

# MISSIONS TO THE INDIANS.

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## WHAT THEY ARE DOING AT THE CROWSTAND.

The Rev. G. A. Laird writes as follows on the 26th of October. In the matter of the support of children spoken of by him, correspondence has been opened with the Indian Department to secure support for such a number of treaty children as is attending the school. Provision has been made by the Foreign Mission Committee for the support of non-treaty children.

"For some time I have been unable to write many letters owing to other engagements, but now that Mr. Wright is with me I shall be able to make up for lost time. Mr. Wright arrived a little more than a week ago, and has been busily engaged with hammer and saw making necessary improvements, with several of the boys under him taking their first lessons in carpentry. For a time at least he will be occupied in this way, besides relieving me at stated intervals of the charge of the boys.

Of late we have been making many improvements in the management of the school, some of which it would have been difficult to carry out before the opening of the stone building.

One thing I consider a great step in advance, i.e., securing regularity of attendance, or controlling the whole time of each scholar. We are gradually getting the Indians educated up to this point. They see that we are not asking too much when in return for food, clothing and training, we demand the whole time of the child. Of late, since this rule has been enforced, they have seldom come wanting to take their children home "for a few days." However, sometimes the larger boys get restless and take upon themselves to go away, especially on Saturdays, without liberty, and we are bending some of our energies at present towards correcting this fault. We hope, partly by judicious infliction of penalties, and partly by making Friday evening and Saturdays particularly attractive, that all restlessness and truancy will be got over. There are about 60 children in attendance at present, and I think I am within the mark when I say they are doing as well as could reasonably be expected. At least we all feel encouraged. The scholars, in hymn singing for instance, can sing a number of the hymns in three parts, correctly and sweetly. They have learnt among others the following portions of Scripture: The 23rd, 32nd, 95th and 100th Psalms, 14th Chapter of St. John's Gospel, Parable of the Prodigal Son, and at present are committing to memory the story of the Nativity as given in St. Matthew. The larger scholars take up the regular series of lessons in the Sabbath School. On Friday evenings they read, recite, sing and play in presence of the assembled school, the teachers and one or two friends. We have had two meetings of this kind. I think they will serve several useful ends.

The children have been comparatively free from sickness during