

thought this a very commendable thing on the part of these Indian women. It shows that they have grasped the Christian spirit of "Do unto others as you would have others do to you." The Indians on this Reserve are in a fairly prosperous condition, and although they had their crops destroyed last summer by hail, they find ready sale for their wood at a fair price either in Birtle or Beulah.

And now, in closing, allow me on behalf of the Birtle School to convey our heartfelt gratitude to those who so thoughtfully and magnanimously supplied us with clothing this year.

---

FROM MR. NEIL GILMOUR.

*Hurricane Hills Mission, Indian Head, Dec. 4, 1896.*

I now write to acknowledge receipt of the clothing sent by the kind ladies of Sarnia Presbyterial for the needy of the Assiniboine Indians. Sixteen bales and two boxes, making in all seventeen hundred and twenty pounds, were received. Last year, for want of a building, we were forced to open out the clothing in the presence of the Indians, and give it away at once, making the best division we could. But we felt that it was not the best way, and we are glad that this year—thanks to the generosity of your noble society—there is a splendid new mission building at Hurricane Hills, and in it there is one room, inaccessible to the Indians, especially set apart for the clothing. So when we knew that the clothing had arrived, the interpreter and myself went out with two teams for it; and, returning after dark, we had the clothing stored at the mission without any of the Indians knowing it was here. This gave us time to sort the clothing unmolested.

When all was in readiness, we let it be known that at the close of the next Sabbath's service we would make an announcement about the clothing. As a result, we had over twenty out to church that Sunday—quite double our usual attendance. We told them the clothing had arrived, and that on Thursday of that week we would like to have all the very old women, who were widows, come to the mission, when we would be glad to give them a supply of clothing. On the day named there arrived nineteen *bona fide* widows, all apparently over seventy years of age, and one or two were certainly close to the century mark. Two were brought in carts, because they were stone blind. Another, bent double with age and quite blind, came by herself, feeling her way for the most part with her feet. But when she was uncertain, getting down on her knees and feeling the ground with her hands. Taken altogether, they were a most pitiful group of creatures. Some, as I have said, stone blind, others partially so, and all, through want and neglect, shrunken to apparently half their once size. Needless to say too, they were all in rags; so that it was a most pleasing