

the pictures, or play a game of checkers. The table is kept supplied with back numbers of the magazines, and in no reading room would you find a more occupied lot of readers than these appear to be, although they are doing nothing but looking at the pictures, while we would often be at a loss to furnish entertainment, were it not for these magazines.

One of our girls, Sadie Jack, came home from Regina school a couple of months ago feeling unwell. She gradually sank into a decline, and died on the morning of Sunday, Jan. 31st. She was not a demonstrative girl; given to few words; but she told me she was not afraid of death, because she was trusting in God. I was not with her at the last, but she told her friends she was just going. She then opened her Bible and read part of the 3rd of John, ending with the 16th verse, then closed the book, took two or three long, slow breaths and passed peacefully away.

Regarding our work here, I will only say at this time, that the Indians are gradually thawing out, and are losing their suspicion of us, and I find that in most cases, in temporal things, they are more ready to trust the missionary than to trust each other.

You will be pleased to know that through the kindness of a few friends we were able to send for a new organ, which we now have at the Mission, and it is a great help to us in our meetings.

A Happy Christmas at Birtle.

FROM MR. WM J. SMALL.

Birtle Indian School, February 13, 1897.

On Christmas eve there was the annual entertainment and social in the church. All the children were there except one, who was absent on account of the whooping cough. Several of the larger children took part in the entertainment of the evening, and I am sure all of them enjoyed themselves very much. Each of them got a present. But the great event was yet to come—the night when Santa Claus would visit us by ourselves. You must not think we are selfish in having him come to spend a whole evening with us. It is purely voluntary on his part, and you know we could not close our doors upon him. He paid us his visit on the Tuesday evening between Christmas and New Years.

Not long after tea all the children were gathered in the school room, where a beautiful tree was just loaded down with presents of every imaginable kind. Several had prepared recitations and songs for the occasion, and were just going to commence their programme, when who should arrive but Major McGibbon, Inspector of Indian Schools and Agencies, and Mr. Markle, our Indian Agent. We were all very glad to see them. Both of them spoke to the children during the evening and were received with hearty applause. Just when the programme was nearing an end the Rev. Mr. Frew, our minister, came along. He was called on for an address, but before he got half through, amidst great noise and sound of trumpet, Santa Claus put in an appearance. Of course everything gave way before him. The children were too delighted to listen to anything or anybody. They were all eyes and ears for him, and were just aching to get possession of those beautiful dolls upon which they had been gazing all evening. They were just beaming with delight as they received their numerous presents.