forts and the Indian camps. On the American side there is no danger in this direction; the Indian looks upon the American soldier as an enemy, and avoids him in every possible way; not so in this country—the red-coat was received as a friend, and the wild Blackfoot at this hour regards him as such. To perpetuate this friendly feeling the soldier must be kept from too familiar intercourse with the native.

We are profoundly grateful for the comprehensive proclamation prohibiting the importation of intoxicating liquors into the North-West, and we sincerely hope there will be no modification of these laws. There are those in this country who have recommended that canteens should be opened at each Fort, and that under certain restrictions white men should be allowed the use of intoxicating drinks; nothing could be more disastrous to the best interests of this country than to allow the sale of intoxicating liquors at Government establishments. Since last August I have visited almost every Indian camp between Manitoba and the Rocky Mountains, and never missed an opportunity of conversing with the chiefs on the subject of temperance, and their reply has invariably been, "We are grateful to the 'Great Chief' for prohibiting his people from bringing fire-water into our camps. We love the fire-water. When we see it we want to drink it, and then all kinds of troubles come upon us. When we do not see it we do not think about it, and we all know we are better without it."

* An error. Over \$900 have already been appropriated.—Ed.