

have the honor of having your hand laid upon their head have passed away—and thus one by one the number is being reduced.

The improvements in our buildings have added much to our comfort.

Mrs. McKay and I have been tasting the bitter waters of affliction during the quarter. A little boy was born to us on 18th of September and was taken from us 19th of November. We felt at the time as if God was very hard, but now we feel more reconciled.

'Tis God that lifts our comforts high  
Or sinks them in the grave.  
He gives, and when He takes away  
He takes but what He gave.

It is sweet to think that we have one more tie drawing us to the better land, where there is no pain, no sorrow, no death. That our loved ones are only being gathered home to be safe in the arms of our elder brother, and to think of reunion with those gone before. Mrs. McKay joins me in kind love to you. Pray for us that we may know the sweetness of being reconciled to God's will.

## Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

FROM MISS SARA LAIDLAW.

*Portage la Prairie Indian School, Jan. 21, 1897.*

In former years all the Indian men, women and children at the teepees were invited to dinner at the school on Christmas Day, but this year we decided to change our plans somewhat. Last New Year's eve we had such a sad experience with liquor on the Reserve that we determined, if possible, to turn their thoughts in another direction. In our December meeting of W. F. M. S., Mrs. Marlatt proposed that we have a magic lantern exhibition in the Indian church on New Year's eve, and on New Year's day have the dinner in the church, instead of them coming here, hoping in that way to keep them at home and prevent any from procuring strong drink. Rev. A. J. McLeod, of Regina Industrial School, kindly sent down the magic lantern, and Rev. P. Wright, B.D., exhibited the views. Quite a number of townspeople went down, and we were pleased to have among the number Mr. A. D. Mackay, of Winnipeg. The church was full of Indians and all enjoyed the entertainment.

We contrasted New Year's eve, 1893, when general confusion reigned, drunken brawls on all sides, and even men were tied hand and foot with ropes to them from deeds which might have resulted in death, with New Year's eve, 1896, when perfect quiet reigned, not one man or woman drunk on the whole reserve and all listening quietly to timely remarks on Christ's infinite love for each one of them.

New Year's Day a severe blizzard raged, but those who were to accompany us resolved to brave the storm rather than disappoint the waiting Indians. Upon our arrival we were sorry to see two Indians intoxicated, but these were quickly sent to town and locked up. We were pleased that one of the Indians informed on the man who gave them liquor, and he shared their fate with the addition of a fine of \$50 and costs.