

# MISSIONS TO THE INDIANS.

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## A VISIT TO MUSCOWPETUNG'S.

By appointment of the Synod's Foreign Mission Committee two of its members were appointed to visit the reserves under the charge of the Rev. W. S. Moore, B.A., to advise with him about changes in the management of his school, and to consult about the erection of churches for the accommodation of the Indian worshippers on these reserves.

A drive of twenty-five miles north from Regina brought the party to Piapot's encampment on the banks of the Qu'Appelle River. The Indians were found engaged in putting in their crop and fencing the big field within the circle of which nearly all of them carry on their farming operations. They have already about 130 acres sown and there is room for more without enlarging the fences. At present the Indians all live in tents on the prairie in the neighborhood of their farm, but in the winter they live in their little log houses which are in the valley a mile or two distant. After calling upon Mrs. McKinnon, the former teacher, whom we did not find at home, inspecting the site proposed for the church and enjoying an *al fresco* lunch, the drive was continued down the romantic Qu'Appelle valley—banks 250 feet high hem in the river. These banks are almost covered with trees on the south side, but are as bare as the right bank of the Nile on the north side—a peculiar characteristic which, it is said, marks the course of the Qu'Appelle from source to mouth. The hill is climbed to visit Mr. Lash, the Indian agent, and to view the site of a church on Moscowpetung's reserve,—then on to the Lakesend school, to reach which we cross the river in a boat and then Mr. and Mrs. Crawford welcome us from our fifty mile drive. Sabbath morning calls us to service on Pasquah's reserve and then the party breaks up. Chief Factor Arch. MacDonald, of the Hudson's Bay Company, who had driven up from Fort Qu'Appelle for the purpose carries off Dr. Robertson to conduct service for two Home Mission congregations, and Mr. Baird returns with Mr. Moore for an afternoon service at Lakesend. On Monday morning a church site is selected on Pasquah's reserve, and the work for which we had come being done the party re-unites at Fort Qu'Appelle for the homeward journey.

A description of the Sabbath morning service on Pasquah's reserve will give a hint of what we saw. It was a beautiful morning, sunny but not too warm, the leaves unfolding and the blossoms of saskatoon and cherry whitening the trees,—the great Spirit summoning all his children to gratitude and gladness. Mr. Moore, to suit the convenience of the delegates, had cancelled another service that day, and arranged this at the last moment. But although some of the people had not received notification a congregation of 42 gathered for worship in the house of John Plain, an Indian. It