

now as we see one and another of them go to homes of their own, we watch anxiously for fruits; will any bring forth a hundredfold? God grant there may be some *twenties* among them. We have had a pleasant winter so far—one thaw in January, which was quite an event in the history of the country. Our Indians, from all reports, are very well; we hear of very few cases of sickness. With one exception the health of the school has been good; la grippe is taking one here and there, but we have escaped.

FROM MISS FRASER.

*Indian School, Portage à la Prairie, Jan. 18, 1896.*

On Friday, January 10th, we had the formal opening of our new school, and as Miss Laidlaw has written a full account of it to Mrs. Harvie, which you will see, it is needless for me to go into detail except to say we had a pleasant evening, Professors Hart and Baird being here, together with quite a number of the friends in town who showed their interest, not only by being here, but by assisting us in providing refreshments for the evening. While our attention has been quite taken up with the opening, we have not forgotten our Christmas times of which you will want a full account. Owing to our not being able to move into the new building for Christmas, we decided it would be better to postpone the dinner for the adult Indians until New Year's, but we had our usual tree for the children on Christmas eve, and it is needless to say the children enjoyed it—pleasure and satisfaction was written on every face. Then they had a nice Christmas dinner of good things, after which Mr. Brown treated them to a sleigh ride. I went first with some of them, afterwards Miss Laidlaw went with the rest, and although the day was quite cold, yet they did not seem to feel it, but to enjoy it thoroughly. While the children were enjoying all that had been provided for them, we were gratified to know that the spirit of giving was being cultivated in their hearts, for Katie and Topsy surprised Miss Laidlaw and myself by giving each of us a nice cup and saucer purchased out of their own earnings.

On the day following we prepared to say good-bye to our old home and move into a much more comfortable one, and were busy all that week getting settled, and preparing for the New Year's dinner—and just here let me thank the ladies of Toronto Presbyterial for their kindness in sending such a nice supply of furnishings. The blinds and everything suited nicely. The rag carpet we put in the girls' and boys' dormitories, there being enough for a strip between each row of beds, besides the sheeting, pillow cotton, curtains and carpet for our own bed-rooms, and then the sewing machine has been such a help in doing our sewing that I feel I cannot say enough in return for all their kindness.

On New Year's Day about ninety, including the children, were here for dinner, and as each one is supposed to get all she or he can eat on that occasion, it took no small amount to do them; but when one knows how this dinner is looked forward to and enjoyed by all these poor creatures, we feel more than repaid for all we have been able to do for them.

There has been a good deal of sickness among them this winter, but all are nearly well again.

I must not omit to tell you about the Christmas gift we received from the C. E. Society of Burnside. The young men of the Society collected one thousand nine hundred and fifty weight of flour, and brought half of it