

thrash, and grind the wheat, all ourselves. We cannot get Indians to do these things; they know nothing about such work. So you can easily imagine that it has taken all the time we could spare, and all the money we could get, to prepare houses and make something of a farm to be able to keep children; and yet we have had some Indian children with us from the very first, even when we were living in tents. Up to this time we have had fourteen children living at the mission; not all at one time, but at different times, and for longer or shorter periods. At present there are six permanently with us, and one child not old enough to attend school. Besides these, there are a few who come to school when they happen to be camped near the mission; there are at least six of this class. There are plenty of children belonging to the families who frequent this place, but they do not yet see the advantage of education, and they dread the changing of their religion, which education would produce; for although many of the people attend our religious services, and all seem friendly, there are not many of them yet prepared to give up all for Christ. But a spirit of enquiry is abroad among them, and they have many talks about this new religion, and questioning if they should not submit themselves to it.

We expect a considerable accession to the number of children at the mission next spring, as several have been spoken for, and are to be brought by their parents from the plains. For the present our number is likely to be increased more from among the Plain Indians than from among our own, who are called Wood Indians, because they live and hunt mostly in the woods.

In the plains there are always a great number of orphan and castaway children following the large camps, sometimes living in one tent and sometimes in another; and were I able to make visits to these camps I might find children glad to come to the mission, with whom nobody would interfere to take them away from us, as has been done with so many already. Such visits would take up a great deal of time, and would require many hundreds of miles of travelling; but if the Church will only send another missionary to assist in the work it would be easily managed, and I hope that your continued and increasing contributions will encourage the Committee to send one very soon. There are sixteen attending the English school, more or less regularly.

I think I told you before of a poor invalid Indian who came to the mission with his wife and child the spring after we arrived. Like Lazarus whom you read of in the Bible, he was full of sores, and could crawl only, on hands and feet. I had met with him two months after I came into the country at an Indian camp where I lodged one night, and then for the first time he heard the way of salvation explained. When he came to us he said that he knew he would not be long in this world, and he was very anxious to learn more of the way of salvation. We dared not act in the way of the rich man in the parable, but we gave him a tent and allowed him and his wife and child to live at the mission, and when winter came we built a small house for them. More than two years ago the three were baptized, and the man (who took James as his christian name) was afterwards admitted to the Lord's Table. Through the little attention we could give to his sores, and with nourishing food, his life was prolonged till the 30th December last, when he died rejoicing in Christ Jesus. His little girl, now nearly four years of age, we regard as one of the mission children, his widow is still here, and assists in house-work. So, thank God, I have not come here altogether in vain. We are only yet tasting the first fruits. May God give at length an abundant harvest of souls saved through your offerings and prayers. "Be not weary in well-doing, for in due time you shall reap if ye faint not."

Your Sincere Friend,

JAMES NISBET.