

To my great sorrow I found at least half of the men away from Battleford cutting timber. There had been over 100 white men here all winter and spring, and could I have reached here in May as intended, would have found all of them at home. However, I had a congregation of over 40 men, morning and evening, and great was their delight to hear a sermon and have service. There were a number came out to a Bible-class held in the afternoon. Several young men have spoken to me about deciding for Jesus; but they say, "What are we to do? we have been here more than twelve months, and previous to your arrival had but one sermon preached to us all that time. If we give ourselves up to God's service we shall stand alone without the support of Church or minister, and against overwhelming odds. What are we to do when you leave?" I could only tell them of God's ability to keep them, and of the promised grace, and promise also to lay their case before you for consideration. I confess to weeping frequently while listening to the recital of struggles against temptation, of efforts to keep up prayer and reading of God's Word, but how, in spite of all, they have gone down into the mighty vortex of profanity and sin. Here are young men who came from religious homes, and from receiving the blessing of Christian parents, and who, for the first time, have come in contact with vice, and profanity, and impurity in all its grosser forms, and they have gone down "like a snow-flake, from heaven to hell"; but, thank God, they are not lost to some good influences, for, when on Sunday night I spoke of a mother's prayers as being something they could not forget nor break away from, many were visibly affected. Here are young men who, before they left Ontario and Winnipeg,

were members of our Church, related to our ministers, and they tell me with tears that they have backslidden; and I do not wonder at it when I know that "filthy conversation" and immorality meet them on every hand. Sunday is a day of recreation, for shooting, card-playing, and Sabbath-breaking of various kinds. Said a young man on Sunday night: "This has been the first Sunday we have had for a year."

I wish our people could read a letter I received from a widowed mother, a few weeks ago, respecting a son of hers who was here for a time this spring, and from whom she had not heard for two years. Surely the funds would be forthcoming to send a man immediately to Battleford. It is a blot upon the Board of Works to send nearly 100 men to such a place and not either to send a minister or else request some evangelical Church to send one; and it will soon be a shame for us if we do not enter this open door, for the work proposed cannot be finished this fall. I think there is a strong probability of the men staying another winter, and there is sure to be at least from 50 to 100 Mounted Police come here in the fall, and all the Government houses occupied, and there is as good, if not better prospects, than when Bro. Young went to Winnipeg. We ought to have an energetic minister sent here at once; and, if we are faithful to our traditional pioneer principles, faithful to the motto of our great founder, "The world for my parish"; if we are faithful to the grand mission which has called us, as a Church, into being, "To spread scriptural holiness throughout the land," we will make united effort in order that such a moral waste shall be no longer uncultivated.