

THE CROWSTAND.

A recent letter from Miss E. M. Armstrong, of the Crowstand, after speaking of the new building and the furniture needed for it, says : "I am afraid I am making this letter long, but I want to tell you about our Sunday school. We have nearly all the school children every Sunday, besides a great many married people. Miss McLean takes all the little ones, I think twenty ; Mattie has eleven big girls ; Mrs. Laird has a class of boys. The big boys and men go Mr. Kerr's class. I have a class of married women, each with a baby. Sometimes I cannot make myself heard for the crying of babies and rattling of cradles. Both Mr. Kerr and myself have interpreters. I think we are making some progress. The women speak quite freely to me of their troubles and their desire to know the right way. Though we have much to encourage us, yet it is very up-hill work. The indolence of the Indian nature makes them incapable of continuous effort in the right direction. We are all fairly well. The doctor has visited us to-day. There are some cases of sickness among the children."

The Miss McLean mentioned above is the assistant matron. "Mattie" is Miss Armstrong's younger sister, who is now assistant teacher in the school, which has an attendance of sixty children—all boarders. Mrs. Laird is the wife of the missionary, the Rev. G. A. Laird, who on Sunday afternoons conducts a service at the north end of the reserve. Mr. Kerr is a young Scotch farmer in the neighborhood, who for several years has taken a keen interest in the work of the school.

The note at the close about sickness among the children has been supplemented by a brief and hurried note from Mr. Laird, written a week later, and saying that scarlet fever had broken out, and six children in the school and twelve on the reserve were ill ; that a doctor had been summoned from Yorkton (35 miles distant), and that there were some grounds for hoping that the epidemic would not turn out to be of a violent character. Newspaper reports of a more recent date indicate that the disease has spread among the white settlements in the same part of the country, and that there have been a number of deaths from it. It must be a time of much distress and anxious watching to the little band of missionaries at this outpost.

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