

send provisions at the same rate as allowed by the Company. In connection with this subject I lately submitted a question for the consideration of the committee, and to which I hope to receive an answer by the winter packet, viz., whether the committee would give us permission to receive pupils at lower rates than those above named. There are servants of the Company whose wages would not allow of their paying the full fee, and whose children are growing up in ignorance—would the committee think it right that we should receive such children—say for such a sum as would pay for their provisions? This would be doing really missionary work; for as a general thing such uneducated children are little better than Indians, and as they grow up, their influence on the Indian population is most injurious:—whereas if they were properly educated they might be very useful to the Indians, among whom their lives are chiefly spent. I may mention that for day pupils we have fixed on a fee of two shillings per month to be paid either in money or work.

Before leaving the subject of education, I may mention that for a very short time I had six Indian youths learning the syllabic characters. Had they remained a few weeks longer, they would have been able to read and write in their own language. I hope they will return after the winter hunt and complete what was well begun.

#### RECEPTION OF CHILDREN.

I trust that expected letters will bring the views of the committee on the subject of receiving Indian children to be brought up and properly educated. Without any particular authorization from the committee the three already referred to have been received and baptised. Application has been made on behalf of others, which we have been obliged to refuse for want of accommodation, and because I do not know that the means will be furnished to maintain them at the mission. So far as we can calculate at present, we think that ten pounds sterling will be sufficient to feed and clothe an Indian child at the mission, and it would not be difficult for many of your Sabbath schools and bible classes to provide for the support of one each without interfering with their present efforts for other objects.

I hope that the appeal made to Missionary associations and Sabbath schools through the *Record* a short time ago, will be largely and liberally responded to, and that the Treasurer will have a large consignment of clothing and other useful articles to forward in the spring. None need be afraid of sending unsuitable articles, for what may not be entirely suitable for the mission purposes can be disposed of to the settlers or to the H. B. Company for their servants. Your numerous merchants might find a good way of disposing of their *old stock* by forwarding packages to Mr. Reid: better far than disposing of their goods at auction for a mere trifle, or allowing them to rot on their shelves. We have been assured by some of the chiefs and leading men who have visited us, that there are many of the Indians in the plains who would gladly send their children to be brought up at the mission. If we are permitted to receive any considerable number of Indian children, we shall make separate provision for teaching them, using the *cree* alone, but taking advantage of the English school for such as may manifest an aptitude for acquiring our language. We shall this winter make such preparation for erecting Indian quarters as we may be able; on which we shall go to the least possible expense.

#### APPLICATION FROM PLAIN CREES.

In former letters I informed you that several of the principal men among the plain Crees have been here to consult with us on the subject of becoming settlers, and to learn what encouragement we would give them. We have