

AN INDIAN BUILDING COMMITTEE.

When a resident missionary was first established at the Crowstand, a building was erected to serve as church and school house. It was a very modest affair, built of poplar logs, plastered with mud, roofed with thatch and lit by three small windows. In this house of God the gospel was preached for nearly ten years and here Messrs. Cuthbert McKay, D. H. McVicar and John Black gave faithful service as teachers. When the first industrial school building was erected in 1889 the old house seemed to recognize that its glory had departed and it looked more dilapidated than ever, and finally in the spring of 1890 it disappeared altogether in a prairie fire. The new school room afforded a meeting place so much more comfortable than anything the old building had been able to offer that the need for the erection of a new church was not acutely felt for some time. The matter was frequently talked of however and now action has been taken, and the Rev. G. A. Laird is leading on his people to arise and build. Following is the account of a meeting held on the 2nd of February:—

At the time appointed the Chief Joseph Côté and headmen Wa-pe-cake-cake (White Hawk) and Charles Kesic with Wm. Favel as interpreter met to confer with the missionary.

The meeting was opened with prayer. The missionary stated the object for which it was called, namely, to talk about the desirability of building a house for the worship of God. He mentioned also the motive which the people should have, not personal gain but a desire to advance the cause of God, and the spirit that should animate all in proceeding with this work and then called on those present to express their views.

The Chief spoke somewhat as follows:—"My mind at first was not to go on with the church at present, but I think differently now. I did not try to persuade the headmen to think as I did, I allowed them to decide for themselves. I told them the missionary was talking about a church, but I did not encourage them to think as I did. I have altered my mind and I want everybody to be satisfied in his own mind. I never neglect those who have a right to be consulted in such a matter as this. I am now ready to go on."

Wa-pe-cake-cake said "I was very glad when I heard the minister speak about a church, and to hear my chief talk about the church as he has now done. I have been in favor of a church for a long time. I hope everything will go on in the right way."

Charles Kesic agreed with his chief, thought just as he did, and wanted to know how things were to go on.

The missionary explained that as the Indians were poor he expected to pay them for the work performed in the building.

The site was then agreed on, the chief and headmen promising to give four acres of ground to the church to be used as church site and burying ground.