

School-master; still much true missionary work may be effected by it.

Only in exceptional cases should I consider a Missionary justified in neglecting this branch of Missionary work. I may here refer to a representation made me by you, my brethren, suggesting the transfer of the Institution known as the Irene Training School to this Mission. I do not for the present, at least, see my way to acquiescing in this proposal. We have at considerable outlay the necessary buildings and improved land at Vermilion. I have already engaged a School master for that point. There is every prospect there of gathering both Beaver and Cree as well as Half-breed children in school, for whom we must make provision. Should, however, after a couple of year's trial, the school prove a failure I shall be ready to consider the advisability of removing it. This also touches another reason why at present any change on a large scale is unadvisable. Rumours from authentic sources reached us at Chipewyan last spring of a renewed intention on the part of the government, to treat with the Indians of this country. Whether it is mere talk as on former occasions, this change must take place very shortly and may possibly, as in treaty districts south of the Saskatchewan cause a location of the Indian population on reservations which may very considerably alter our arrangements. They may also institute schools of which I trust a share would fall to us. An Industrial school supported by the Government, in proper hands might be a source of great good to the Indians of this country.

The Committee on the use of Syllabics wrote through our former Secretary, to Archdeacon Mackay. He sent me a few specimens of the Syllabic books they have in use, Hymns and Family Prayers. I also wrote Bishop Horden for some of his Cree grammars and for specimen copies of Archdeacon Vincent's translation of Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress rendered in Syllabics, which I have duly received and copies of which are here. I also received a small case of Syllabic Prayer Books the same as Archdeacon Hunter's translation which promise to be very serviceable. Still this supply only serves to accentuate the need of such a book of instruction as I have been endeavouring to gather together and entrusted to Mr. Holmes as our most capable Missionary for rendering into good colloquial Cree. In this instruction it is my wish to be able to put into the hands of every Indian, in a light, portable form, a plain simple instruction of their sinful and fallen condition in God's sight, an instruction that will set before them salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. Also to combine with this

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