

if they were known, partly because our children are so poor and value so highly a very minute gift. The marbles fill a very large gap, as even two are received with delight. Dear friends, will you send up earnest prayers for our work and for us? We need so much grace and strength.

Kindest messages and thanks to all who contributed to the box (which I may say surprised me by its size, when the time had been so short), and was a proof of what skilful hands and willing hearts can accomplish.

NORTH-WEST INDIANS.

Acknowledgments of Clothing and Gifts.

FROM MR. ALEXANDER SKENE.

File Hills Indian School, Oct. 5, 1896.

We have had a pleasant summer. Our garden has done well, and we have all the vegetables required for our large family during the coming winter. We have prepared an exhibit for the fairs at Indian Head and Fort Qu'Appelle. Of course, we are not allowed to compete for prizes, but it will show the public what we can do, and increase the interest of the boys in our garden, etc. They all enjoyed picking out the best of our onions, carrots, potatoes and turnips. We also exhibit some school work.

Our attendance still continues the same (14)—eleven boys and three girls. We may get one or two more during the coming winter; but so long as the Government considers us full with *ten* we must work at a disadvantage.

In our school work we are moving along very smoothly. During the months of July and August most of our time is spent out of doors—the larger boys gardening, etc., and the smaller children enjoying themselves around the lake and bluffs. The girls are doing nicely: busy knitting at present. Fanny is much stronger than even last year, though she and Winnie still have running sores.

We had a short visit from Mr. Jacob Bear in July; but, as the Indians were much scattered, he remained but a few days. He promised to return this fall for a few weeks. I think that his visits may result in good, but as yet everything is still *dark, dark*.

We had a most delightful visit from Rev. Mr. McKay, and Professor Baird. Mr. McKay gave us a sermon on Sabbath, which we enjoyed so much. Hearing him made us almost long to get away, as we realized what we are missing. In a few weeks more, if spared, I will have given seven years to the Indians at File Hills. Still I feel that there is work for me yet, and will leave it in the Master's hand to say when I am to leave.