

Altogether, though I have not been able to be as much among my Indians of late as I could wish, I feel well pleased with them, but I often think you ladies of Toronto and district deserve most of the credit for things being in such a satisfactory state.

### Clothing Received at Birtle.

BIRTLE INDIAN SCHOOL, *Feb. 4, 1892.*

MR. McLAREN. — Your letter of January 25 was received in due time. The box sent from Salt Springs, N.S., followed immediately, arriving next day. I will speak of the contents first. Miss McLaren unpacked it and pronounced it the best and most useful that has ever been received here. You will kindly convey to the people that sent it our best thanks, and tell them that these goods were just right—strong, plain, warm, neat. Several of the girls are now wearing dresses from the box, and there is such a look of comfort about them that is missing in clothing of a more showy but lighter quality.

The supply from Ottawa, though not large, contained a great deal of new material, consequently less will do, but still I think we will use all we have before a new supply is received. There seems to be a scarcity of boys' clothing, especially of pants. This item, pants, and shoes for both boys and girls are the most difficult to provide. It is almost a waste of both time and material to take a pair of second-hand pants and fit them on an Indian boy. The material is of the wrong kind; the pants tear almost immediately and the boy is ragged. Some particular provision should be made for this as soon as possible. I would suggest that strong moleskin, corduroy or fulled cloth be used for this purpose. Coats, etc., do better, but second-hand pants of fine or light material are well nigh useless. The boys often look ragged and their parents find fault and make trouble.

The shoes sent from Ottawa were good also, nearly all new and of the right kind. If any person is thinking of contributing something to our schools, and has a pair of shoes of fine material partly worn, and concludes to send the shoes, it would be much better if such a one would wear those shoes a while longer and buy a pair of strong ones at a lower price and send them. When partly worn fine shoes are worn here they go to

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