

instruction so imparted. Often, I fear, they do not understand the preaching very thoroughly, but when a few direct questions are asked, attention is arrested, and the truth presented in this simple form is grasped more surely.

So far there has not been much sickness among the people this winter. But there are two cases of long standing. These people have little idea what to do in case of sickness. Not that they are neglectful. Every second man almost is a medicine man. They apply remedies and administer medicine according to the best of their knowledge, but the difficulty is the treatment is quite as likely to do harm as good. The medicine men often hasten the death of their patient. Then in their heathen state they have a habit of shewing sympathy by beating the drum and making a great deal of noise just when the sufferer ought to have rest and quiet. This uses up his strength very rapidly, and the consequence is that in the majority of cases he does not hold out very long.

We are all well; our winter weather is bright and pleasant, not nearly so severe as last winter. Please accept and convey to all the ladies our united regards.

Good Prospects for Assiniboine Reserve.

INDIAN HEAD, Dec. 22nd.

MR. AND MRS. JOHN McLEAN. — We must thankfully acknowledge that we have been bountifully supplied. If our Indians are not warm this winter it will be their own faults, for, in addition to what we gave them, they received no small quantity of clothing from the Indian Department. This year they exhibited more gratitude than last year, and though we gladly welcome any indications of advancement in this matter, yet we must say that there is much room for improvement.

We cannot be too thankful to our kind lady friends in the East for the material assistance they have rendered us in our work. The clothing, judiciously distributed, cannot fail to benefit them. In general it brings them in contact with civilization, which is the outcome of the Gospel. It gradually leads them to discard their heathenish garments; it reconciles them to the habits, customs, and unconsciously to the religion of the white man, by overcoming their prejudices and letting them see the Samaritan-like character of true religion. I should mention the special features of this year's supply. Besides the ordinary