

Chief Factor Ross, and Mrs. Young, with the assistance of Mrs. Stewart, kindly took the trouble to select gifts for distribution. They were all suitable and useful. Mrs. Nixon generously sent a large quantity of candies for the children. We had hoods, shirts, shoulder shawls, gloves, cuffs, and thimbles, for the girls; caps and scarfs for the boys. Besides these Mr. Ross sent over about \$12 worth of remnants of cloth, velvet, etc., which were given away in pieces. Each child got about three gifts, besides a card and a cornucopia filled with sweets. Mrs. McTavish took white paper and dyed it various colours, and made the cornucopias, and decorated them with flowers and pictures which she cut out of old fashion magazines. Besides these she made nearly two dozen flags out of turkey-red cotton, coloured and white cambric, trimmed with ribbon. Mr. Ross got the tinsmith to make three dozen candle-sticks and the same number of little tin stars to hang on the tree. I had been very anxious to give the children a dinner, but as all had been so generous, I did not like to propose it; but Mrs. McTavish, it seems, thought of it too, and proposed it to me. I told her my difficulties, and the next time I saw her, she said she had spoken to the gentlemen about it, and they would be only too glad to do anything they could to forward it. I was still willing to be satisfied with a very plain meal, but was only too well pleased that it ended in liberal supplies of, not roast beef, but roast moose, plum pudding and various other dishes, till the little creatures had all they could eat, and a good supply to carry home. Mr. Semmens, Chief Factor Ross and Mr. Ruttan addressed the children. Mrs. Ruttan and Mrs. McTavish presided at the organ. We spent a very pleasant evening, shadowed only by thoughts of dear ones far away. Mr. and Mrs. Ruttan are not sparing in kind words and deeds, and seem very anxious to make me comfortable and happy, while our kind friends at the Fort are not remiss in their attentions.

I feel half inclined to be thankful that the non-arrival of supplies and refractory interpreters necessitate an occasional visit from Mr. German and Mr. Semmens to Norway House. They are pleasant breaks in our solitude. I have assumed the responsibility of taking a quantity of silk work from the women, and have sent it to you, hoping you may interest some ladies in the matter who will be willing to take it off my hands, and perhaps order more. I am sorry to do this without asking your permission, but as our communications are so few and uncertain, I thought it better to send it now than wait an indefinitely long time. I have sent some to Mrs. Ferrier, of Montreal, and some to Mrs. Sanford, of Hamilton. The proceeds will help to supply a few of their many needs, and in the case of the young women save from idleness and sin. They seem anxious to get work, and if I could dispose of it I should be glad to take it from them. I make no profit. The price attached to each article is what I thought it might bring, but the ladies who may consent to dispose of it, will please make what alteration they think fit. May I ask your permission to send more, or, if it is an inconvenience, will you please advise me how to proceed in the matter. The watch pockets are not nicely done, but I think the next will be better.

I take the liberty of sending a few numbers of Mrs. Hoole's Report of the Ladies' Aid Missionary Society. I have thought perhaps one similar could be started in Canada. The advantages would be great, relieving Mrs. Hoole of part of her charge and supplying these missions better than she possibly can. I had thought to write a letter to the *Guardian*, to enlist the sympathies of the ladies in the matter, but will await your decision. I would very much like to see this scheme carried into effect if you think it possible and advisable. The old people suffer for want of suitable clothing, as well as orphan children who are constantly passing from one person's care to another.