

From the Rev. F. Swainson, to the Dorcas Secretary of St. Michael's Branch.

"I must now redeem my promise and write you, as the barrel from St. Michael's Branch arrived safely some little time back. I would have written before, but have been so busy; the trouble on the Blackfoot Reserve kept me away from home some time, as I had to go up there. Your barrel was as usual all that could be wished for, the six dresses and ten night-dresses were most acceptable, as there are thirty-five girls' in the Homes, and very few spare dresses, while the nightdresses were used this time for the boys. Flannel and woollen petticoats are also always useful, altho' it is better if possible to put little bodices on to them, but that is not so very important, as if we have the petticoats we can always add the bodices. The box of toys we shall keep for our Christmas Tree. Thé jellies will be used for any of the children who may get sick. Altogether the contents of the barrel were very acceptable, the things proving most useful, and I hope that next year will see a repetition of this. I have been appealing just lately for help towards clearing off a debt of \$900. A false rumour got started that these homes were endowed, and not in need of outside help; and others down East got hold of the idea that this Mission was receiving more than its share of support. Consequently subscriptions are not coming in, and I am very much hampered and worried. We have seventy-five children in the Homes, only forty-six of whom receive a maintenance grant from Government. May I ask you to do what you can to help to clear off this debt? It is an incubus that is weighing me down altogether. I don't want to curtail and cut down the work. I am sure that cannot be right, so I am making a special effort to wipe out this debt. I hardly like begging in this way, your Branch has always been so good to us here, that it seems altogether too bad bothering you in this manner; but to whom can we go (*humanly*) when in trouble except to our friends. Again thanking you for all your past sympathy and help, and praying God to bless and own your efforts."

August 6th, 1895.