

Our small love-feasts, and the breaking of bread have been special seasons of refreshing from the presence of the Lord to me and to all connected with us in this Station; and these are what I call the bright spots amid the gloominess of our prospects. But how frail indeed appear the best and strongest efforts put forth at any time by me to advance the cause of the Redeemer in this sphere of my labours; not less so those made during the year now past. On looking to the past I am overwhelmed with my many failings, but I humbly offer all my work to Him. The only credit I can take for what I have already attempted to do, is that I sincerely intended and strongly desired to render my Lord and Master worthy service. And, with St. Paul, I can, from the bottom of my heart, say, "Brethren, my desire and prayer to God" for my people, my kindred according to the flesh, "is, that they may be saved."

It is well known to all engaged in the Missionary work, that in commencing a new Mission Station some difficulties and obstacles are to be encountered, and some few personal privations and hardships to be endured. Of these I have had, and will have for some time to come, my full share. It is the lot of the Missionary, especially he who goes to the barbarous heathen, that he is to adapt himself to everything, that is, to use a common phrase, be *Jack-of-all-trades*. He is to cut and square the wood, and build him a house with his own hands,—be the carpenter and joiner,—be the mason,—be the farmer, &c., &c., and be all this as well as the Evangelist. If the latter only, and it effects the evangelization of some of the people, and as these emerge from the degradation and miseries of barbarism, they will naturally crave and desire the blessings and comforts of civilized habits; if a Missionary cannot lead them on in this as in the other, then he would appear to be deficient in some degree. For my part I do not pretend to these qualifications to any great extent, but have always, wherever I have been, attempted to do a little in all.

Attending to these secular matters, and "being in journeyings oft," have prevented me from paying so constant attention as I wished to the other departments of this work which fall to

my lot, viz., the school and translations. However, as opportunity offered, I have done a little in both; but my appliances to carry on those successfully are deficient: books, which may serve as helps in translating, I want, and books for the school, though I received a few from Rossville last fall, but could not use them, my children being all beginners, and require such books as may be suitable for them. The school, when all our people are here, numbers from 30 to 40 boys and girls, and most of these read their own language in the syllabic. They repeat the Lord's Prayer, Creed, and Ten Commandments, and some parts of the Wesleyan Catechism. Shall I say that we require a teacher whose attention shall constantly be directed to this department.

Respecting the Indians on the Plains much may be said, and according to the signs of the times, I think it will not be too much to say that the door is now opened effectually for the introduction of Christianity among the various Tribes roaming about the plains contiguous to the banks of the Saskatchewan, as well as to those also frequenting the south-eastern and south-western portions of the great prairies of the north west. For some time back an attempt has been made to establish peace among the various tribes, such as the Crees, the Assiniboinnes, Blackfeet, Saucees, the Blood Peagans, and some other tribes of Indians. During the last summer it was partially established, but not so far confirmed as all to be free from apprehensions. The last winter was a very severe one to all; starvation and sickness prevailed to a great extent, and took off a great many; and I believe that this has done a good deal toward mollifying the various hostile tribes. I received a note lately from a Cree Chief, informing me that there is to be a general assembling of the Indians at some central point on the plains, for the purpose of settling and confirming the peace among themselves. Among other things he writes that "the Blackfeet desire to see you," and, of course, if circumstances allow, I will go. I am pretty sure that some of the Romish Priests will be there. They certainly have made great havoc among the Indians whom Mr. Rundle baptized; only very few held out till we came.