

and others who are stopping at the Mission will suffer for want of food before the spring fish come. Mr. S. tells me that they are in this condition every year. It is doubtless owing in a great degree to their improvidence during the fishing season. They might make much better provision for their own support than many of them do. Christianity is the only effectual means, I feel persuaded, which will so elevate them in the scale of being that they will by "considering their ways" become provident for both the present and the future life. Should not their brethren who are in the enjoyment of gospel blessings hearken to their call,

and present them with the means of making them true men?

I did intend to make a visit to Island Lake this winter, but having learned that there, as well as at most other of the H. B. Co's trading posts, there are few if any Indians to be found in the winter, I have decided to wait till summer, and go, if possible, just when they all come in at the first open water. I shall be able then to travel with much less expense too.

I have visited a few families about the lake, but this, as I have before intimated, is but desultory work, and little can be accomplished by it.

*From the Rev. M. Fawcett, dated Manitoba, Portage-la-Prairie, April 18th, 1874.*

Yours of the 28th ult. is here. I have closely considered its contents, and will go in accordance with your directions. You have got the Minutes of the District Meeting ere this, and you will learn from them that the work of God is prospering in its every department on this district. As I gave you an account of this Mission in my report as read in the meeting, it is not necessary that I should do so now; I will, however, inform you of some things which will be pleasing to you. I was at the Quarterly Meeting last week on the Palestine Mission. I found brother Edwards very cheerful and happy in his work. The little church I dedicated in the winter was filled at our Quarterly Meeting with attentive listeners. We have but one small class yet on the Mission, but the people are determined to try and help themselves. The settlement is new, and they have but little patches yet under cultivation. It will not be said so of them very long. They are of the right industrious stamp and will succeed. It would do you good to visit them. If you do not send brother Edwards to college, the people would willingly receive him again. He, however, has got his mind upon a better education, and it would be a pity if he could not be spared from the work. The winter this year is loth to leave us, last year at this season a great deal of seed was sown, but not so this. The people in Palestine went to the church in sleighs, and when the snow is gone

there is no such thing as ploughing, as the frost is not out sufficiently for that. You will be glad to learn that we have raised this week a good substantial Church about the size of the Bluff Church on *Wood's Acre*. This is done without a single dollar subscribed to it up to this date. I intend circulating a subscription among our people very soon, but cannot get much, as our cause is weak and the people are not rich by any means. They will do something as they are interested in all our affairs.

From what you say in your last letter I fear that I shall have to bear the weight alone for a time. I trust it will not be for a *long time*. I trust that your Missionary subscriptions are largely in advance of the former year. I did not see brother E. R. Young when he returned, as our District Meeting was closed before his arrival. I hope you will be able to send us the men the District Meeting asked for. We certainly did not ask for more men than we absolutely require. All that was done in that meeting was after mature deliberation. There are several families moving north and west of the Portage who have been members or adherents of our Church and must be visited. One of them came this week to see me, and I of course told him that I would visit the people, all who were settling on the distant plains this spring. If you send a man to Poplar Point, he will take nearly half of our members, which will be a good commencement