

tion work begins with the children, either in missionary or temperance effort.

McDOUGALL ORPHANAGE.

DEAR LADIES,—Thinking that you would probably be pleased to hear how the Orphanage has been getting along since I last wrote you, I take the liberty of addressing you again.

The past winter has been exceptionally severe, the cold weather having lasted much longer, and the snow having lain on the ground very much longer than is usual for this vicinity, and many cattle have perished; but the continued good health of our children has given us cause for thankfulness.

One boy, George Twoyoungmen, whom we admitted March 25th, 1887, had been ill all winter, but we took him in thinking that he might get better soon, but his cough continuing, his father took him out 26th April. Rebecca Nancy Bigstone, one of our little girls, aged nine years, has got nearly blind, in spite of all we could do for her. I had almost forgotten to report Mary Sarah Twoyoungmen's sickness. She is our oldest girl, and while hearty and rugged, without any warning suddenly had a hemorrhage of the lungs, and was ill for about a fortnight after, but she seems as well as ever again. All the others are sound and hearty. All the children, George Twoyoungmen only excepted, have attended the mission school taught by Miss Youmans, lately of St. Catharines, whom we find to be an excellent teacher.

Since warm weather has commenced, the large boys have been engaged on the farm, fencing, etc., and for the last fortnight the three largest, Peter, Joseph, and Jonas have been learning to plough. We have succeeded in breaking in two teams of oxen lent us by the Government, and the boys are learning nicely. As the Government has not given us a building grant yet, the Rev. John McDougall has had a house 25x30 feet put up of unhewn logs, and we have dug a cellar 12x12 and 6 feet deep under it. This is not half large enough for our large family, but we will manage to live in it through the summer, so that we can do our gardening and attend to the stock; hoping and praying for help to build a suitable house soon, we need it so much. Then this house will do nicely for a workshop. We hope to raise enough vegetables for our use next winter, and enough fodder for the stock.

The girls, too, have been doing nicely in their departments, cooking, baking, sweeping, scrubbing, washing, ironing, etc. They have not done much sewing during the winter, having devoted most of their leisure to the preparation of their school lessons. They will sew and knit more during summer.

The St. Thomas people sent us a good box of kitchen utensils and some cotton, etc., but we need more yet to have things as you in Ontario would call decent. We need granite cups and plates (granite ironware), and cooking kettles and saucepans, and a few carpenter's tools, and a few garden tools. These can be got very reasonable at Calgary, only we lack funds. Some of the boys are badly off for shoes again.

At times we get disheartened with our appliances, prospects of assistance and results; thinking that our

children should improve more rapidly, but we are encouraged when we compare them with their camp friends in personal appearance, behavior, industry, and, in fact, in all that goes to make up the difference between civilized and barbarous people. I wish we had photographic apparatus so you could see how our children look. I enclose a photo showing what can be done with Indian children; we are doing a like work. If you could only see for yourselves you would be pleased, as all our visitors are. The children have good voices and like to sing, so that we can entertain guests at very short notice.

Yours respectfully,

JAS. A. YOUMANS, *Principal.*

FRENCH METHODIST INSTITUTE FOR GIRLS, AT ACTON VALE, QUE.

A LITTLE party of eleven warm friends of our French work, left Montreal on the morning of Thursday, May 12th; and after a pleasant run of over two hours arrived at Acton Vale, where we were heartily received by the Rev. E. DeGruchy, his wife, and Mlle. Vessot. Immediately on arriving we proceeded to the schoolroom, where were assembled twenty-five bright-faced girls, eager to show their kind friends from Montreal the result of the past seven months' work.

Devotional exercises in French were conducted by Mr. DeGruchy, the pupils joining in reading the Scripture lesson and in the Lord's Prayer. Then followed a very thorough examination by Mlle. Vessot, in French and English grammar, parsing, geography, writing, Scripture history, and catechism, the visitors listening in delighted surprise at the wonderful progress made by the pupils, many of whom, on entering our school last autumn, knew little or nothing of the subjects named. Especially was this the case with our French girls, who show an eager desire to learn all that their teachers can teach them.

The afternoon session was opened by reading, singing, and prayer, in English—the pupils joining with the same heartiness as in the morning. Compositions in French and English, interspersed with music, recitations, algebra, and geometry filled up the hour. Then came the distribution of prizes, which pleasant duty was performed by D. Graham, Esq., who gave some sound practical advice to the pupils.

Several of the prizes were the gift of the Rev. L. N. Beaudry, to whom we here return thanks. Short addresses were given by Mesdames Nichol, Ross, and Holland, followed by appreciative remarks from parents of the pupils, thus bringing to a close our first year's work in Acton Vale School.

Too much praise cannot be given to our indefatigable and painstaking teacher, Mlle. Vessot, to whom much of our school's success is due. Our hearts were rejoiced on finding that fourteen of our pupils have professed conversion during the winter, while sixteen partake of the communion; so that spiritually as well as intellectually our work has prospered. To God be all the praise!

The following is a copy of a resolution passed at the last monthly meeting of the Montreal Auxiliary W. M. S. :—