

one of our camps, and began the duties of the day. On the day previous, a young man had called at the mission house for medicine for himself, and wished me to call and see his mother in the camp, when we went down. Seeking out this lodge, we entered, and told the old lady the object of my visit. She politely informed me that she had great faith in an old medicine woman in an adjoining lodge, and she would not take my medicine on any account. I was a little amused at her determination, as I had prided myself on the influence I held amongst the Indians as a powerful medicine man; but here was an old woman, sustained by her superstitious belief, who scorned the white man's civilization and faith. Nothing daunted, I sought the lodge where service was usually held, and sitting on the ground, began the duties of the hour. The men, women and children sat on the ground, while I told them the story of Easter, applying the truths that cluster around the Cross of Christ, and seeking to lead their minds to the atoning sacrifice, with the salvation that is their right. The sick came for medicine, and told in piteous tones of the death of many of their friends. Bronchitis, biliousness and sore eyes were the prevailing diseases, and it was cheering to hear them commending the medicines to each other, and telling how much they had been benefited at some previous time by their use. This is one step forward, for I well remember the time when the Indian medicine men had supreme control; but now their influence is waning, and we hope ultimately to suppress entirely their superstitious practices. As I sat conversing with the people about their trials and hopes, a flock of geese flew over the camp, and some young men ran out to see them. The old man informed us that in ten days we should have a big snow-storm, and then spring would come. It does seem singular how some of these men can foretell the state of the weather, but I have noticed at various times that they were not far astray in their prognostications. In one lodge a young man was busy with an old file and a knife, making a pipe from a stone that he had picked up on the river bottom. Upon laying the pipe down to converse with me, he took up a pair of tweezers, and kept pulling out the hairs from his chin. This is a prevalent custom among the Indians, as they hate to see any hair on their faces.

An Indian showed me his ration tickets, which are used for drawing the rations that Government gives the people, and which are distributed regularly twice per week at both the upper and lower agencies. He wished me to inform him whether or not the tickets belonged to him and his friends, or by accident had been exchanged. On examining the names written upon them, we found that one of the tickets belonged

to another man in camp; so the man wished to return this one and get another. Oftentimes they ask our assistance in this matter, as they cannot read, and know not but they may have a ticket belonging to another.

A young man lay sick in a lodge, with swollen neck, and he wished me to get a doctor to lance it, as he was suffering intense pain.

An old woman took up a piece of dried meat, fastened it on a stick, held it over the fire and cooked it, giving it to the owner of the lodge, who tore a piece off and gave it to a child. Meat is fried and boiled, or broiled on the fire by means of a stick, and is then eaten without bread, or anything to drink. After the old lady had cooked the meat, a young man asked her to get his horse for him, which was out on the prairie. Old and decrepid as she was, she took the bridle, and in a short time returned with the horse. A sad life is that of aged Indian womanhood; and the Gospel alone can elevate the native intellect and change effectually the native customs, so that the aged men and women will be benefited. Some water was accidentally spilt on the floor of the lodge, and one of the inmates took an axe, made some holes in the floor, and allowed it to soak into the ground.

The Indians eat when they are hungry, and sleep when they feel inclined to do so. At different times during the day, as we go in and out among the lodges, we find some eating, and others sleeping. The gospel of work induces regular habits, gives keenness to the intellect, and enables all to lead happier and more useful lives. Medicine was given to an old woman for rheumatism, who had been trying to cure herself by placing hot stones on the affected parts. Milk was asked for two babies who were sick; soap for one family to wash their bodies and clothes; oatmeal and rice for some sick people, and tea for the healthy to drink. The calls for help are so numerous, that, as we have not received any outside assistance for this, we are compelled in some cases to refuse. And yet it is sometimes hard to say, "No!" especially to the needy and deserving. Not a single lodge did we enter, but we found some person sick. As the balmy spring draws near, a change will come; some will recover, but others will travel to

"the undiscovered country  
From whose bourne no traveller returns."

#### BLOOD RESERVE, ALBERTA.

A HUNGARIAN Jew, the Rabbi Lichtenstein has lately addressed two remarkable pamphlets to his brethren throughout the world, in which he calls upon them to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Messiah of Israel and the Saviour of the world.