

Here we had a good little meeting, but could not expect much financially, as a new church is to be prepared for this winter and erected in the spring. There is a good healthy feeling in Squirrel settlement, and I trust the beginning of a good cause.

At Palestine, Bro. Lawson and Sunady-school teachers were preparing for a nice Christmas tree and entertainment for the children.

I cannot but be of opinion that there is an important future for Bro. Lawson's Mission. Its location is favourable for being in the line of a railroad bye-and-by; and the good soil, timber and other things are favourable. Nearly all the people are now very poor, and things are in a very primitive state, but there is a good spirit manifested. There is a prospect of an English colony commencing next spring just west of Palestine. Eight townships have been set apart for the purpose. I have some doubts of its success: should it succeed, we shall have a work to do.

I shall have to be more careful about protecting myself from the cold on my long drives. I got my nose badly frozen one cold night before I knew about it. There has been a scaling process going on upon my nose since, but I think it will retain its original shape and nearly its natural appearance. I must get a fur coat next winter, and be better prepared to meet "Jack Frost."

I was on my way from Winnipeg when that most sudden and fearful north-west storm came on. You will have read about it. I had often read about the winter storms of

Minnesota and thought I had some notion of them. I have had a personal experience now of what they are like.

My pony did not keep the road a moment, and at once I found myself on the prairie, not knowing which side of the road I was on. I was almost blinded in a few moments by the fearful wind and pelting snow, and began to think of what it would be to stay out in the storm all night. What a "poor show" a drunken man would have made that night!

I got out of my cutter, fixed robes, &c., as fast as I could, and then went north, then south, feeling for the road with my feet. At last I found it, but had to lead my horse the rest of the way home, as he would not, or could not, keep the track.

I saw the storm coming, and might have got to some house before it came up, but I expected it to be a little flurry of snow, such as we have in Ontario sometimes. The Lord has been my helper in many dangers and was with me in that terrible storm. Some perished in the storm, and others were badly frozen. The natives of this country know the signs of storms better than newcomers, and can make preparations.

Our Sunday-school concert at the Portage on the evening of Christmas day was a good success. We had our church ("Wood's") as full as it could comfortably hold, and the Christmas Tree was very interesting to the children. Mrs. Halstead would be in her element if she could have all the children and young people of the Mission near each other and in Sunday-school every week.

---

*From the Rev. J. SEMMENS, dated Berens River, March 6th, 1877.*

The spring packet, now daily expected, will shortly afford me an opportunity of communicating with you relative to the interests of this Mission.

The first thought which the mind suggests is an expression of thanksgiving to the Great Head of the Church that in so many ways He

has designed to manifest His power and reveal His love. A look-out upon the future has always a dash of uncertainty about it to those of little faith, and our loving Father is wont to help our infirmities occasionally by bringing about results which our feeble perception would have deemed impossible. Poor Elijah,