

coming under any particular letter would be. Besides, for the work of translating, it is wholly useless, as the Micmac word is placed first. On hearing or reading a Micmac word which I do not understand, I can turn to my book, read through some scores of words and ascertain its meaning if I happen to have it, and if I have it not, I can put it down, find out its meaning, and thus it is added to the list. But my book will not tell me the Micmac of any given English word.

"An English and Micmac dictionary becomes, therefore, just as important—nay, more important. Now, you will have some idea of the labour necessary to accomplish this, when I state that under the single letter A. I have occupied the greater part of a book, half an inch thick, made of paper of the size of ordinary letter paper. It is not full, because spaces are left for other words, as they may come in at the proper places. There are not, of course, so many words under all the letters, but under others there are more. The letter K. will, I think, extend over double that space. Now this is a business which cannot be hurried. To write a single letter illegibly, is just equivalent to not writing it at all. To copy the work when done will be an easy task, compared with that in which I am now engaged.—The words must be inserted not only with their meanings, but the inflections, to some extent, must be marked, for without these you cannot conjugate the verb or determine to what class it belongs. The Committee know how to appreciate the importance of this work, and will need no apology for the apparently slow progress which I am making. You must not suppose I feel it irksome. Far from it; I can sit at it from eight to ten hours a day, week after week; and though I hesitate to use the word luxury, which is at my pen's end, lest it should be exaggeration, yet I can truly say it is enjoyment. Nor is the time lost as regards the more immediate design of the Mission. I am every day making progress in the language. There is this advantage, too, that I can remain at home, which, in winter, is something. There is not the excitement and often thrilling incident of missionary excursions. I am not able to interest you and the public, by accounts of visits to wigwams, and addresses, conversations, and Christmas carols. Day after day, week after week, month after month, wear away, and all I can say is, that I have inserted so many words in the Micmac Dictionary. And when I rise at midnight from my task, with my head and breast aching, and kneel down and pray for forgiveness, and for a blessing on the dull, monotonous labour of the past day, it is sometimes, I confess, no easy matter to realize what connection all this has with the salvation of the souls of the Indians, who are perishing in ignorance and sin. I try to exercise faith, and then I reason, and sometimes I think I can exercise both faith and reason. *I have no doubt* the work of this Mission will go on. I may get discouraged, and leave it, or I may be taken away at the commencement, as many a Missionary has been, but there may be others even now ready to enter upon the work. They can enter into these labours, and when success shall begin to second our efforts, the Indians themselves will have facilities for acquiring the English language."

While prosecuting these exhausting labours in faith in the promises of God, Mr. Rand, as well as the Committee, was greatly encouraged and revived, by the cheering news which Dr. Twining brought across the Atlantic. "As cold waters to a thirsty soul, so is good news from afar country." The Dr. had furnished a number of Christian friends in Britain with copies of Mr. Rand's published pamphlet, and farther, had explained the truly Catholic principles and aims of this Society. A lively interest was at once expressed for the evangelization of the Micmacs, and information being desired, a meet-

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