

mouth, Lucan and Christ Church, London, and a Junior Branch at St. Paul's Cathedral. A children's Mission Band formed last spring at St. George's Church, London West, was also reported. In reviewing the work of the past year one most pleasing feature has been the formation of a number of Junior Branches. We feel that we can truly say "hitherto has the Lord helped us," and we trust that he will enable us to accomplish in the future still more, for the increase of His kingdom and the spread of the glorious Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. A circulating library (for the use of the Branches) has been established. Contributions of books relating to mission work, or money will be thankfully received by Mrs. Tilley, 554 King street, London, Ont.

ALGOMA.

"Waubegsezis," mentioned in the article upon "Indians and Indian Homes" in the magazine of November, the Indian boy who was educated in the Shingwauk Home and at the Port Hope School, passed a successful examination before the Civil Service Board in Ottawa, in November, and on Monday the 11th of February, 1889, commenced his duties as a Civil Service servant in the Indian Department, under the name of David Osabgee. He called upon the Secretary of the Woman's Auxiliary on Saturday the 9th, and looked the picture of happiness over his bright prospects. He worshipped in St. George's Church on his first Sunday in Ottawa, and attended the Sunday School. He promised to call again to report his progress.

SASKATCHEWAN.

To the Editor of the Canadian Church Magazine and Mission News:—

DEAR SIR,—Will you allow me through the medium of your paper to thank all the branches of the Woman's Auxiliary who have helped us in our work amongst the Blackfoot Indians this winter by sending so many valuable articles of clothing and quilts for distribution? Indeed you cannot tell how glad we were to have so many things to give away to these poor heathen. Here on their reserve we are surrounded by nearly 800, and if we include those living down the river to a distance of twelve miles, the number amounts to 2,000 and more.

Perhaps an account of the distribution of these things together with our doings in Christmas week, will interest those who aided us, and I trust encourage others to lend us a helping hand next winter. It has been the custom for the past five years now for me to give the Indians a feast at Christmas time, and since we have had clothing sent us to distribute it at the same time.

Wednesday and Thursday were the days chosen this Christmas season, so that before Christmas Day

had well closed we were all alive here at the Mission House, boiling meat, stewing apples and making other necessary preparations for the next day's feast. We were all about by lamp light early in the morning cutting up beef and bread, sorting over the clothing, and dressing the Christmas trees which Chief Big Plume fetched from some miles up the river on the previous Saturday through blinding snow. The trees contained all sorts of useful presents for the school children. Looking-glasses, combs, mitts, cuffs, spoons and mugs, besides dolls, tops, candies and other toys. You can't tell how delighted these Blackfoot boys and girls were to see such a sight as the fir trees presented. They had often seen them covered with snow, but never before (except last year) drooping under the weight of sweets and toys.

Wednesday was the children's day. All the little ones in the surrounding camps were invited to the feast, and long before mid-day, the appointed time, the boys and girls were clustering around the Mission House and school building, so that when I rang the hand bell as a signal that all was ready, only one solitary child was to be seen coming from the Indian houses in response. All were waiting. One hundred and twenty children presented themselves, and after the singing of a hymn and saying grace our feast began. It consisted of bread and beef, stewed apples and tea. Miss Brown and my sister, together with Mr. Stocken and Mr. Swainson, our two school teachers, formed the working band. Of course we did not have tables laid for them all. Some sat on the school benches, others on the floor, and according to their own custom eat it without knife or fork. When the provisions had been exhausted, (and Indians never think of leaving off until everything has been consumed!) all eyes were turned towards the clothing, new and second hand, which was about to be given away. How the boys and girls who had attended our Mission schools irregularly wished they had come oftener, as they saw the boys and girls who had obtained highest marks for attendance, clothed in the best we had to give them! After these had received their presents of clothing the rest of the children were all given something—the girls a dress apiece, and sometimes a pair of stockings or a petticoat or hood—the boys a shirt or trousers or muffler. Next came the trees, and how much all the toys and useful articles were prized by the children I cannot well say. They were prized I know, and all the little ones went home thoroughly happy.

Thursday brought a hundred and twenty parents to the school-house to receive like treatment. The nicely worked quilts we gave to the wives of the Chiefs, and the rest of the clothing, suitable for adults we distributed to the best of our ability. Scarcely any had to go without anything—a few went away unsatisfied. One man in particular, who wished for a waistcoat, as I had not one to give him, told me he would be satisfied with the one I was wearing with a muffler thrown in! I