

having passed the wonderful age of one hundred years, and several others are nearly helpless. The remaining twenty-one are indeed objects of charity. No husband to provide for them—their children all married; some having large families, it being as much as they can do to clothe their own children but poorly; consequently the poor mothers have to share the felt want of clothing, made more severe to them by the feebleness of their bodies. To meet this pinching want I have taken up a subscription among our people, at our October Sacramental service, when they are all home. This amounts to about \$50 00, which I supplement by \$20 00, and the Hon. Hudson's Bay Company by \$35 00, giving us a hundred dollars or so, with which we purchase good, warm, substantial clothing for the widows. At the beginning of the winter I call them together in the church, and distribute the clothes amongst them according to their various degrees of want. The very needy ones were away with their sons at their winter hunting ground, for whom we reserved no portion, as they generally stay away till spring. But they came to the mission shortly after, and we had to get some clothing for them at the fort, on our own account, to keep them from suffering, and to deal with them all alike. There is one widow who was left at the mission by her son, when he went to his hunting ground, who had no friends in the village, her people living at Red River, whom we had to supply with flour, pork, and potatoes for several weeks, till after the fall fishing was over, since which time we have given her fish every few days to help the family to keep her with whom she lives.

SECONDLY. We have the sick to claim our charity. They sometimes require nourishing food; to be sure it is only a few pounds of flour, &c., but when we have to pay \$16 00 a barrel for flour, and 45 cts. a pound for butter, you can see that this is no very small amount for a year. Then

there are a few special cases where a family, perhaps thirty or forty miles away, are in a starving condition, (fisheries having failed), and they send to their minister for a little flour, which we have to send them.

THIRDLY. Books, slates, pencils, &c., for the children at both schools, (in addition to what came, per kindness of Rev. E. R. Young, last winter), which cost me the past year \$17 38. These the Society will provide. Such are some of the claims upon us for charity, none of which would we mention, only you ask us to do so.

Our Christmas service was interesting and profitable. The Indians were delighted when I told them about the angels singing "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace and good will toward men," when Jesus was born, and when I told them that we ought more to rejoice than they because we received all the benefits of His life and sufferings; viz, "peace" and "good will"—peace from the great oppression of superstition to which their fathers bowed—peace of conscience—and "the peace of God which passeth all understanding;" also "good will," or the favour of God; Jesus was the pledge of God's earnest wish to do us good, making us happy as well in this life as the life to come, &c.;—after this eyes were filled with tears of thankfulness and gratitude to the Giver of these unspeakable blessings.

January 4th, 1875.—Yesterday our Love Feast and Sacrament were held. The week previous was spent in special prayer in view of the coming sacrament, every afternoon, when many earnest and appropriate prayers were offered by our people for God's blessing to be with us during these services. A good many did not get to sacrament, as their hunting grounds are ten days' run from here,—one man spoke in Love Feast who came one hundred miles to be at the services. Love was the predominant feeling during the whole meeting. Our people have increased in piety as well as numbers during the past year.