



*Indian Boarding School. Melita Agency, S.D.*

went to work and removed upwards of twenty tons of flour from a room adjoining the school-room: the acting agent had tables and benches made, and it was fitted for a dining-room. Another room adjoining this we appropriated for a kitchen, and the Cherokee woman was installed as cook. One small room up stairs was fitted for a sleeping apartment for the girls, and a larger one for the boys. Bed-ticks were made and filled with hay for the girls' apartment, while the beds for the boys were made by spiking scantling to the floor, for the head and foot, filling in between them with hay, and covering with wrapping blankets, — a thin sleazy blanket used to protect annuity goods during transportation; these latter were secured in their places by nailing them to the scantlings. A quantity of annuity blankets completed the beds. Gunny sacks were crammed into the openings, to prevent the too free ingress of the wind: dishes, knives, forks, spoons, and combs, were procured, the blackboard slated, and we were in readiness against the time set for the return of the scholars. A. J. Standing and myself, having done most of the work, had been kept very busy.

Some of the scholars came back, on the evening of the 14th, prepared for the opening of the school, in its new capacity the next day.

In thus fitting up a portion of the old commissary and opening a boarding-school, during the absence of the agent, without an opportunity of conferring with him on the subject, I felt that I had assumed a respon-