



THE FIRST MISSIONARY CRUISE OF THE EVANGELINE.

EXTRACTS FROM THE JOURNAL OF THE REV. J. F. RENAUD.

September 10th 1884.

THE Bishop of Algoma, accompanied by the Rev. J. F. Renaud and his son, master Alan Sullivan, made the first trip in the steam yacht which, through the kindness of English and Canadian friends, had been purchased in Glasgow and brought across the Atlantic to our upper lakes. This yacht possesses peculiar interest for all loyal Canadians, having been built for the Prince of Wales, who doubtless enjoyed many a pleasant hour on this tiny craft. In those days she bore the name of *Zenobia*, a celebrated Queen of Egypt, famous for her beauty, courage, and learning. But change of destiny necessitated a change of name, and the Pagan Queen became the *Evangeline*, the messenger of peace. The first start was made under rather unfavourable circumstances. The wind rose and the rain came down in torrents. The intention was to reach Thessalon about 60 miles from the Sault, but so great was the thick darkness, the yacht passed the port several miles and to retrace its way, guided by the oldest of electric lights, that flashed at intervals through the heavy clouds. Very thankful were we on board to cast anchor in a quiet harbour, while they felt not a little proud of the manner in which the *Evangeline* conducted herself in this her first encounter with the winds and waves of Lake Huron.

A rapid run was made from Thessalon to Little Current, 100 miles in 10 hours. Very good for the yacht, but not so good for the three passengers, who experienced serious uncomfortable sensations, a bit of homeopathic treatment reminding them of Atlantic voyages. The first light seen on shore was from a Methodist chapel, and the first token of good will received was a cord of sawn wood from a Presbyterian. Mr. Renaud added to his official character as the Bishop's Chaplain that of purveyor for the *Evangeline*, and general manager of the Commissariat, making purchases of fuel, fruit, milk, and often receiving little gifts from settlers and Indians, showing their gratitude and friendly feeling. The arrival of the *Evangeline* at any port, wharf, or shore, was announced by the firing of a small "piece of ordin-

ance, now advanced to the dignity of a Bishop's Canon, whose report was always a message of peace. Thus heralded, Manitowaning was reached, Sunday 14th. This is an old settlement formed by Dr. O'Mara of Port Hope.

The church is perched like a watch-tower, on a height. The services were conducted by the Bishop, assisted by Rev. Mr. Renaud, and the Incumbent Rev. Mr. Cole, to whose persevering energy and faithful pastoral care this mission owes much of its encouraging aspect, dating from the time it has enjoyed his ministration. A vestry meeting was held with satisfactory results. It appeared from the account of the Church Wardens, that the people were doing all in their power financially to sustain the services of the church. They spoke with much grateful appreciation of the assistance from the Mission Fund, also from kind sympathy and useful donations from friends far and near.

Monday 15th, the Bishop started for the interior, a drive of 40 miles, over a new and rocky road, not only uncomfortable but actually perilous, from the steep and sudden descents. Fortunately for his Lordship, his driver was a master of the art, engineering most skilfully through the dangerous by-paths. At length a loghouse was reached, where the Bishop was warmly welcomed. The Slash is a new mission opened by Mr. Cole, here a hearty service was held.

While the Bishop was absent in the interior an accident occurred at the shore where the yacht had been left at anchor, under the care of Mr. Renaud and the crew, which consisted of engineer and pilot. A gale had been blowing all Tuesday night, and through the following morning Mr. Renaud suddenly became aware that the vessel was dragging her anchors and drifting away from the shore, the engineer was directed to get up steam, the danger was she would run aground on the opposite side of the bay, or strike some hidden rock. An hour elapsed before the steam power was available, by this time the vessel was just at a safe distance from the shore, the inhabitants were on the beach watching but powerless to help from want of boats. Once the yacht was under control all went well, and a safe berth was soon reached. The loan of an anchor 158 lbs was kindly offered, which would prevent a similar occurrence in future, the danger being injury to the yacht. From Manitowaning the *Evangeline* steered for Sheguindah, an Indian settlement under the charge of Mr. Frost, who acts in the double ca-

capacity of schoolmaster and missionary, a post which he fills to the entire satisfaction of all with whom he comes in contact, his valuable wife shares with him alike in his labours and in his earnest, patient, and self-denying spirit. For five years, these servants of God have lived in a small shanty, destitute of many of the necessaries and most of the comforts of life, yet no complaint or murmur was ever uttered, within the past year an addition has been built which forms the principal part of the house. The Indians had done what they could to welcome their Bishop, flags were flying and an arch of evergreens was erected at the entrance to the church, on the floor were mats of various reeds, lent for the occasion from their own huts. Everything in the interior was in the most primitive style, no communion rails, a pine table with leaves was placed at one end, a melo-dion partook of the character of the building to which was added a bad asthmatic affection, yet notwithstanding its failing powers the service of song which the missionary used it to lead was very sweet and solemn. The Bishop rendered the communion and confirmation services in Indian, his address in very simple language, spoke of the great love of God the Father and of His Son Jesus Christ, and of the gift of the Holy Spirit, to all who sought it in earnest prayer, was repeated by Mr. Frost in the Indian language. The Bishop affectionately thanked the people for their tokens of loving care for himself and asked what he could do for them. The Chief rose up and said they were very poor, had very little money, but all they could do they were very anxious to do, he pointed to their delapidated church, and said the rain, snow, and cold all found their way in, their people would gladly give time and labour if material could be provided. The Rev. Mr. Renaud followed the Bishop with a short address, he told how, everywhere the Bishop went he remembered his Indian children, and pled their cause in England and in Canada, and had interested many warm hearted friends in their behalf. Mr. Renaud mentioned the sum of \$25 subscribed by his own Sunday School at St. Johns, to aid in repairing their church. He said he could not close without telling them how much they should value their Bishop, pray for him, and do all in their power to lighten his labours, making his heart rejoice by seeing them walking in God's love and leading holy lives. That was the reward he sought among them; that would repay him for all he had left and given up to accept the spiritual oversight of this diocese. Mrs. Frost kindly invited the Bishop's party to her house, where they were hospitably entertained. In the afternoon an Indian cemetery was consecrated, the Indian graves are generally covered by a low arched roof, in some cases there are still traces of their ancient superstitions, which they only let go by degrees as the light of truth shines more perfectly on their hearts. Already a sacred interest belongs to this spot, as the grave of a former missionary the Rev. Mr. Sims is here, his family still reside on the island, and are warm friends and helpers. The situation of the cemetery is particularly picturesque, commanding a beautiful and extensive prospect, the sight of three clergymen in their robes followed by a procession of Indians, as they skirted the enclosure repeating alternately the appointed

psalms, was a novel and striking one. The service was given by the Bishop and repeated in the Indian language. The legal documents were read by Mr. Renaud, acting Chaplain.

As the steam yacht was an object of considerable interest to these simple people, a general invitation was given those who chose to go on board. The yacht was eagerly accepted, so at each station the yacht line had a day and gave a reception, in the absence of Mr. Renaud and his nephew, the honours were given to the Bishop. Before leaving, the Bishop was presented with various little gifts, the hands of the Indian women. About two miles from the village, there is a white settlement where a church has been built. It was now confirmed. In addition to the evening service there was a confirmation of four persons. About twenty persons came to partake of the Holy Communion. The church is also under Mr. Frost's care, it holds 125. This day's work was closed with a visit to a sick man, the donor of the site of the church.

Sept. 19th, Sheguindah was left early in the morning that Little Current might be reached as soon as possible, the weather bearing a very threatening aspect. By the time the party landed and arrived at the school house, the rain came down in torrents. Notwithstanding there was a gathering of about 50 persons. Here the Bishop had the pleasure of announcing that Mr. Jones of Bath, had generously promised to build a church, which was to be fitted up and furnished by other members of the family. The news was received with many expressions of gratitude. The Bishop only wished instead of a case he had a whole budget of such tidings. The Bishop left he chose the site for the church upon the bluff, with a very beautiful and extensive view. May it ever prove a spiritual light-house city set upon a hill, that it may give light to those still sitting in darkness. At Sucker creek, an inland settlement where service was held, a white man of 80 years, drove 5 miles to attend service, and partook of the Holy Communion, having enjoyed the opportunity for three years.

Sunday Sept 21st was spent at Gore Bay. The mission, (one of ten) under the Rev. Mr. Tomlinson, the most flourishing on the Manitoulin Island, the missionary is much looked up to, and his energy and enterprise have effected many improvements and opened up new fields of mission work. The church which was now consecrated is a neat ecclesiastical structure, the interior, appropriately furnished, the site was the gift of an energetic and warm-hearted friend, who has since entered into her rest. The organ was presented by her husband as a memorial of her.

Three sermons and an address were delivered by the Bishop to a most attentive congregation, the church holds nearly 200 hundred people, and was on this occasion crowded, the congregation contained many members of other denominations. Here the Bishop's party had the agreeable change of a night on shore, being kindly invited and freely entertained by Mr. Hunt, the proprietor of the hotel.

Monday 23rd, the *Evangeline* carried a party of ten ladies to Mudge Bay, where an impromptu service was partaken of on the yacht; before the service

explored the neighbourhood, and were re-
 ceived by some fine scenery and a really beautiful
 waterfall. This place is a mere hamlet, of a few
 houses with surrounding farms. Service was held
 in the union church, about 60 persons being present,
 three were confirmed. Another "Gaius" was found at
 a little settlement who received the Bishop's par-
 ticulars as honored guests. The next day the *Evangeline*
 returned to Gore Bay. After bidding adieu to kind
 friends there the Bishop proceeded 25 miles, to
 St. John's Bay. The weather had become very stormy,
 and a little anxiety was felt about landing, as the
 bay was unknown, but at length a safe landing
 was effected. Then followed a long, wet, dreary
 tramp up hills, through fields, over logs, and very
 uncomfortable was the kindly reception tendered the
 missionary party by Mr. Gibson, the active, energetic
 head of this mission station. After tea, evening
 services, a missionary meeting and baptism were
 held in the house of the good farmer, by whom
 and his excellent wife the little Sunday School has
 been kept up and the members of the church gath-
 ered. Arrangements have been made and material
 collected to erect a log church in this vicinity. Mr.
 Gibson has generously presented a site for a ceme-
 tery. It was late and very dark when the Bishop
 and Mr. Renaud got into the yawl and pulled for
 the *Evangeline*, lying in the bay, Mr. Gibson accom-
 panied them to the boat and lent a lantern which
 proved of great service. The darkness was so
 great that nothing could be seen of the
 boat, though strict charges had been given that
 lights should be hung out. For some time the row-
 ers rowed in vain, seeking for their vessel, Mr. Ren-
 aud occasionally holding the lantern over the side
 of the boat to prevent running on shore. Sure they
 were in the near neighbourhood of their vessel,
 they called and shouted loudly, and at length after
 repeated calls an answering voice was heard, and
 the longed-for light hung out, and they got safely
 aboard, thankfully realizing a Heavenly Father's
 protecting and care. Cook's Landing was
 the next place sighted. Here service was to have
 been held, but through some mistake no arrange-
 ments had been made. Mrs. Cook expressed her
 sincere regret in very energetic language that mis-
 sionary visits should be so few and far between.
 No service of any kind had been held for a year;
 she said how thankful they would be for even occa-
 sional services, the crumbs from more favoured plac-
 es. Sheshegwaning, another Indian village, lies ap-
 proximately 12 or 14 miles north; on its sandy beach were
 gathered men, women and children, waiting the ar-
 rival of the Bishop, having come here instead of
 Cook's Landing. The Indians here are nearly all
 Roman Catholics, but are dissatisfied with their pre-
 sent religion and are anxious to come over to the
 Church of England. A year ago the chief asked the
 Bishop to send them a teacher, but there was none
 available though the harvest was ripe. The people
 were most anxious to have a service, and as there
 was no building in which it could be held, an out-
 door meeting was commenced on the beach, seats
 improvised of boards and shingles, a reading
 stand was constructed by placing three bundles of
 logs together, a robing room was discovered be-
 neath the trees, which also formed a welcome shel-

ter from the sun to the officiating clergy. Bye and
 bye the singing attracted those within hearing, men
 left their work, and ere long a goodly congregation
 were attentively listening to the same saving truths
 in olden times, preached by the Master and his ap-
 ostles on the shores of Galilee. After the address
 a meeting was held to ascertain what the people
 were willing to do. \$35 were promised on the spot
 along with a guarantee for \$75 per annum, towards
 the support of a catechist. It is earnestly to be
 hoped a field of such promise will not long be left
 uncultivated. Meldrum Bay was the last station
 visited at this time. This place is a mere lumber
 yard. Inland, there are 17 or 18 families settled
 as farmers. Here also there had been no service
 since the Bishop's last visit, and the same story of
 anxiety was repeated. Service was held in a house
 very dimly lighted. At the meeting for practical
 arrangements \$50 were promised to aid in procur-
 ing a catechist or student. This humble service
 ended the present missionary tour.

The *Evangeline* was now steered for Sault Ste.
 Marie, where expectant and anxious hearts awaited
 her arrival, which was hailed with much thankful-
 ness. It should be mentioned, that at each station
 the Bishop left Bibles, Prayer-books, Sunday School
 books, and general literature, enabled to do this by
 the generous kindness of Societies and private friends,
 in England and Canada. Where nothing else could
 be done, a Sunday School was organized and en-
 trusted to the care of those inhabitants who were
 interested in the work.

A perusal of these notes presents two distinct
 pictures to the mind. 1st the entire des-
 titution of the means of Grace in many
 places, and their inadequacy in all. 2nd, the de-
 sire and anxiety universally expressed for instruction
 and a preached gospel. We seem to see again
 Paul's vision of the man of Macedon, and hear his
 pleading "Come over and help us." If every reader
 of this paper would ask the question "what can I
 do to help," and having resolved what to do, do it at
 once, a great and blessed change would soon be
 made, hungry souls would be fed, and our Lord and
 Master seeing in those lowly homes the travail of his
 soul, would, even at the right hand of His Father,
 rejoice.

MANITOWANING.

The Bishop of Algoma has left us; and left me
 three churches to build, a log, a grout, (or concrete)
 and a plank church, pine boards 4 inches wide, nail-
 ed horizontally one on the other. But he has left
 me also a very valuable assistant, Mr. Payne, who
 is at present teaching, but who is prepared to help
 me on the Sundays. My stations are, Manitowaning
 almost at the east end of the island, Purple Hill, the
 Slash, and Providence Bay along its south shore, at
 distances of 6, 15, and 30 miles, and Crawford's, and
 By Lake, in the interior 30, and 25 miles. I also
 visit Mr. Frost's, four stations, as he is a deacon, and
 at his two Indian stations I require, of course, an in-
 terpreter. I have thus, in a sense, ten stations—
 with others to open—and sixty miles of run. The
 main roads are better than those I used to travel in

my former mission, but the cross roads the Bishop finds the worst he knows. There is another township where there are members of the church, but where I have hardly visited, as yet. It will be seen that I need more help; there are three ministers of one denomination over the ground I travel aided only by Mr. Frost who is engaged all day in school; but we start, nevertheless, on a new epoch since the visitation. The Bishop has gained, as always, golden opinions through the newly broken country which he traversed. Churchmen whose cry was, "No church; no clergyman near me," have been brought out and stood face to face with their Bishop; found him longing to know their wants, longing to relieve them; ready to preach to them, as occasion offered, words of life. One man came to me in the winter. He has children to be baptized, others to be prepared for laying on of hands, and we were to go to his house next day, but the snow had drifted in the night to such a depth the journey was impossible, and to travel by the lake he considered dangerous, even with his guiding. He had been on the island for some years yet had never seen a clergyman. He sought me. In most of these cases I have to seek out our members. That man was able to meet the Bishop; and before long I shall, D. V., administer baptism to his household and prepare his children for the laying on of hands. Mine are the only church services ever held at Providence Bay with the exception of one marriage and only one church service had ever been held in the Slash when I arrived there; and there have been no services but mine there since. Lots of work; few workers. Thinking people when they see facts look for causes I admit; but I must not stop for that now. This is the healthiest place I have ever been in, and the richest soil; though there are large patches of flat rock; and there is around Sheguindah some scenery which is magnificent at times. Circumstances have prevented me working so hard as before I came here; but my people are very kind and sometimes work very hard for me. They subscribed over six dollars towards the decorations at the harvest festival last year and then put up the most splendid ones I had ever seen, or indeed without an outlay of thousands could conceive. The offertory was over sixteen dollars and the congregation approached two hundred. A Presbyterian present said we should have charged a dollar for admission; of course this might have meant we were theatrical for decorating. At Christmas they took the greatest pains again; Mrs. Riddell, Doctor Francis, Messrs. Springer and Ironside devoting all and each a great deal of time, so that the Bishop pronounced the remnants when he saw them in the vestry, "Good enough for Montreal." The church is too large and out of the way a little, but it is a very handsome structure externally, and might be made with a little trouble and expense to look well inside. We have received much sympathy from outside and over one hundred and seventy dollars during the fourteen months I have been here; without, we could not get along at all; for, as the Bishop said at the vestry, "The process of resuscitation is always difficult, always slow, sometimes painful, in the case of the human frame; and so with parishes." The financial statement at Easter showed that \$550,00

had passed through the treasurer's hands in months, of which \$100,00 were then on hand. We have decided to paint the church outside, and will use up all our funds, and the reseating and painting inside must be postponed, as we have twenty-one families at this station, who raise a year towards the stipend and cannot be called for any large subscriptions beyond that amount for running expenses; but we have good stoves, lamps inside and out, books for the Indian and Sunday School, though, as yet, no library has been formed for our scholars. My people are most kindly at the vestry. It was very cheering to me. You know one sometimes in some place meets a man who seems to look on his clergyman as a sort of nigger—get as much work out of him as you can, and when he is worn out, why, go to another. Here the feeling is to save one's being taxed. We have a capital choir, and a school over thirty scholars. This school I could not visit but for the kindness of Mr. Phipps, agent of the Indian and Crown Lands Department, who takes my afternoon services occasionally in the evening at Purple Hill. The Bishop left or promised me \$25,00 towards the painting, have to be supplied by subscription; \$100 towards the church at Purple Hill; and \$17,00 towards the building at the Slash, besides his personal subscriptions of \$100 in each place. At Purple Hill three candidates were confirmed. I have held a bible-class, a confirmation class, or choir practice here each Tuesday evening for some nine months, Mrs. Cole has been with me to train them in singing; and it is all an uncommon thing to have four and five young persons at this meeting. At this station Mr. Shields, the people's warden for Manitowaning, has round some months back, and the people subscribed \$35 towards the stipend, to be paid in kind; Mr. Sproat of this station lent his horse, harness and waggon for three days during harvest, so that I was able to double with my own horse and the Bishop better through the district of the Providence Bay, Crawford's, and Big Lake. I will write in my next as the churches advance the confirmation classes become organized.

SHEGUIANDAH MISSION.

It was Thursday morning before a yacht put in an appearance in Sheguindah Bay. The Indians had made the necessary preparations cleaning the church and decorating it. An arch of evergreens was made at the entrance and beautiful mats of Indian manufacture were spread tastefully on the floor.

As the *Evangeline* drew near to the landing place or rather the place where the landing should be, a loud report announced the fact that the sprightly little vessel had come as near the shore as was prudent, accordingly the Missionary's little boy set out in a boat with some Indians in order to board the ship and bring the Missionary ashore. The Bishop's son Alan was there, and the Rev. J. F. Renaud from Prov. of Quebec.

Bishop's brother in law whom we remember to have seen before.

As the hour appointed for Divine Service was already past we drew to land and made our way with all speed to the little Indian Church, where the manifest tokens of regard in the preparations made for the Bishop's reception rejoiced the heart of his Lordship.

The chief was on hand, the people flocked in with stealthy steps and slow after the manner of the noble red men, but however on this occasion they were more lively and prompt than on some occasions, the congregation soon assembled and the service commenced. The Missionary read the service in the Indian language, the people joined in heartily, a hymn was sung, and the Bishop commenced the sermon, the Black Coat interpreting.

The Text was from a verse in the Epistles, "In that he suffered being tempted He is able to succour those that are tempted". His Lordship dwelt upon the many temptations to which man in general and the Indians in particular were subject making special reference to the temptation to strong drink the curse of men both red and white, and exhorted the people to seek help from the mighty and sympathetic Saviour, in order that they might overcome the evil habits to which they are prone. The people listened attentively and some at least were benefited as their subsequent conduct proved. The Holy Communion was administered and several partook, the Chief among others.

At the close of the service the Bishop shook hands with all, said a few words of thanks and congratulation. The Chief then said he had a few words to address to the Big Black Coat. Referring to the building in which they worshiped he remarked how rough and unfinished it was, and said he wished to say that if the Bishop could give them some help in purchasing material the Indians would go to work and improve the appearance and comfort of the interior especially. This the Bishop readily promised to do, and the offer was seconded by the Rev. Mr. Renaud, who opportunely remarked that the Sunday School connected with the church of which he was Rector had some funds at their disposal to be devoted to some good work and he thought this was a suitable object to spend it upon. The Indians received this announcement with joy, undemonstrative of course but none the less real. The Bishop stated that \$50,00 altogether would be given which has since come to hand.

I forgot to mention that one person received the rite of confirmation at the hands of the Bishop.

In the afternoon the Indians paid a visit to the yacht. The women were regaled with grapes by Rev. Mr. Renaud. The cannon was "let off" for the diversion of the men.

At 4 o'clock all repaired to the grave yard on the bluff, which was to be consecrated for Christian burial by the Bishop. The place had been fenced and made ready for Consecration. After the service an address was given to the Indians by the Bishop relative to sacred associations of funerals. That the body is the dwelling place of the human soul, and believing as we do that there will be a Resurrection of the body, it is right that a place

would be "set apart" consecrated for such a purpose. The Bishop explained the meaning cemetery, sleeping place, and shewed its appropriateness in the case of the christian.

There was to be a service Confirmation and Holy Communion in the new church at Sheguiandah White Village. The church also was to be consecrated, so after tea we made the best of our way there. The congregation had already assembled and the service of consecration was proceeded with. The church was named St. Peter's, a pretty frame structure with pointed stained glass windows, and arched roof.

Rev. J. F. Renaud read prayers. The incumbent read the lessons and the Bishop preached. His text was "First the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear," illustrating the progressive stages of the christian life, its analogy to nature, etc. There was a large congregation assembled to hear the Bishop, in fact the church was full. Three persons were confirmed, who remained with several others nineteen in all to receive the Holy Communion.

The next day Friday, services were appointed to be held at Sucker Creek and Little Current. We accordingly started at an early hour in the morning. The Bishop going in his yacht with his son and the Rev. J. F. Renaud. The Missionary at Sheguiandah went on the road with his horse and buggy, to be in readiness at Little Current wharf when the yacht reached there to take the Bishop to Sucker Creek some four miles distant. Sucker Creek is an Indian settlement, there is no church there yet, service is held fortnightly in an Indian house, and it was in this Indian shanty that the Bishop was to preach. Here as at Sheguiandah great preparations had been made for the Bishop's reception. The walls of the cabin were completely draped with white calico, the furniture and beds were neat and clean and everything was decent and in order. The congregation had nearly all assembled when we arrived. A very old lady came from a farm in the neighborhood to receive the Holy Communion from the hands of the Bishop. The service was similar to that held at Sheguiandah Indian Reserve. Three persons were confirmed. The address by the Bishop was practical and eminently appropriate. Thirteen persons received the emblems of the Saviour's death. After the service the Bishop made some remarks about the School House that was to be built for school and worship, promising to give assistance in purchasing doors, windows, nails etc. He exhorted the people to begin and try and get the building up before winter.

The rain was pouring down as we left the place of worship, repairing to a farm house in the neighborhood for dinner. We returned to the Current in the afternoon and a wet afternoon it was.

Service was appointed for seven o'clock in the evening. A very good congregation was present, notwithstanding the drenching rain. The Bishop preached an admirable sermon from the words of our Lord, "I, if I be lifted up from the earth will draw all men unto me." The people listened with devout attention to the earnest words of the Bishop, as he dwelt on the constraining influences of a

crucified Saviour, among other things, pointing out the fact that these words of the text spoken by Jesus, proved His Divinity, or rather shewed that the Saviour was what He represented Himself to be, or else He as not even a good man, since one of the chief traits of a good man's character is his humility. Four persons were confirmed who remained to the Holy Communion. After which service a vestry meeting was held. The new church which will shortly be built was discussed. The desirability of the site etc.

The next morning the Bishop made a personal inspection of the site for proposed church and expressed himself greatly pleased with it. The Bishop left about noon for Gore Bay. F.F.

MUSKOKA.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.

The Rev. R.W. Plante gratefully acknowledges the gift of five dollars from Henry Rowsell Esqr., Toronto, towards the re-building of the Parsonage at Port Sydney. Also a box from "The Church Woman's Mission Aid," per Mrs. O'Reilly, for our Christmas-tree, and a valuable lot of books for myself. Also numerous papers for distribution through my Mission from different friends in Canada and England.

Port Sydney,
Muskoka Dis't Ont.
November 3rd 1884.

BEATRICE.—A Harvest Thanksgiving service was held on the morning of the 1st inst., at St. Mary's Church, Beatrice, conducted by the Incumbent, the Rev. R.W. Plante, who was accompanied from his residence at Port Sydney by a party of ladies and gentlemen, and among the former, one who presided at the organ, (lent by a friend for the occasion.) The service was entirely choral, and the Church was beautifully decorated by the Sunday School children and other young folks of the settlement, under the superintendency of their several teachers. Such services are so rare in this part of Muskoka, that this one was a great treat, as was manifest from the crowded church, and deep interest displayed by all.

Port Sydney.—*Christ Church.*—A most impressive and hearty Harvest Service was held here on the evening of the 7th inst. The service conducted by the Incumbent—the Rev. R.W. Plante—was choral, consisting of appropriate hymns and the Litany (sung to Barnaby in A.)—The sermon was preached by the Rev. E. S. Stubbs, of Bracebridge. The decorations of the church indicated most beautifully the character of the service. After the regular service, the Holy Communion was administered.

BOOKS RECEIVED.—The Librarian acknowledges valuable gifts of books for the Clerical Library from "The Church Woman's Aid Society," per Mrs. O'Reilly, the Rev. Johnstone Vicars and Henry Rowsell Esqr.

R. W. PLANTE,
Port Sydney P. O., Ont.,
Clerical Librarian For the District of Muskoka.

PORT ARTHUR.



T. James' Church, Oliver, a neat little frame structure, in a township 15 miles from Port Arthur, was opened on the 29th October. There are ten church of England families connected with it. It is 18x32 feet and cost \$500, independent of many days labor given by the congregation. Temporary but fairly comfortable. Seats have been supplied by St. John's Church, Port Arthur. Debt \$50.00.

St. John's Church, Port Arthur, may be said to be complete. The handsome East window is at last in its place; the chancel carpeted, and all necessary preparations for winter made. There are one hundred and forty families connected with this growing mission.

Typhoid fever is diminishing. Not Rev. McMorine's, but Rev Mr. Renison's family have been ill with scarlet fever.

Letter From an Orphan Boy in Jerusalem.

The pupils and teachers of the Shingwauk and Wawanosh Homes have during the past year been assisting in the support of an orphan boy at Bishop Gobat's Memorial School on Mount Zion. The following is a letter from one of the boys of the Institute addressed to Mr. Wilson and we think will be read with interest.

Jerusalem, 20th May 1884

Revd. Sir.—Yesterday Mr. Zeller came reading and explaining us a long and most acceptable letter he got from you, dear Sir, and he desired me then to answer it. But I am rather afraid to do that, because I am an Arab boy and would of course know better to write in my own tongue, on the other hand however I like much indeed to write once an English note and ought to be able also to afford it as we always learn and practise English in our school.

We feel greatly obliged you have taken such an interest in us though we are very far from each other. First you inquire to what belief we belong. Half of us—we are about 50 on the whole—are Protestants; about one third Greek Catholics, and the rest consists of Roman Catholics, Armenians, and Druses. Notwithstanding we all attend the service of the C. M. S. and have daily Scripture lesson in school too.

Another question is this, how we behave. I think, Sir, one of our teachers might inform you better about that; I can say that on the whole our tutors are contented, yet we say with the Apostle, "Not as though I have already attained, either were already perfect, but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which I am apprehended of Christ Jesus." Beside the above mentioned Scripture lesson and English, we study Arabic, French, mathematics, geography, history, natural history, calligraphy, gymnastics, and singing. We have two German and two Arabic teachers and are accordingly divided into four classes.

Before and after school time we prepare either our lessons or do our household work, that is, we

lay or remove the cloth, sweep and order the different rooms etc. At four o'clock p. m. we work in the garden a while the one day and out for a walk the other. We visit then the beautiful valleys of Hinnom, Josaphat, or Kidron, or we march to an adjacent village, such as Bethany, Bethlehem, Lifta. Other times we mount one of the lovely hills, as the Mount of Olives, and we always happily return.

Our home on Mount Zion comprises 3 school-rooms, 3 dormitories, 1 large dining hall, and a playing room. There are also rooms for teachers and the Steward. The houses and the garden are surrounded by a wall. The view is a splendid one indeed. In regard to health it is one of the most wholesome places, as a pure, refreshing breeze constantly blows there; consequently scarcely anyone of us gets sick, whilst in town for instance people always get fever.

We have three chief meals the day, breakfast $\frac{1}{2}$ o'clock, dinner $12\frac{1}{2}$ o'clock, supper $6\frac{1}{2}$ o'clock. At 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. we take luncheon. Our food is always prepared according to the European fashion.

Your boys are very kind toward us and we feel much obliged to them for their acts of benevolence and pray that God may abundantly bless them, and all your house to. Please to remember us affectionately to your boys, and believe me, Revd. Sir.

Yours very respectfully
BSHARA MANSOOR.

OLD COUNTRY SCRAPS.

The tunnel under the English Channel from Dover to France is 7 feet in diameter, and has advanced about a mile and a half. Operations are at a standstill at present owing to objections being raised to the undertaking by the War office.

Some African Pygmies have been on exhibition at the Westminster Aquarium. In their native haunts they are said to live like wild animals, having no villages, crawling on their stomachs in search of prey, and eating locusts, ants, putrid flesh, snakes, lizards, and even skins of animals. They have no religious belief whatever.

At the Church Congress which met at Carlisle last month, very interesting papers were read by the Bishop of Durham, Canon Tristram, Capt. Conder and others on the recent explorations in Egypt and the Holy Land. The Siloam tablet, which was accidentally discovered by some boys near the pool of Siloam, bears an inscription which is the oldest Israelite inscription yet known, dating back to a period not later than the time of Hezekiah and possibly much earlier. It tells how the conduit (2 Kings 18, 17.) conducting from the fountain of the Virgin under the city, to the pool of Siloam was constructed by two sets of miners tunnelling from either end till they met in the middle. The site of Kadesh, the capital of the great Hittite Empire, has also been discovered, and a great deal of light thrown upon the pages of Scripture in consequence. Much pains also has been taken in tracing the course which the Israelites must have taken on leaving Egypt; and the spot where their first encampment must have been made is now

definitely fixed, very near to the battle field of Tel el Kebir. One of the most recent identifications in or about Jerusalem is the site of Calvary. Hitherto a spot has been pointed within the walls of the Holy City, but it was never thought that this could be the true place, and the spot now determined on is a limestone hill to the North of Jerusalem outside the Damascus gate.

Sir Moses Montefiore, the noted Jewish Philanthropist completed his 100th year on October 24th. His birthday was universally celebrated by the Jews in all parts of the world.

Bishop Ryle in his charge to his clergy said:—"It is my settled and deliberate conviction that a clergyman of comparatively moderate gifts, who preaches the Gospel and gives a large quantity of his time to pastoral visitation and personal dealing with souls, will be found at the last day to have done more for the cause of Christ than a clergyman of far superior gifts, who, although he preaches the same Gospel most faithfully, is only seen in the pulpit, and in the lecture room, and on the platform, but is never seen in the houses of his people."

The Rev. H. Chase, Indian Missionary, of the Huron Diocese, is on a visit to England.

The Bishop of Manchester, preaching the University Sermon at Cambridge, last month said:—"What was wanted to deal with the miserable moral chaos, or rather volcano, of modern society in its lowest strata as well as uppermost, was not the last theories of materialism, nor again "the sacerdotal exclusionist," but the preacher and witness alive and inspired with the divine truth of the Gospel in his own soul."

JOTTINGS.

The Sault Ste Marie mission is at present vacant.

The "Evangeline" has gone to Owen Sound for repairs, and will lie there for the winter.

Trinity Sunday School, Galt, has undertaken the support of an Indian boy at the Shingwauk Home.

GRAVENHURST.—The Rev. A. Osborne has been appointed by the Bishop to the charge of this mission.

A GOOD EXAMPLE.—The Incumbent of Bracebridge has sent in names of 16 new subscribers to our paper.

NEEPIGON.—Rev. R. Renison and family have returned to the mission at Negwenenang on the shores of Lake Neepigon.

There are 37 boys at present at the Shingwauk Home, and 20 girls at the Wawanosh Home, and 3 more girls expected shortly.

MORE HELP.—The Rev. R. W. Greene's class, St. James' Sunday School, Toronto, has undertaken the partial support of an Indian boy.

St. Thomas' Sunday School, Bracebridge, has written asking about the cost of support, with the view of taking an Indian protege.

ILFRACOMBE.—The Rev. A. S. O. Sweet is away on leave, on a twelvemonth's visit to England. During his absence Mr. W. A. Vernon Garrat will attend to any correspondence connected with the mission.

