

ments instead of one. The journeys to and fro were very toilsome and have told upon the health of several. You have already been informed that sickness has prevailed among us to an unusual extent during the year, the diseases being scarlet and typhus fever: in a good many cases the same persons had both fevers, the one immediately following the other. The deaths were numerous especially of children and young people: several young men from twenty to twenty-five years of age died of typhus fever. At one time there was scarcely a family connected with the Kildonan congregation free from sickness. There have been a number of very remarkable cases of recovery, and which we can regard in no other light than as special answers to prayer.

You will naturally ask, what has been the effect of these visitations on the religious condition of the people? I am happy to say that it has been upon the whole good. In our own congregations considerable seriousness has been manifested both by the old and young, although there have not been so many cases of decided conversion to God as we had hoped to witness. Some of the young people who have been raised from sickness have given themselves to the Lord, while others still delay the important step, and yet of them we hope well; their hearts have been softened, on their sick beds they learned much religious truth, and we are not without hope that it will yet be fruitful, although we wonder at some holding back, who when at the brink of the grave seemed to be rejoicing in Christ Jesus; but we shall not lose hope even in their case, for none of them have become indifferent to the outward means. Since December fifteen (chiefly young persons) have been added to the communion roll.

On account of so many of the people being from home, the attendance at Church and Sabbath School has been smaller than usual during the winter, but now that spring has set in, the families are recruited and the attendance has increased. Yesterday, the last of the ice floated down the river and preparations are being made for farming work. The soil is better prepared for seed this spring than it has been for some years, owing to the larger quantity of snow that fell; and if God will be graciously pleased to prevent the feared visitation of grasshoppers the prospects of the season are good. Work on the School house has been resumed, and I hope before July arrives it will be fit for occupation. We would not have ventured on the finishing of it, had we not been encouraged by the generous donations acknowledged in the March number of the "*Record*." We hope to see a few more acknowledgements in the number for this month, and then we may be able to complete the work with the necessary out-buildings and fencing.

A portion of the lot at Little Britain has been fenced in for a grave yard, and the people are anxious to have a stone church built thereon as soon as possible, and such a building would tend greatly to consolidate our cause in that quarter. One advantage there is that stone can be got at the river side and wood at no great distance.

We are longing to hear of the appointment of a Missionary for Indian work. I can add nothing to the information that I have already forwarded on this subject, only that one of our friends at the Saskatchewan who is well acquainted with the Indians, has assured us in a letter just received that the Indians there seem more disposed than ever they were to receive Christian teaching. I sincerely trust that we shall have the happiness of welcoming a Missionary this season, if he cannot arrive in time to accompany the spring brigade, he could go in the fall. This season there will likely be various opportunities of going, for the gold digging is beginning to attract more attention, and those who were employed there last season had good success. And this reminds me that the Miners confidently expect to be visited during the coming summer. We must try what we can do to effect this, persuaded as we are that good will result therefrom, and the way be prepared for future operations in that quarter.

I sent a letter to the "Treasury for the Young," inviting the co-operation of the young people of our Sabbath Schools in your contemplated Indian work.