

NORTH-WEST INDIANS.

Extracts from a Letter from Miss Laidlaw.

Portage la Prairie, Indian School, Nov. 7, 1894.

We were very much pleased to get your letters; they were so full of cheer and encouragement that we will count them among the bright things of mission life. Some of the children are in school writing letters to Miss Walker, while the larger ones are busy ironing. You will be glad to know our family now numbers twenty-one, and, counting ourselves, twenty-three. Katie and Louise take their meals in the kitchen to make room for two little ones in the dining room. The non-treaty Indians we spoke about sent a little boy; he is between five and six years old. We put Charlie to sleep with Topsy, so that leaves his bed for Woada, who has been sleeping on the floor for some time.

We are both glad to give all our time and strength in the work of the Lord, and hope we will lean more on His strength, which is sufficient.

The children often speak of you, and the things you asked them to remember. Katie, Louise and Topsy, connected themselves with the church last communion.

The Indians have had a dance this fall, but we were glad Peter took no part in it; indeed, he came to us to see what we could do to hinder them, for they were getting liquor somewhere.

Charlie is learning to talk English, and is quite intelligible in it; he is the same nice little fellow, and the pet of all.

Miss Fraser is going to let as many as like go home at Christmas, they are quite content and would be, I think, to stay, but it will be a better thing to let them go; there was a show of hands last night at the tea table, and if all goes well we will only have Louise, Katie, Topsy, Minnie, Madie, Peter, Woada and Charlie here. Mr. and Mrs. Brown are the same kind friends.