

attending. The next week these are made the victims of various small persecutions by the teachers and other pupils. Some of the teachers, in order to keep their pupils away, most solemnly assure them that if they listen to the teaching of Christians they will certainly be crucified; that is what happened Christ himself, and what comes to everyone who listens to His doctrine. It is no wonder that, in some cases, with their imperfect comprehension of the blessed story, their fears overcome their interest and they stay away. Our total average for the four schools last month was 105. We intend having them all together at the school for a little while on the Saturday before Christmas. They are highly delighted at the prospect, and each school is preparing a Christmas hymn to sing on the occasion. It is no easy matter to make the teaching simple enough for the minds of these little ones; still, some ideas they do get and carry away. One bright little girl reported to her father Sunday after Sunday what she had heard until he wanted to hear more than she could tell him. The child had been told about the services at the church, and he made up his mind to go. At the door, however, his courage failed. He did not know anyone, and fearing he would not be welcome did not like to come in, so remained outside listening to the close.

Our woman's meeting, held at the close of the Sunday evening service in the church, is increasing in numbers and interest. Last Sunday there were twenty-three present, four of whom were there for the first time.

May He who giveth the increase bless the sowing and the watering done in His name.

#### INDIAN.

*Letter from MAGGIE SMITH, dated COQUALEETZA HOME, CHILLIWACK, B.C., January 10th, 1894.*

DEAR FRIENDS,—I have now been four months in the Indian Work, having left my home in Nova Scotia in August, and I can truly say I love the work.

As you readers may know, we are still living with Mr. and Mrs. Tate—three teachers and thirty-three children. Still, although our accommodations are poor, it can well be said that all things are done decently and in order; and I often think of the old saying that, "Where there's a will, there's a way."

It may interest some of you readers to read how we spent Christmas, which is no less a red-letter day among our Indian children than among white children. It was eagerly looked for; first they counted the weeks, then the days.

For some weeks before we had been practising for a Christmas service "The True Light," which we gave in our school-room on Christmas Eve, and also in the Indian church in the afternoon. Rev. E. Robson, of Victoria, who was present at one of our last practices, said he thought the children sang well the first time he heard them, that every time since they had done better, but this was the best.

But, to return to Christmas, the day was very fine. We rose as usual at 6 o'clock, assembled in the children's dining-room at 7 for prayers, when Mr. Tate proposed that we should first cross the street and sing a Christmas carol to a good old Christian father who expected to spend his Christmas with his Heavenly Father, but whose life had been spared. This proposition, being seconded by all, we formed a procession, marched across the street, and, arranging ourselves near his bedroom window, sang two of our Christmas pieces. It was a solemn scene in the stillness of that Christmas morn, with the stars twinkling overhead; and then to hear the old man's blessing upon the children could not but solemnize our minds. The day being fine, the children not engaged in household duties enjoyed playing outside till 12 o'clock, when we had lunch. In the meantime Mr. Tate and Miss Burpee had gone to the Indian church to decorate the trees, and the former to superintend the Indian Christmas dinner, which was served at 1.30 in the old church.

At 2 o'clock, in marching order, we proceeded to the Indian church, where the trees gave a very pleasing appearance with dolls (which had been sent from the East), candy, toys, etc. Some of the children had bought toys from their own funds. The church was crowded with Indians, some of

whom had put gifts on the trees for their own children. All seemed to enjoy it very much, judging from their faces. We were at the church two or three hours, having, in addition to the trees, a short service. At 6 o'clock we had our dinner at home, and although crowded, the meal was no less enjoyed. After dinner we gathered in the school-room, all heartily joining in the games and playing with the new toys. At 9 o'clock we had prayers, after which we dispersed, all having given expression to the happy Christmas they had spent.

#### FRENCH.

DEAR MRS. PARKER,—If we could but remember that many seeds lie in the ground a long time before they germinate and grow, and still a longer time passes before they attain to either strength or beauty, we would not be so impatient for results in our work. There are thousands of day-schools throughout the Dominion, but whoever thinks of writing about them. We are satisfied to know that the children are being well taught in all necessary knowledge, and thus fitted for future manhood and womanhood. Our French day-schools are only different from the ordinary day-schools in that greater time and care is given to Bible study and to the study of our catechism. Listening sometimes to the Scripture lesson I wonder whether children taught in many so-called Methodist homes could answer the questions asked as well as the children in our Mission Schools do.

The work of the year so far is full of promise. The workers seem so dependent upon the Holy Spirit that we are sure God's blessing is resting upon them.

In the West End, number of pupils on the roll eighty, and the day before the Christmas closing seventy were present. The parents of some of the Roman Catholic children speak gratefully of the religious and temperance instruction given in this school, and in one case the mother told Miss Anderson that they had always wanted their oldest son to be educated in a Protestant school because he would be better fitted for business, but that they had been told that we gave neither religious nor temperance instruction. Now they were convinced from the careful teaching of the little ones that this could not be true, so they had decided to send the boy to a Protestant institution to finish his studies.

When I visit this school and see Miss Anderson in such a small room, with her little flock of twenty or thirty about her, and some of them, to put it mildly, not being clean or attractive, I feel that love to Christ must be her only compelling power.

The Christmas tree gave great pleasure and was held Thursday, the 21st December. Some of the children fairly shouted over their treasures, and those who provided the gifts must have been amply repaid by the delight of these little ones.

The character of the school in the East End has entirely changed during the year. Of the thirty-nine pupils on the roll only two or three are English, and the greater number are Roman Catholics. This change is due to the faithful visiting of Madame Morin and the efficient teaching of Miss Mathieu. The parents are so well satisfied with the progress of the children, that although strong pressure is brought to bear upon them to send them elsewhere they will not do so.

A Christmas tree laden with gifts for every one gave great delight to the children in the Rev. Dr. DeGruchy's church, Saturday, December 23rd.

Special services are being held at the Institute, of which I hope to send you good news next month.

Very sincerely yours, L. W. Ross.

#### A MEMORABLE EVENT.

Mr. Louis Joseph Papineau, son of the illustrious patriot of 1837, last night in the presence of a large congregation, solemnly abjured the faith of his fathers and of his childhood to become a member of the Presbyterian Church. When a man takes such a step he is branded at once as an apostate by his former friends and co-religionists and hailed as a convert by those with whom he joins his future faith and belief. This will no doubt be the case with Mr. Papineau.