

“THE MOST IMPRESSIVE MEETING I EVER ATTENDED.”

Following are extracts from letters written by Mr. Geo. J. Wellbourn, the new mission teacher at the Stony Plain. The letters are dated the 2nd and 4th of November. The Messrs. McDougall and Nelson mentioned are Methodist missionaries to the Indians further South:

“The second Sunday we were here we had a service with the Indians in the school-room. It consisted of singing, prayer, reading, with explanations (?)—all in English. This did not seem to me to meet the case, so this Sunday we had a change, which resulted in, what was to me, the most impressive meeting I ever attended. We sang four hymns during the meeting—three of them by the Indians themselves in Cree. I read to them from the Bible, and then asked them to speak. Two of them, Lazarus and Four Souls, spoke at considerable length and with great earnestness. Five of them then took part in the prayers which followed, and the fervor and deep feeling shown by them was most touching, and I trust was heard with favor by the Hearer and Answerer of prayer.

The Rev. John McDougall is to be here to-morrow on his way home from Lake St. Anne, and will conduct a service in Cree. He and Mr. Nelson staid with us over night on their way up.

We find considerable difficulty in distributing the clothing. About five-sixths of it consists of women's jackets and ulsters, which do not seem to be appreciated here. Most of them need dresses, but there are none. There is scarcely anything for the men. The children's clothing has not yet come.

We try to get them to work for what clothing they receive, and most of them are willing to do so. Lazarus and Cecile want nothing but cash for their work, and are not backward in asking for clothing when they want it.

We are quite gratified at the change in the personal appearance and habits of the day pupils. They do not spit on the floor nor smoke in the school-room, and they come in the morning with their hair smoothed and their hands and faces comparatively clean. Most of the children too join in the singing, and are nicely overcoming their bashfulness in speaking English.”

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At the recent meeting in Brandon of the Synod of Manitoba and the North-West Territories, the Rev. Joseph Hogg, of Winnipeg, presented on behalf of the Committee a report showing the recent progress and present condition of our work among the Indians. The Rev. Hugh McKay, and the Rev. John McArthur, gave addresses describing the missions in their charge.

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The Bird Tail Sioux congregation, of which the Rev. John McArthur is pastor, took up a collection for the Brandon Hospital on Thanksgiving Day. It amounted to over three dollars.