

Brother Salt, of Lac-la-Pluie, writes more encouragingly in his last letters. Many of the Indians, it seems, are willing to be instructed, but are deterred by their fear of their Chiefs and Medicine-men.

As regards the state of the Mission we have much to encourage us, with some things of the opposite character. The piety of the membership is maintained, and we would fain hope on the increase. There is undiminished interest in attending upon the ministrations of the Word; and now that I can speak to them in their own language, I feel like being in a larger place among them. The Cree, you are aware, is a dialect closely resembling the Chippeway, and is a very important language in these parts. Every Chippewayan that would be considered a *gentleman* of education must be able to speak Cree. The medium of communication with the Blackfeet is the Cree; and even the Flathead Indians, west of the Mountains, use the Cree in communicating with their neighbours. With a command of the Chippeway and Cree I can gain access to nearly all the Indians in British North America east of the Mountains.

Notwithstanding the very meagre supply of books, we find no diminution of interest in the School. There are at this season 65 scholars in attendance, while during the summer we have 100. I would say that a male teacher as principal should be sent to our aid. With the girls and women, Miss Adams is very acceptable; and they now crotchet a variety of fancy and useful articles for themselves, and also some to sell. Some one to teach singing is very important. Our people are very urgent with me about it. Our Sabbath School is still well attended, and our Library is a great blessing to our people, who manifest an eager desire for instruction, many of our young people being able to read the English.

In temporal matters there is a steady improvement. Six new houses were finished last fall. Four families procured cows—some having them before,—and five more are making arrangements to procure them as soon as possible. Some of them have taken a step in advance this season: two having made partitions in their houses for sleeping apartments, and three having procured stoves. Two have purchased grind-

stones, and they have prepared a workshop, and I have aided in furnishing tools, where any one may go whenever he desires, and construct such articles as he needs. New fields have been made, and old ones have been enlarged, and a large supply of potatoes has been raised; several families having over 100 bushels each. I design to make an effort to introduce the culture of barley, to supply them with farinaceous food; and flax to make nets. I have had several talks with them, and they promise to furnish wood for the church and school-house, which is what should have been done long ago, but was not. Hoods, caps and bonnets are taking the place of shawls and blankets, as articles of head-dress among the women: these Miss Adams is very busy just now in preparing for them. Many of our men can afford broadcloth coats; and even the Oxford Indians who visited us last summer, were more than half of them dressed with broadcloth coats on Sunday.

On the Mission-premises we raised 250 bushels of potatoes, and 200 of turnips. These I sowed carelessly a day or two before starting for Red River with Mrs. Hurlburt. On my return, feeling lonely, I would get up at half-past two or three o'clock, A. M., when all was quiet, though quite light, and weed and hoe them until five o'clock. I designed the turnips for our cows, but the boys are so eager for them, that from the 1st of August nearly all our wood has been cut, other services done, and some purchases made for and with the turnips, saving the Mission from £5 to £10.

Literally the Indians of this Territory want a prophet that will prophecy to them, of and against wine and strong drink. I was glad to see your desire to work our present Missions as effectively as possible. From some remarks by the Co-Delegate I judged that an attempt would be made to establish a school of a better class at this place, where we have such a large number of children all the year, and where food is so plentiful. In building our School-House I kept this in view, and we now have a very comfortable house that will accommodate 75 or 80 scholars. I have added $1\frac{3}{4}$ acre to our cultivated land, so that we now have enough to raise as many vegetables as may be desired.