

the girls, Isabel, Tene and Eliza, how helpful they were, and they were no longer "the children," they were friends; then Arthur and little Harry, and, last of all, Hugh McKay. This was indeed the "last straw." You do not part lightly with children you have cared for for seven years. Well, after the children left, came the preparations for Mr. Gilmour's departure to his new field. Then the stir and excitement of Christmas, followed by Mr. Small's arrival and initiation, but now I am very pleased to say we are fairly under way once more.

Now, I must thank you for your kindly interest in our Christmas treat and very specially for the bags of candy. They were very much better for having come such a distance, and then to know that you have remembered them all this time, and shown it in such a substantial way was indeed a great pleasure. It was told in every letter written for fully three weeks. Your visit has done these children a great deal of good. They listen now, gratefully and understandingly, when I tell them how their clothing is sent by friends in the East. There was one quilt came in the supplies this year that interested them very much. It was made by the Dovercourt Mission Band, the name beautifully embroidered in the centre by some person who knew all about such work. Well, we are just at a loss to know what to do with it. We are all agreed that it is much too pretty and dainty for everyday use; so we are going to keep it for a pattern in the meantime, and whenever a girl (or teacher either) can embroider as well as that, she will do; she needs no further teaching in that line; and finally it is to be given, a wedding present, to the first girl married from the school; of course, Miss McLeod and I insist on being allowed to compete.

But about our Christmas tree, you understand we have two every year—one at the church which we enjoy very much, and another a few evenings later at the school, which is our very own, no white people having part nor lot in it. We get the tree in position, decorate it, see that Santa Claus is in readiness, but the children get up the programme themselves; it consists of music, speeches, readings, etc., one of the little boys acting as chairman. Susette Jacob and other little ones sang "Weaver John" very nicely, only they would keep looking back at the tree. Three students from Winnipeg contributed to the evening's entertainment, but we were in no mood for listening to speeches, the presents were the main feature of the evening. Never were there dolls so pretty or so much admired as these, and balls, tops, bags, or whistles, everything that was handed down was just what was wanted. It's a great pleasure to us to see them so perfectly happy. I do not suppose there were any happier in the world that night than these Indian children.

I must thank you too for the extra clothing sent by Toronto Presbyterial Society, that fine piece of homespun and the flannel. Five new children came in last week from Rolling River. We have now thirty-nine. I was obliged to send for Hagar to come and help us for a week or two with the sewing. You would have been pleased had you seen how neatly she was dressed, and how handily she went about her work, asking as soon as she got settled, "Now what can I do first?" She has been such a comfort to me. She always comes to my mind first when the work gets behind. "If Hagar was here now we could soon overtake this." I have great hopes of Hagar doing a great deal of good on her reserve.* Our sowing time is past with some of our larger children, and

* Hagar was a former pupil of the school, now married, and settled on the Reserve.