

idea seems to be to frighten away the evil spirits that may be hovering round to catch the spirit of the departed one. The body was not hurried off and buried almost before life was extinct; they waited patiently until a decent burial could be arranged.

The house has not been pulled down and moved, perhaps a mile away, neither has the mother lain down rolled up in old rags, with her face and hair covered with ashes for a week or ten days, not noticing or speaking to anyone, but the day after the funeral she went bravely to work, washed and scrubbed and made everything in her house look quite tidy.

One little incident was quite touching: in Mary's corner of the room we had hung one quarter of Bible lesson pictures containing "Life of Christ." She spent many hours looking at them, and it was really surprising how much she knew of them. Before the mother commenced cleaning she asked us to carry them home, as her child had looked at them so much she could not bear to look at them, it made her so sad, but added after a while she would like them back. We have written you a long letter on this subject, we thought it might be of interest to the Mission Bands.

You will now be very busy preparing for your Annual Meeting. How much we enjoyed being with you all last year. We will remember your meeting, and though many miles distant, be present with you in spirit. How the assurance that we have the sympathy and prayers of so many earnest Christians strengthens and encourages us.

Clothing Better Cared for than Formerly.

FROM MR. ALEXANDER SKENE.

File Hills Indian School, April 9, 1896.

The winter is over and with the winter depart many of our most trying cares. During the summer months, when our family of children can spend most of their time out of doors, we rest, lay up a fresh store of energy and patience to be drawn upon during the dreary, cold winter. Should sickness visit our home, we are apt to come out in the spring tired and disheartened. Thankful we are this spring for the pleasant winter now past, and for the health which our charges enjoyed through it.

As in former years I gave the clothing to our needy Indians, as I thought they required, and I am glad to find that more care has been taken this winter than formerly. Very little has been traded away. One woman was here yesterday who showed me a skirt given to her about eighteen months ago. We think this unusual. However it shows that they are beginning to learn that the clothes are given to wear and not to give away and then ask for more. I have been looking over what I have, and find a good supply still on hand: of course there will always be needy cases which claim our attention.

As to next year's supplies I need say little, as the friends are beginning to understand our wants. We will require no yarn as we have enough on hand. We have also a good supply of quilts on hand. Ticking (strong) for bed ticks is required as our ticks are getting pretty well used up. However I think it best to leave the matter with the friends sending. We find that different sections send different articles, so that what is deficient one year is made up the next.