

wasis. The mission building and surroundings are all to our mind, though the house felt a little airy during the winter, yet it is far ahead of what might be expected north of the Saskatchewan. Mrs. Moore and children are well and join with me in best wishes.

Sickness Among the Children.

FROM MISS LAIDLAW.

Portage la Prairie Indian School, Sept. 1, 1896.

The children came back yesterday after about six weeks' holidays. I thought it best to have them here although the school room is not yet ready and the regular work cannot be carried on until it is. I was so pleased to see them come so clean; most of them had had all their clothing washed and mended. They every one came willingly, and on the day I asked them to come.

There has been a great deal of sickness among the little children at the tepees. First, one of David's children died, then a week after a child of Sarah Ross, and the Tuesday following David and Ada's baby. I scarcely knew what to do or say when the news came of the third death, for with the same message I was told of others being sick. I asked our Doctor to go with me to the Indian village and see if there was not some contagious disease; but after seeing them he thought the sickness was owing to lack of care and the trying weather. The first child we buried, the Methodist minister went with us and conducted the service. It was very impressive. Many of the Indians followed the coffin to the church and from the church to the grave, the Indians uncovering their heads after the example of Mr. Brown and Rev. Mr. Halstead. The other two were buried in the evening, for the Indians never keep a body over night. The services were conducted by Mr. Brown, who spoke helpfully to all the Indians. David and Ada feel keenly the loss of two children, and are unsettled about remaining on their own land. The medicine men have made the occasion of so many deaths an opportunity to tell the others that it is because of mission work done among them, and especially the Christian burials, and that many others will die because of it. We have all done our best to disabuse their minds of this, but it is difficult for them to see things in other light than that of their superstition. However we hope and pray that the end of it all may be the entrance of greater light into their souls, even the "Light as it is in Christ Jesus."

The Rev. R. P. MacKay spent part of two days here last week, and we had a fairly large gathering at the tepees. He spoke helpfully to them about a better way to live and of their source of help being the same as ours. The Indians were much pleased with his address, telling me it was "waste ota" (very good).

We will be glad to get our bales of clothing early, for then one does not need to purchase anything to tide over the change of season which comes to us earlier than to you.

As usual, there have been a great many visitors at the school during the summer. It is encouraging to see the interest taken in our work. I will enclose to you a paragraph taken from one of our newspapers and written