

Extract Letter from Mr. Laird.

PROSPECT OF A NEW STATION BEING OPENED.

COTE'S RESERVE.

Your kind letter of the 9th ult., cheered us not a little. We are glad to know that your Society is again coming to our aid, in the matter of supplying winter clothing for the people. It will be as much needed this year as last, and as the time approaches the arrival of the boxes will no doubt be eagerly looked for. Their coming is quite an event. We will probably have more calls for clothing this year than last, as our work is gradually extending, especially on Ke-se-koos Reserve. Many of the people there are nominally Roman Catholic, but the majority of them do not care much about the priest, and our hope is that before long a number will join our mission. It is very desirable they should do so, as there is no resident priest, and as they rarely have religious service of any kind, some are lapsing into heathenism. On Sabbath afternoon as I was driving to afternoon service Chief Ke-se-koos stopped me and said there was no service near enough for him to attend. I told him I would be willing to come to the part of the Reserve on which he lived, and preach occasionally to the people there. He expressed himself as pleased, and invited me to come with my interpreter to his house. I will probably therefore at an early day open a station at this point. Now as a few presents in clothing would no doubt be acceptable to these people, and might be helpful in getting them interested. I merely mention the matter knowing that as far as possible you will supply our wants.

I may add that there is not much room for a Roman Catholic Mission on Ke-se-koos Reserve. Their cause is languishing, and as the people are much neglected, it is only a matter of duty that I should do what I can for them. I would therefore like a little additional clothing to distribute among these people.

Mr. McVicar has gone to Riding Mountain to take charge of the school there. We were sorry to lose his services, as he was very successful with the children. His place is at present supplied by John Black, a young Cree and a cousin of Mr. McV. Young Black is a student at Manitoba College, and bids fair to make a useful man.

Last Sabbath I baptized three of the children who are staying with us and attending school. Their father is still a heathen, but was quite willing that these children should be baptized. He has three wives and a very large family. We hold services at his house. These are the first members of his family to be baptized.