

wood, which he would otherwise have to get himself or pay them to do it; and it requires no little for both house and school. I consider that they are better doing that than sitting and idling about their tents all day. I mention this so that you may know exactly how we distribute the articles. Some of the things in this last bale are really very handsome, and all such warm material. They will save many poor little skins from the biting winds when the thermometer is ranging from forty to fifty degrees below zero.

I am thankful to say that our Cree services are still pretty well attended. A few who stood aloof from us last winter have this summer been our most regular attendants. Beside our Sunday services, we have, till within a few weeks ago, had daily evening prayers for the Indians, which have been much appreciated.

About a month ago I baptized three Indian children, part of the family of an old man from Trout Lake, about seventy miles from here. The old man told me he had brought them for the express purpose of being baptized, and himself and the rest had come for instruction.

If success were dependent upon human effort we should have good reason to fear, but thank God, the battle is His, and not ours. We are His witnesses, and witness we will by His grace. We are commanded to go and speak, though briars and thorns be in the way. The Master did not say we were to go into all the world and *convert* every creature, but *preach the Gospel*.

Will you kindly, for Mr. Robinson and myself, convey to our dear Christian friends, who have ministered to the needs of our poor people, our most sincere thanks, until I can write them all personally?

We are still behind with our Church funds, and as yet have no communion service, or cloth for table. I do trust the Lord's people at home will come forward and help us to finish and furnish the House of God. Surely some one or more will lend to the Lord what is required to complete it! I know there are more important appeals than mine to be responded to, but here are precious souls for whom Christ died, as in Africa or elsewhere.

Yours faithfully,

G. HOLMES.

THE following letter has been kindly placed at our disposal by the Rev. A. E. Cowley, Secretary of the Church Missionary Society for Rupert's Land:—

{ St. Saviour's Mission, Fort Dunvegan,
{ Peace River, N.W.T., Nov. 16, 1889.

DEAR MR. COWLEY,—Reference was made in my last report to the scarcity of food among the Indians, which of late years has been so trying to them. I also mentioned some prospects of assistance, and it is now a pleasure to be able to say that all the help promised was given, and that it proved both timely and ample. The flour supplied by the Dominion Government was dealt out

weekly by the Hudson's Bay Company to the really needy among the Indians.

As intimated, we opened our soup kitchen on Advent Sunday, Nov. 22nd. Tickets had previously been issued, and a little ringing on a little bell brought some fifteen Indians to the Mission sharp to the minute. As may be supposed soup was for the time being the uppermost subject, and to it their thoughts would naturally be bound until it was disposed of; so they were at once made to squat in a circle on the floor. In the centre of the circle so formed the soup kettle was placed on a tarpaulin, and over a quart of thick steaming soup was ladled into the pan or kettle of each ticket holder. We noticed with pleasure that the humble repast provided was very acceptable and, by way of striking the iron while it was hot, I reminded them that the meat for their soup was furnished by a lady in England, who had thus practically shown that the religion of Christ, properly understood and cordially received, brought together the people of far off lands as children of one loving family.

The meal was followed by a short service, a rule strictly observed during the four months the soup-kitchen was kept open.

Among the ticket holders was an old man of eighty, whose snow-white hair and intelligent expression gave him an appearance not often met with among the Beavers. Then there was Tronquille, who is supposed to be a centenarian, and who, until a few years ago, was the husband of three wives, but at present of only one, as one of the three was removed by death, and another went away in quest of some more reliable means of support.

It was expected that the daily instruction received, together with other kindness, would produce a marked and lasting impression; and it is pleasing to say that, in the case of at least two or three, there are good grounds for encouragement. Take, for instance, the former of the old gentlemen mentioned above, who consistently attached himself to our Mission, and who gave up his grandson, a quiet, interesting boy of eleven, to be taught, as he said, to read and pray like the English, and who, when an infant grandchild of his died, caused the body to be brought to me for burial. To my regret this old man and his relatives have returned to Fort St. John's, their native place, so that they are lost sight of, at least, for a time.

The Roman Catholic priests continue to rush after the new-born infant with fatherly solicitude; but it is only in form and name that most of these Indians are Catholics. The staunch ones could be easily counted on the fingers of one hand, and even these would not be so staunch were it not for the few families of French halfbreeds who reside here, and constitute the real backbone of the Roman Catholic Church at this place.

One satisfactory aspect of the matter is this: The people appreciate to that extent our Bible