

WOODVILLE.

Bro. Nelson, sent out last summer as a teacher to this Mission, writes, under date of Nov. 16th :—"We are all well ; Mrs. N.'s health very much improved. Found things very much out of repair—a great amount of work to be done. The Indians are coming in to the Lake,—over thirty families, or about one hundred and fifty people. They are building houses and settling down. They seem glad some one was sent among them. I talk to or with them every Sunday morning, and have class and prayer-meeting in the afternoon. They all turn out to morning service, and are very attentive. The class is well attended. We have some real earnest soldiers of the cross."

The following from the same is of later date :—

The attendance at school would be much larger, but many of the children have not sufficient clothing for the cold weather. When mild, many of them come barefoot, though the snow be deep, and only a piece of a blanket to cover them. I wish some of our Sabbath-schools of Ontario would kindly remember the poor little half-naked, and in some cases entirely nude, boys and girls of this great country, by sending them some of their cast-off clothing. It would cost them very little ; and, Oh ! how it would gladden their little hearts to receive such a present.

The Indians of this section receive less from the Government than in many other places, as the impression is that there is more game about Edmonton than further south ; but there is little or no winter game, and the destitution and want in some instances are very great. Notwithstanding their misery and hunger, life and property are perfectly safe. We find the children very apt and willing to learn. Some, in less than three months, have learned lessons of one and two syllables, understand and do small sums in addition, and, in writing, make rapid progress. They have already learned to sing over half-a-dozen hymns very nicely. It is cheering to hear them singing in the stillness of the evening, often the whole family joining in. Owing to there being no permanent Missionary among them, and through their being brought into contact with the Romish Church, a number of families have joined that communion, whose teaching seems to benefit or better them no more than their pagan traditions, as they have no regard for the Sabbath, and think it no wrong to gamble off all they have—blankets, horses, and even their wives. When I first visited them, asking them to send their children to school, they looked suspiciously at me, and said, "Na-mo-yah." I left, trying to think of some place or way by which I might reach them, not forgetting them at the throne of grace. After the school had been opened some time, and they saw the scholars with their hair cut and faces and hands clean, and showing a marked improvement generally, also that they were learning a little English, they concluded to let them come. But they were not to "learn to pray." Oh ! the hold the priests have on these poor people.

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