

object—then spoke. He said we had come to their land that we wished to take possession of the land and live on it and work it; that if he should go to England or to Canada he would have to pay for whatever he took, and I was only reasonable that we should pay for their lands when we come to live on them. We told him that the land belonged to the *Cree Nation*, and that if we paid him, every other Cree had a right to come and ask payment, that we had no authority to buy land and had nothing to buy it with.

He said it was not us alone, but he knew whenever a mission is established that other settlers soon come, and they not only take their lands, but their buff: lo also. We replied—that we had not invited any settlers to come in, and it would not be our fault if they did come, and that we would pay them for their buffalo if they bring them to us.

Another of the party then spoke: he said, for his part, he liked our talk very much, that we spoke far more kindly than any he had ever seen, and that although he was not a praying man, yet he had no objection that we should live among them; but we must remember we will have our own trouble with them, for they are a beggarly set, and will always be asking us for something or other. The one who first spoke then said: that we spoke of helping them to work the land if they should settle beside us, but he wanted to know if we would plough a piece for him if he should live here while he is not a praying man. We replied, that if he came to live here we would be glad to help him all in our power, but we would expect that he would not interfere with any who wished to become christians, or prevent any from attending our meetings.

This ended the talk for that day, but the first speaker (who was also the last) had intimated that there was too little of the day to say all they had to say; but we soon saw that they had another errand—one after another they brought forth dressed moose skins, wishing us to buy them. They were in want of everything. They had no tobacco, no tea, and they wanted flour, and printed cotton, and ammunition, and there was no help for it, we must buy. It was good for us that what they had to sell was the very thing that we most required, for all of us want pants and jackets and shoes of moose skin, so we bought all they offered, giving them the very articles we most required ourselves.

The trading over our friends resumed their seats, and after a while one said to Mr. Flett—"When you visit your friends don't you sometimes get hungry." Of course we did not need to have the hint explained, so in a few minutes a kettle of tea and a plate of bread were set before them which they soon discussed. The sun was now pretty low, so our visitors saddled their horses and rode to their tents. In our prayers that evening we did not forget to thank God that our first interview with the natives was, upon the whole, so favourable.

#### VISIT FROM WHOLE TRIBE.

Next morning (Friday last) we were visited by two of the settlers who informed us that the whole camp of Indians were coming down to visit us, men, women, and children. Mr. Flett said to me (privately) "They are bent on getting something, and it will be best to launch out a bag of flour and a little tea or something of the kind, and they will be satisfied and not likely trouble us again."

I was quite of Mr. F's opinion, moreover, I thought it would be best to be beforehand with them and not allow any of them an opportunity of getting angry. So shortly the old men appeared, and as it was a hot day we laid robes for them to sit on in the shade of Mr. F's large leather tent. Mr. F. gave one of them a plug of tobacco for the benefit of the company,