

get something to eat and drink. Sometimes I invite them to dine with me, and then I take the trouble, although I have to do all my own work, to make it as much like a Christian meal as possible. We say grace, and then we commence our meals, at which the children use their knives, forks and spoons, instead of their fingers; after they have finished, I show them a few pictures (all I have) and try to explain them to my visitors; then we say good night, and I have to put the room straight and wash the dishes, etc., and put them away. Sometimes I feel very tired, but when I open God's Word to read before retiring to rest, I find such cheering passages as these: "Inasmuch as ye have done unto one of the least of these My brethren, ye have done unto Me;" "According unto thy day so shall thy strength be;" and although my body may be weary, my soul is strong, and my thoughts go out after God. I give large quantities of tea and sugar, and sometimes I make food for the sick, but I have had some heavy losses, and my wife and family could not come up from Algoma this fall, owing to sickness in the family, and there is no communication with the district in which they live, except by dog teams; therefore I shall not be able to get them until spring, and I can assure you, dear sisters, that I need my wife's help very much, and when I got the letter saying that they could not come, I felt very much discouraged, but God said: "I will be with thee, My rod and My staff shall comfort thee," and I humbly said: Father, Thy will be done.

The Indians are passionately fond of pictures, and I can get them to understand what I mean much more readily by means of a picture, so that any old illustrated papers or books will be of great service to me, as they will make the lessons more attractive and pleasant. I have been trying hard to raise money to purchase a magic lantern,* in order that I may get the parents and children together sometimes, and let them have a pleasant evening. I could also, by means of pictures illustrating sacred things, give them a better idea of Scriptural truths. My Indians are all heathen, except one family of Roman Catholics. The File Hills Indians are considered to be one of the worst tribes in the North-West Territory, being lazy, greedy, thievish, liars, and very immoral; but then, we must take into consideration that they have never had the Gospel preached to them, and their children have never been educated. I have only been amongst them about three months, and I can see a great difference already.

*Mr. Toms has succeeded in getting a magic lantern in Winnipeg since the above was written.