

## THE HOME WORK.

Letter from the REV. W. E. JOHNSON, dated ANDOVER, N.B., Feb. 1st, 1891.

WE have here the extremes of heat and cold. For instance, this winter the thermometer has more than once registered 55° below zero; while last summer it told off 97° in the shade. Then the roads in several directions are now well nigh impassable, the snow piled up in the middle of the highway ten feet high. The work of your missionary on this extensive mission is thus seen to be prosecuted under great disadvantages. I may say though, that this is rather an exceptionally cold and stormy winter. Throughout the past summer and autumn, or early winter months, I preached and visited Three Brooks, James's, Pokiok and the Narrows, all on the Tobique. At Four Falls, Aroostook Junction, Grand Falls, Bairdsville, Hill and Dale, and Andover. It would not be wise to abandon this field, even though it should continue to slightly draw on the Missionary Society. The Tobique Valley Railroad opening this year will tend to draw many new settlers in this direction. The development of the Plaster Rock alone will create a boom, apart from the general prosperity which will assuredly follow the opening up of one of the finest agricultural sections to be found in our Dominion. Here in Andover, the chief town of the country, and centre of all this coming activity and prosperity, the Methodists have a fine parsonage, and a neat little church. Having held the fort so many long years, it were surely the height of folly to beat an ignoble retreat just when there's a prospect of victory crowning our efforts. For the past six weeks neuralgia, etc., has confined me to the house.

## MUNCEY INDIAN MISSION.

GLAD to tell you we have many things to cheer us on this Indian Mission. Our work is owned of the Master in the conversion of sinners, and in the brighter experience of some who have long been members of the Church. We have prayed, and not in vain, for the "Quickening Spirit" to attend the preaching and teaching of the Word of God. The answer has come in better attendance on the means of grace, more attention to the divine message. Tears of penitence on account of sin, and a willingness to forsake all evil and come to Christ for salvation.

Our dear people have hard fare, and suffer the want of many of the necessaries of life, especially clothing. We are very pleased to be able in any way to relieve them, and show them that we delight to do them good. We acknowledge, with many thanks, a valuable box of clothing sent us in January by the ladies of St. Thomas First Church, which has been carefully divided amongst them. The result is, "Blessed are the givers, the distributors and the receivers.

THOS. MASON.

**Arthur.**—Ours is a rural mission in every sense of the word; we have not a single village within our limits. Perhaps it is also needless for me to say, ours is a new mission, made up of some old appointments severed by Act of Conference from Napinka, and some new appointments opened out on new territory this

year, making six appointments altogether. At four of these appointments the services are held in private dwellings. This is not favorable to a good attendance on the public means of grace. The sparsely settled country in which some of these appointments are situated, and the long distance which some have to come, is not favorable to a good attendance. But against these we lay this fact, the attendance of our people on the public means of grace has been good, on the whole. This means that our people are church-goers in the popular sense of the word; and more, that they have an appetite for spiritual food.

Our nearest market is thirty miles distant. This leaves us tired horses and weary men when the Sabbath comes. But, we are pleased to have the nearest tavern at least thirty miles distant; and further to be able to state that we have not a drunkard on our mission, so far as I know.

Our missionary ground, though devoid of public buildings, was once famous for the "pleasure-dance," so much, that a faithful servant of Ja might often have occasion to stand without, grieved, because of the "musick and dancing" within. But, this season there has not been a single dance on the mission.

Finally, we are increasing our number in membership. Whilst our farmers have matters over which to rejoice, "bringing in the sheaves;" in the religious world God has given us matter over which to rejoice, "bringing in" some human souls. These are "triumphs of His grace." And who would not wish us more?

T. J. JOHNSTON.

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