

Mr. Alex. Skene, of the File Hills, reports:—The attendance this quarter has been regular and the conduct of the children good. The Indians are very friendly, and at last recognize our right to the children—always asking permission before taking a child home, and if refused they take it good naturedly. We allow the children to visit the reserve occasionally on Saturdays but never allow them to remain away at night. Our success this quarter is encouraging. We have now 9 boys and 3 girls between the ages of 8 and 4 years, the largest at one time in the history of the school. We thank the Master and take courage. We are trying to get the parents to come together on the Sabbath—yesterday we had seven, they seem pleased to hear the children sing. Next Sabbath I propose going a little further, and will speak to them. Mr. Hourie has kindly offered his services as interpreter. A marked improvement is noticeable in the parents whose children are in the school. They dress better, have better houses, in short as the children improve the parents will also. With due deference to the large schools, after two years study of Indian work, I am convinced that the place for the schools is on the reserves, silently influencing the Indian in spite of himself.

Miss Fraser, of Portage la Prairie, writes:—The attendance during this quarter has been good amounting to more than 14; the pupils take a greater interest in their studies; ten of them have not missed a day during the quarter. An hour is spent every morning in reading a portion of scripture, singing hymns and answering catechism questions. Religious services are being held regularly every Sabbath. The attendance keeps much the same. The weekly prayer-meeting has been discontinued on account of the cold weather. Our interpreter (David Ross) was baptized last week, at the weekly prayer-meeting in Knox Church by the Rev. Peter Wright.

Miss M. S. Cameron, of Okanase, says:—Opened school this week with 14 pupils, the new ones too, bravely facing cold and deep snow. We closed school at Xmas with a Xmas tree and entertainment. Our school house was well filled, though the night was stormy, and we had a very nice time. The white people around came and brought baskets of good things to eat. The Indians cheerfully brought the tree and helped me to arrange the school house. We have Sunday School every Sunday in my house. The inspector visited the school last month and seemed well pleased. He wrote in the register "Miss Cameron has achieved most marked success and well merits high commendation." He said he would recommend that I should get the government bonus and that our building should be improved. Please excuse my seeming egotism on the ground that you have asked me to tell you all the good things.