

So far as I am concerned, I am resolved that the men and women able to work shall work for what they get, and with our increasing school and farm there is much to be done. The second-hand clothing sent is all put to good use and eagerly sought for. Send us what you can, also patch-work for quilts for the school girls and for the women.

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### *Description of School Work at File Hills.*

FILE HILLS, ASSA., *March 11, 1891.*

MR. ALEX. SKENE.—I will try and give you a few items respecting our work. I might say that it has been as yet more preparation for work than anything else. The enemies of liberty are here, and everything that they can do to crush us out is done ; yet in spite of all we are gaining ground. Though our attendance is still small, we have succeeded in establishing our school on a firm basis. The children cannot now leave us whenever the parent thinks he has not been treated well, but must first obtain the permission of the Agent, thus saving us from a great deal of annoyance. At present we have seven boys and three girls, ten in all, and I doubt if a more contented or happier band could be found. Some of them can read in Part II., and can write fairly well. They are also picking up the English. We make the speaking of English compulsory. Of course there is more or less *Cree* spoken, but it is pleasing to note how quickly the little things pick up the English. It is also very encouraging to us to notice the change in the manners and appearance of the children after a few months in the school. Our children are all small, but they have their several duties, which they perform quite cheerfully. They are up about seven ; before breakfast, they peel the potatoes for dinner, and breakfast and prayers over, the breakfast dishes have to be washed, put away, and wood brought in and neatly piled around the different stoves ; then they have a play until the bell rings for school. At noon, if the weather is favourable, we all go out for a drive which they enjoy as much as anything after school. Wood has to be carried in, supper dishes washed and put away, a couple of hours is spent in games, such