

FROM MR. R. O. M'PHERSON.

*Okanase Mission, Elphinstone, Nov. 23, 1895.*

I beg to thank you very much both for Mrs. McPherson and myself, for your kind letter of 15th inst. We feel grateful for your good wishes, and your earnest prayers, and pray God may bless us in our work.

About the clothing from Maitland Presbyterial Society, Miss McIntosh did not tell me how many bales or packages she received. She only said there was a great quantity, and that the children would not require any more till Christmas. We only arrived here on the night of the 29th Oct., and I found it was not possible for me to find out the wants of the people before the cold weather came. It came sooner than expected. The following week was very stormy and cold, so I sent word to all the families in the reserve to meet me at the school-house on Saturday, 9th inst. and I would distribute the clothing among them as well as I could according to their needs. This was done and all seemed to be satisfied. I kept some quilts and other clothing in reserve in case of sickness or special cases of needs. We also kept all the new cloths and yarn to give employment to the girls in school. Mrs. McPherson got all the girls to begin knitting stockings, and made them take them home to finish them. She got them to work making petticoats for the women and children of the reserve, and then for themselves, with the intention of giving them as Christmas gifts. We hope to have this done.

I had doubts whether this method of giving the clothing away was the best, but as I had no knowledge of their wants, and could not learn before they would require some clothing, I thought if I was making a mistake, I was erring on the charitable side, but it has in God's providence been for the best, because I am sure you will be as sorry to hear it as I am to tell you, that on Tuesday afternoon last our house was burned to the ground, just after we had got everything in order and made comfortable for the winter. The fire began in the roof of the house, and must have been caused by a defective stove pipe at the roof. Mrs. McPherson left the house a little before two o'clock to come to school, and the fire in the stove was about burned out. About 2.45 one of the boys asked leave to get out for a minute which was granted. He had just got out when he turned and said the house was on fire. I looked out and found it too true. We all ran out at once, the fire had a good start and was beyond our power to save, because we could not get on the roof for want of a ladder. We at once began to take everything out that we could. and I am glad to say we succeeded in saving nearly all. There are a number of