

FROM MR. NEIL GILMOUR.

*Hurricane Hills Mission, Dec. 24, 1895.*

I am glad at last to be in a position to write of the clothing forwarded by the Saugeen Presbyterial Society for distribution among the helpless, the women and the children of the Assiniboine band of Indians, whose reserve is located to the south-east of Indian Head on the C.P.R.

The delay in sending this acknowledgment was unavoidable. You are aware that I was quite recently appointed to the work here. I arrived on Saturday, the 30th of November. Owing to unavoidable delays, it was not found possible to get the permanent mission buildings erected this fall, so for use during the winter months a very small temporary building was put up. The material in this building will be used in the construction of the larger building, to be begun as soon as Spring opens. I mention this here to explain why it was not found possible to distribute the clothing more gradually, and possibly more deservedly. Because of having no room for storing the clothing, we were forced to open it all out and give it away at once.

In the distribution of this clothing I was very much assisted by Mr. Halford, the Agency clerk. It was a pleasing task to open out bale after bale of these goods, nearly all of such excellent quality. The quilts could not have been better; made of good, strong material and well quilted, they could not have been better suited for the purposes they are put to. The stockings, the mitts, the underclothing for small children, the dresses and the little coats and vests were the very things that were needed. The stocking yarn, of which a generous supply was sent, was among the most suitable things that came, because the majority of these women are splendid knitters, and were delighted to get the yarn. A bountiful supply of women's waists and jackets was sent, the only fault in them being that they were in many cases too small for Indian women, who are a low, broad-set people. There was a scarcity of women's skirts, an article which is very much prized by them. A goodly supply of flannels and flannelettes was also sent, and this material Mrs. Halford is very kindly cutting up into garments for small children. The parts are pinned in place, and they are given to the mothers to make up for their children. I must not forget to mention the dolls. If the good-hearted little girls who sent these knew how much their little brown sisters of the prairies prize a doll, they would feel as much enjoyment in the giving of them as our little Indian girls do upon receiving them.

Had the kind ladies of your societies been able to stand with me on that day, and witness the procession of old, decrepit women who filed in two by two to receive their portion of the clothing, some of them stone-