

FROM MR. BURGESS.

BIRD TAIL, SIOUX RESERVE,
Nov. 1st, 1885.

DEAR MADAM,—

On behalf of the people of this reserve, I beg to thank you and all the other ladies who have united in sending us such a handsome present of clothing most heartily. Up to the present time only two of the four boxes mentioned in your letter have reached Elkhorn; but the other two may arrive any day. The Indians are charmed with the things, especially the old people, who for the most part received a warm pair of socks or stockings. One old woman to-day insisted on shaking hands with me at intervals. I told her who had sent her the clothes, when she repeated "good, good," the only English words she knew.

The women require warm things much more than the men; their only protection in winter against the intense cold is a thin *print* dress, chosen on account of its cheapness and bright color, moccasins, and a blanket over the head.

They cut and carry all the firewood in winter, and also fetch water from the springs.

We have a little log building which acts as church and school-house, but by next summer we hope to have a good new church; the block is up and the roof on, but there is still a lot to be done to it.

The number of children on the school roll is at present twenty-four. In summer they come pretty regularly, but in winter I have to drive round and teach them in their own houses, some of them living over three miles away from my house. Each child who attends school daily is entitled to a quarter of a pound of "hard tack." They are bright, happy looking children, quick to learn, and not troublesome. I have been with them two years now, and can speak the language pretty well; but it is difficult to acquire without books. Mr. "Solomon Tankunsaicia," our native minister, holds service in the church twice every Sunday in summer, and a prayer meeting during the week. In winter we only have one service, and for my own part it is just as much as I can endure to sit