

W. B. M. U. TIDINGS.

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MOTTO FOR THE YEAR.
"Work together with Him."

PRAYER TOPIC.

For the Northwest Mission, the work among the Indians, and all the laborers, that this year there may be a great ingathering of souls. For the officers of our Union and Missionary Societies.

The Greatest Need of the Indians.

BY REV. S. VAN TASSEL.

White Missionary to the Indians in Manitoba.

What is the greatest need of the Indians? Some would said to be civilized. All admit they need to be civilized, and we find that this is being done in various ways—by special efforts of the Government and Christian societies and also by their coming in contact with the white population.

Their greatest need is to be educated say others. This is a means to their civilization. And educated they are. Wherever it is possible to have schools among them they are found. The different denominations working among them, aided by the Government, are endeavoring to instruct the children. All may attend the ordinary schools, and many have the privilege of remaining for some years in the Industrial Training schools.

But few will allow that these are sufficient that nothing more is needed or that these are the most important needs to be supplied. They must be Christianized. They must be won from their heathen religion to Christian religion, and instructed in Christian doctrines. And when this is done, when an Indian gives up his old religion and confesses himself to be a Christian, many think that the great need has been supplied, and that nothing more is required. Let us see if this is so. Come with me to St. Peter's Reserve, where the greatest improvement has been made with the Indians, and where work has been carried on

the longest. We find that they are indeed civilized. They have neat log houses. Some of them are thatched, but most are shingled. Neat fences surround them, gardens and tilled land are found on every side. Most of the houses are well furnished with tables, chairs, stoves and bedsteads. Mats are on the floors and pictures on the walls. The people are neat in appearance. Nearly every one can speak good English. Many can read. All wear the European dress of the families of the South end of the reserve who are still heathen, and profess to be Christians and are church members.

Is anything more needed? We are told there is not, and there is nothing for us to do here. But as we are here on the Reserve let us look about a little and inquire into things, and see if this be true. Here is the road from Seikirk to the Reserve, and it is Saturday night. Waggon after waggon presses with its load of drunken, brawling, quarreling Indians. Many of them will be at the communion table to-morrow.

At holiday times and on special occasions, dances with drunkenness and worse sins are carried on all over the reserve. The lives of many are ruined, and you will find gross sins quite needed?

Have a talk with these people and speak to them of spiritual things and you will find they are carnally minded, and that they will be saved. They don't

spiritually blind and dead. Is anything more needed by them than what they already have?

But it may be asked, "Do not the preachers give them what they need?" Let us listen to them preach.

Why they are blind as well! They are leading the blind! They say nothing about God's way of salvation, nothing about righteousness, and the Holy Spirit, and the new birth, and the kingdom of God.

At the time of the last meeting I gave some of the people being saved. I asked him if he was saved. He believed that he was, but was afraid to say so. After our conversation I became convinced that he was converted, and he was saved. In talking of it during the next week I asked him what he had said to the people during the last week. He was unsaved. Sadly he said, "I don't know what God will spare me to do."

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