

Norway House

July 24th 1849

My dear Sir /

I must apologize for not immediately replying to your kind favour, but do not think that you were not forgotten even in the midst of the press of business which we invariably have in the few Summer months

It pained me much to hear of your continued ill health; & that you were going to leave the country Your absence will be a public loss & greatly felt by all classes: however, my sincere prayer to Almighty God is, that you may be guided by wisdom from above, & protected by infinite love, & wherever you may be providentially led to; that Divine Being who has rendered you so great a blessing to the natives of this country will contrive to bless your efforts for his glory with increasing success. Your work is with the Lord and your record on high.-

To some extent, but not near so great as your experience has the spirit of dissatisfaction been sown amongst the Indians all along the communications by the Red River freighters i.e. the men- Furs have been traded; and the rights of the company have been called in question but at present they keep these views to themselves & nothing of consequence has occurred.- The Indians of this village have had an

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had an interview this Spring with Sir George soliciting

- 1st The privilege of been allowed to keep the Sabbath when voyaging.- which was granted ---
- 2nd A reduction of the tariff, - granted
- 3rd An increase of wages - for voyaging
- 4th For a Wesleyan Missionary to be sent to Oxford-

The third request was not granted - but the Fourth being urged by the Oxford Indians was not only granted but £50.0.0 annually voted by the Council for the support of a Missionary establishment with seeds & agricultural instruments

This is very liberal especially considering the falling off of the Company's profits - & the many groundless attacks by which they have been lately ascribed by the public at home & in Canada.

As M^{rs} Mason will give you a call I need not enlarge.

But samestly(?) solicit to be remembered by you at the throne of peace &

when opportunity affords a few lines will be very acceptable to

Your

Very Affectionate

Bro' in Christ

W. Mason

To Rev^d John Smithurst

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PS. Receipt my thanks for the bags of fine flour you so Kindly sent us.

W.M.