

starving by us last winter. All this has been ascertained by Mr. McKay on his two recent trips for provisions.

On his first trip he came to a camp of 400 tents, comprising various bands. This season many traders, and even Company men, have been badly treated by the Indians, but as soon as they knew who he was the dancers (who act as a kind of soldiers) took charge of his carts, and in a very short time his loads were completed. They caused him to stay with them a night longer than he intended, and gave him an escort till he was beyond the danger of any reckless young fellows stealing his horses. The chief of the Fort Pitt Indians (the leading man in the plains) at that time sent me a very friendly message. On his last trip (from which he has just returned) he found that the large camp had been broken up, but he came to a division of it consisting of 200 tents. The chief of the Jack-fish Lake Indians gave him a most hearty welcome, saying that he had traded with him before, that he was thankful he always brought such things as the Indians needed, and gave them full value for what he bought, and never cheated them; that he had heard many accounts of the kindness of the Missionary to the Indians, and he intended to have visited him before this, but as his people have no carts they could not carry provisions so far, but that he himself intends to visit the mission in the coming fall, and in the meantime Mr. McKay was to deliver this message to me.

I think it was in my last letter that I mentioned that on these occasions Mr. McKay talks and reads and prays with as many as are willing to listen. On the trip that I have just been speaking of, an Indian came into the tent where he was and said, "I want to ask you something, I know you will tell me the truth. I have heard that all the dead people will rise again to life; is it true?" Mr. McKay told him it was quite true, that the great God has taught us that in His own book. The Indian asked, "Will all the Indians who have been killed on the plains, and have been devoured by the wolves, rise again?" He was told that they would. He was bewildered, and wondered how these bodies, pieces of which were scattered in many places and turned into earth, could be made into bodies again; but he seemed satisfied when he was told that the great God, who had at first made the bodies of our first parents out of the ground, can just as easily gather all that scattered dust and make it into bodies again. Then followed a conversation on how Christ was born, and what he did to save us, and how Christians have no need to fear death since they have such a Saviour.

Many of the Indians expressed their determination to visit us this fall. Now you perceive that the way is open for good being done, or at least hoped for by such itinerances as we have been talking of, which could not have been looked for two or three years ago. Nevertheless, I am perfectly convinced that the plan we have laid out for the mission is the proper one if we seek for permanency to our work—educate the young and do what we can to induce families to settle; hence it is that I am pushing forward, building and farming as much as I can, satisfied for the present to dig away at that rough foundation work, that we may all the sooner be able to lodge and feed a number of these little wanderers, and to assist families in their first efforts to become settlers. Still I trust no one can charge me with neglecting the spiritual part of the work. The fact that five adult Indians have been baptized as hopeful converts to the Gospel, and that two Indians have been admitted to the Lord's table since the commencement of the mission, is some proof that our work in that direction has not been in vain. Also, that almost every Indian visiting here attends