

the Turtle Mountain Mission next year. The energy and missionary spirit displayed by Bro. Bell in this the beginning of what may be a lengthy Chairmanship, afford encouragement.

## BRANDON.

Rev. Thos. Lawson, our very successful pioneer missionary, writes on the 18th December a letter packed full of interesting missionary intelligence. Brandon is this year the centre of a large field, very large indeed, upon which three missionaries and six local preachers are doing a great deal of hard work for the Church and the Master. They visit outposts fifty or sixty miles away, as well as many rising villages near by. Of *Vinden*, which is about fifty miles distant, he reports that they have secured lots in the heart of the village for a church and parsonage, and predicts that with the several appointments in the Pipe Stone country, and others more adjacent, this will make a first class mission, and must have a good man placed in charge next year. At *Elton*, a new church has been built costing about \$500; and at *Chater*, a building has been erected and a blessed season of revival enjoyed. In one place twenty-five have been brought to the Saviour, and in *Brandon* a number of conversions have been reported in connection with the ordinary services. Their congregations in Brandon have increased to such an extent that numbers could not be accommodated, and so have gone away on Sabbath evenings; to prevent which they have decided to enlarge the church built last spring, to accommodate 800 persons.

The Hon. Mr. Sifton, of Brandon, has written to the same effect, reporting blessed seasons of grace both in the city and country. I have no doubt but that the other toilers, had they written, would have reported as encouragingly as these have done. Let the whole Church pray for these workers and their work.

## CHRISTMAS DAY AT BELLA BELLA.

BY THE REV. C. M. TATE, MISSIONARY.

WE give an abbreviated sketch of Christmas day at Bella Bella, which may not be uninteresting to some of the readers of the OUTLOOK.

At midnight a number of the young people, who had been practising for about a month beforehand, to sing carols, went through the village and sang much to their own delight, and greatly to the pleasure of the older people. After making the round of the village they all repaired to the mission house, and were regaled with buns and tea, prepared by Mrs. Tate. We sang and prayed; then retired to rest for a few hours. Shortly after daylight we were at it again, trimming up the school house, and making ready

for the Christmas tree in the evening. The bell rang for service at 10 a.m., when most of the people in the village came to hear the "Glad tidings of great joy." All joined heartily in the service, thus showing their gratitude to the Saviour of sinners for giving his life a ransom for this lost and ruined world.

At 12 o'clock all the people in the village, including a number from other villages who had come to spend Christmas, sat down to a sumptuous feast provided by Humchit, one of the two leading Chiefs. This might be called a feast of reconciliation, as the two Chiefs above mentioned, who have long been at variance with each other, have just come to terms of amity. At the feast they sat one at each side of a small table, while the missionary and school-teacher occupied either end. When all had satisfied themselves with the good things provided, we joined in a song of praise to God, for having sent His Son into the world, to make the dark places light, and bring peace and happiness to all mankind. After singing, several speeches were made, referring chiefly to the difference between heathenism and Christianity; and showing wherein they were now a better and happier people, than during the dark days of paganism.

In the evening the people flocked to the school house to see the magic lantern. This is a source of great interest to Indians, who can understand a picture better than a lecture. Next in order was the Christmas trees, for we had two of them, and both laden with good things for the school children, such as hoods, neckties, jackets, dolls, books, etc. Most of these articles were made by the missionary's wife, who spent not a little time, with considerable labor, in making them. However, it was worth all the labor and expense to see the manifestation of happiness displayed by the children as each received his little present. After a season of singing and speaking, a time of great enjoyment to all, the meeting was brought to a close.

When we think of the terrible heathenism by which these people were surrounded only three years ago, when they were biting and tearing at each other's flesh in their mad dances, and look at the present state of affairs, we are led to exclaim, "what hath God wrought!"

WHEN the Japanese ambassador to China, who had visited Europe and America, was at Tientsin, the guest of Li Hung Chang, the viceroy of the province of Chihli and the most progressive of Chinese statesmen, the latter asked him this question, "Of all the improvements you have seen in foreign lands, what one do you consider the most valuable for China to learn?" The ambassador answered, "The education of your girls."