



Christmas at Sheguiandah.

IN obedience to a request from the Chief here, I write you a short account of our Christmas Festival. On Christmas Day we had a large congregation of Indians in the new church, which they had handsomely decorated for the occasion. The singing was good and the service hearty throughout. A good number received the Holy Communion.

On Monday evening, the Indians held their annual Christmas Feast, in the old school house. A large number of Indians were present, not only from Sheguiandah but also from other places. I was glad to notice the manifest progress made by the Indians in the culinary art. The viands were superior to anything in previous feasts. After supper, speeches and singing were in order; that of the Chief coming first, and ranking first in order of merit. The Indians entertained the audience with hymns and music; then, last of all, the Missionary said a few words, and the proceedings terminated with the National Anthem in the Ojibway language, which was well and heartily sung in harmony.

On Tuesday evening, we had the Christmas Tree at Sucker Creek. The church and school house were very prettily decorated, and a great many attended. There were gifts for the children, consisting of mits, socks, caps, comforters, and other articles of clothing, sent up from the churches at Dundas, Toronto, and other places. We had no dolls or toys this year; some very warm clothing for old people made very suitable and acceptable presents.

On Wednesday evening, the Chief at Sheguiandah gave an entertainment at his own house. Candies and little articles made by the Chief's family, were distributed to the children. The Missionary became the happy recipient of a pair of deerskin moccasins, and his wife received a very handsome basket. A great deal of trouble and taste had been expended in decorating the tree, and the room was well swept and neatly garnished.

On Thursday evening, was the annual Christmas Tree, in the old school house. The gifts were the same as at Sucker Creek, and from the same source, with the addition of apples. The articles of clothing, I notice, are already in use; and I take this opportunity of thanking the donors on behalf of the Indians.

F. FROST, MISSIONARY.

Sheguiandah, Jan. 4, 1888.

Broadbent-Muskoka.

THE children of our Sunday School met on Friday, the 23rd, for their annual Christmas treat, which consisted of tea and a tree; from which each one received some token of kindness from the C. W. M. A. Society, of Toronto, and a few games, brought to a close by singing the National Anthem.

Rev. R. Mosley held service here on Christmas morning, this being the first time a clergyman has preached to us at Broadbent on Christmas Day.

Port Carling-Muskoka.

IBEG to acknowledge in your columns, a box of things from the C. W. M. A. Society, of Toronto, through their energetic president, Mrs. O'Riley, for our Sunday School. The things were most valuable to us for the Christmas times. Also a box from the Women's Auxiliary, of Trinity Church, Brockville, containing also a contribution from the Children's Auxiliary. These things are most valuable to us at this season of the year, and I return my hearty thanks, and those of my people, for these valuable contributions.

S. E. KNIGHT,

INCUMBENT OF PORT CARLING.

Bruce Mines.

THE decorations this Christmas in St. George's Church eclipsed all previous attempts in that direction for ecclesiastical accuracy and display. The baptismal font at the south entrance was most tastily festooned around its panels, columns and steps, and crowned with a very intricate, but effective spiral design. Between the nave windows were erected frames with appropriate monograms. On each side of the chancel, above the choir stalls, were screens, bearing in white letters the words "King of Kings" and "Lord of Lords;" and above, suspended from the top of the arch, was a large star, and directly under it, the word "Emmanuel." On approaching the sanctuary, is presented the inscription "Holy, Holy, Holy." The altar frontal of gold and white was designed and executed for the occasion by the Mission Priest, the Rev.

F. C. Berry, as were also the frontals for the lectern and prayer desk. On the super-altar, between the lights and the cross, were vases and flowers. There was a large congregation both at matins and evensong.

PRESENTATION.—On Christmas Eve, Mr. Berry became the unexpected recipient of a very handsome Christmas box, in the shape of a fur coat, well lined with dollar bills, at the hands of his parishioners and many of the C. P. R. officials.—COM.

The Sault Bridge.

THE railway bridge across the Sault River, which has just been completed, consists of ten spans, each 242 feet long, and resting on stone piers built in the bed of the river, the whole length of the bridge being 2420 feet. The bridge is situated just at the head of the rapids, where the current is running from five to seven miles an hour. The piers are built of magnesian limestone, quarried at and brought from Owen Sound. The whole cost of the structure has been nearly \$600,000. It belongs jointly to four railway lines—the Canadian Pacific and the Grand Trunk on the Canadian side, and the Duluth, South Shore and Atlantic, and the Minneapolis, Sault Ste. Marie and Atlantic on the American side. Trains crossing the bridge connect with Ottawa, Montreal and Toronto to the East, and with Michigan, Minnesota and other great wheat-growing districts in the Western States to the West.

How We Kept Christmas at Shingwauk.

Letter to a Sunday School.

SHINGWAUK HOME, Jan. 4, 1888.

MY DEAR CHILDREN.—As you have contributed so largely to our Christmas festivities, my mother thought you would perhaps like to hear something about them. We kept Christmas Day on Saturday; the Indian girls came down from the Wawanosh about 11 a.m., some walking, the little ones driving; they all played about till one o'clock, when they all, boys and girls, met in the big dining hall for dinner. The long tables were nicely laid with white cloths, pot plants here and there, a bountiful supply of pies, cakes, and bread and butter; the spaces between were all filled up with nuts and bright candies; Mr. Wilson said grace, and then they all sat down. A pretty Christmas card was now given to each boy and girl; at first they seemed a little shy, but when a plate of hot meat and vegetables was placed beside them, they thawed out, and soon all were busy talking and eating, while little peals of laughter occasionally sounded through the room. I am afraid the dessert was not kept till the last, but was used as a flavoring for the roast beef and plum pudding, which soon after went its round. The boys had decorated the room very prettily with evergreens. At last a few sighs were heard, several little black-eyed girls announced that they "couldn't eat any more," all seemed to be satisfied; so grace was again said, and the girls

went one way and the boys another. Soon we heard that a general stampede was being made towards the ice, which, happily, was clear and strong. I went out there later in the afternoon; a great many boys were skating; the girls were running about and sliding; three or four big boys on skates were pulling a large hand-sleigh on which crowded ever so many little girls; sometimes they were mischievously tipped off, and room made for another party, so all had a turn and all enjoyed themselves immensely; the gay tuques, hoods and scarves adding much to the brightness of the scene. They all had tea at six, after great excitement was caused by the arrival of "Santa Claus;" this old gentleman never fails to pay his annual visit here, so the old boys knew how to follow him about and scramble for the nuts and candies that he threw, but it was amusing to watch the faces of some of the new boys, the intense wonder and excitement as they saw the little man of about four feet high, in the long overcoat, red sash, flowing white beard and hair, a most extraordinary cap, round rosy face and twinkling black eyes, go rushing through the school-room, and the way they followed the rush after him as if it were a matter of life and death; at last they all grew quieter, some one said that "Santa Claus" had gone, little girls began to breathe freely, and the boys to crack their nuts. Then we all went over to the chapel for prayers; the girls spent the night at the hospital. The services next day were bright and cheery; the little chapel looked lovely. The following week was a holiday. Thursday, Mr. Wilson took a party out to the Wawanosh tree—it was very pretty, and the girls were all delighted with their presents. Friday, all boys were turned out of the school-room, the doors were locked and work began; the result was, that when at 7 p.m. they were opened and the crowd of eager boys allowed to come in, they saw a large tree, the top touching the ceiling, dazzling and beautiful, lighted by dozens of brilliant tapers, with all the pretty articles hanging from the boughs. The plainer yet more useful things were put around the stump of the tree. We all stood around and sang a hymn, beginning "Gather around the Christmas Tree;" then the things were handed to Mr. Wilson, he called the name on them, and they were passed to the happy owner. None of the boys were allowed to touch the things on the tree, but I noticed one little fellow craning his neck to get a glimpse of the ticket on a large knife close by him; at last a broad grin of delight came over his face, and in spite of the jostling of those about him, he would not move an inch from the spot; as I moved that way he said "Take that, take that." In a minute his name was called and his knife handed to him. Each boy got five things, and a bag of candy was given to everyone. We then had prayers in the chapel, and so ended the pleasant evening, to which you had all helped to contribute. Saturday evening the boys were all weighed and measured, and the one who had grown or gained the most had a prize of fifty cents. At half-past eleven we all went over to the chapel for midnight service; after that there was a great deal of hand-shaking and

"Happy New Year." Then we went back to the house; some boys got hold of a big drum, one rang the chapel bell, another the big school bell, others all the little ones they could find; it made the most awful noise; but still, though we had no chime of bells, we rang in the year "1888."

With many thanks for your help and sincere wishes for a "Happy New Year" to all of you,

Believe me, yours sincerely,
WINIFRED L. WILSON.

Old Recollections.

LAYING THE FOUNDATION STONE OF THE SHINGWAUK HOME.

SAULT STE. MARIE, Aug. 1st, 1874.

We heard some time ago that the Governor-General intended visiting the Lake Superior regions this summer. Then the thought occurred to me of asking him to lay our foundation stone. Time went on, and his plans became more fixed, and at last we heard that the *Chicora* was chartered, and the time arranged for his departure. Then I proposed to some of our Sault friends that we should ask him to lay the stone and invite him to luncheon; and I sent off a telegram to Mr. Cumberland with the request, to which I received a reply on Thursday last: "I have His Excellency's commands to say that it will give him much pleasure to lay the corner stone of your School on his arrival, which will probably be Friday afternoon; but I will telegraph you again before leaving Owen Sound." Then, of course, all was immediately excitement and hurry. A committee of ladies was called at our house on Tuesday evening, a bill of fare drawn out, and arrangements made for each lady to supply some part of the luncheon. All Wednesday was spent in cooking and in making flags and decorations. Thursday we spent the whole day at the new buildings, and all hands were busily employed fixing up and ornamenting the room ready for luncheon. I sketched the royal arms on a large, square, white board, and the painter had to leave his doors and window sashes and mix all his brightest colors for his task. Friday morning the tables were spread, and barely were the last touches applied, when the *Chicora*, gaily decorated with flags, steamed by on her way to the Sault wharf. We had a small steam ferry boat in readiness at the Sault dock to convey the Vice-regal party to the scene of action. Others whom we had invited came in sail boats, and all landed at our own newly made dock. Then we all walked up to the site of our new buildings, the Governor-General and myself leading the way. His Excellency and Lady Dufferin were both most affable and kind, and expressed the greatest interest in our work. A great many people had assembled, flags were flying, and a triumphal arch erected, under which the party passed, with a blue banner 15 feet long, with Shingwauk Home on it in large white letters. The ceremony passed off very well, Rev. Dr. Rolph and Rev. Canon Givins from Toronto,

conducted a short service, and after the stone laying and a few words from myself, the Governor-General made a speech and spoke very kindly of our work.

Then we repaired to the newly-erected outbuildings for luncheon.* It was laid out in a large room 26 by 20, with one very large table, the centre being ornamented with flowers, fuchsias and geraniums, &c., in pots, and hanging baskets of flowers suspended from the ceiling, which was covered with spruce branches, scarlet bunting and wreaths festooned all around the walls. The table was laid with chickens, veal, pigeon pies, lamb, beef, salads, jellies, &c., &c. The Governor-General paid us the compliment of saying that never before had he seen a luncheon so tastefully laid out in Canada. Two waiters off the *Chicora* and Mrs. Myer (our Kentish servant) did the waiting at the table.

It was a matter of much regret that our Bishop was away. He was up the Lake at Fort William and could not get back in time.

Editor's Complaints.

THE editor of ALGOMA MISSIONARY NEWS—has again to complain—of lack of material—for filling up the columns of his paper. With his multitudinous other duties—he has not the time—to compose a paper for print every month.—All that he undertook to do was to receive and put together in readable shape the material supplied to him by the clergy and others interested in the work of the Diocese. He has been twitted a good many times about filling up the paper with Indian work, and making the ALGOMA MISSIONARY NEWS a means of helping forward that particular branch of the work in which he is himself engaged. No charge of this kind can now be brought—and indeed it never was justly brought—as *Our Forest Children* has become the medium of communication with the supporters of 'Our Indian Homes,' and the columns of ALGOMA MISSIONARY NEWS are free from beginning to end for the use of clergy ministers, to which congregations, at the late conference, held at Parry Sound, nearly two days were taken up discussing the subject; and finally, the present editor was asked to continue his services, and was promised the general support of all the clergy in the Diocese. These promises—have certainly not yet—been fulfilled. For the January number of eight pages, only a few short jottings, filling about two and a-half sides of foolscap were sent in by the clergy; and—for this February number—the editor—has before him—some sprawly writing—on one side of foolscap—and two little items—each taking up—half a side of note paper. The Clergy of Algoma cannot expect the ALGOMA MISSIONARY NEWS to be kept up unless they are prepared to exert themselves a little—not merely scratch off a short jotting—but give two or three hours once and a while to writing out a good readable article about their mission work, or anything that will be of general interest.

* The same building has now been converted into an hospital.

Jottings.

THE Bishop left for the Northern part of Muskoka January 5th, and expected to be away about a month.

BOXES of clothing, &c., for the Indian Homes can now be sent by freight train to the Sault. Please put name of donor inside the box.

THE International Bridge across the Sault Rapids was completed at the beginning of the year, and the first train crossed over on the 4th January.

Two of Mr. Wilson's children are assisting him in his editorial work. One is 'sub' for A.M.N., another is 'sub' for O.F.C. One advantage of a large family.

THE Venerable Dr. Medley, Metropolitan of Canada, and Bishop of Fredericton, attained his eighty-third birthday last month. His consecration was in May, 1845.

WE notice that the Queen has sent a golden ewer and bowl to the Pope, to be used at his Jubilee Mass. We think it would have been much better if Her Majesty had sent him a Bible.

AN ex-pupil of the Shingwauk Home, named David Waubegeesis, has the prospect of a government appointment at Ottawa, with a salary of \$400 a year, provided he passes the Civil Service Examination.

THE funds of the Diocese are very much reduced at present, and the chances are that the Bishop will be obliged to shorten the pay of some of his clergy. It is thought that "Jubilee year" has had to do with the low state of the funds.

Clippings.

THERE is a firm in Philadelphia which paints pictures by the yard. The work is simple. A piece of canvas nearly one hundred feet long is stretched in a gallery shaped like a corridor. On each picture, —which, by the way, costs four dollars and a half,— five men were employed. Each man had his particular line. One put in the foreground, another the background, and still another did the clouds and the cows that you see browsing in the pasture. A fourth man did the trees and shrubbery. In this way they were enabled to work fast. In exactly three hours, five of those landscapes were finished, which is thirty-six minutes time given to each. The fifth man did the finishing touches, and perhaps performed more and better work than any of the others.

"IN making up a party for a travelling excursion," said Charles Dudley Warner to a friend who was planning one, "always be sure to have it include at least one ignorant woman. She will ask all the questions you are ashamed to ask, or think you don't need to ask, and you will secure the benefit of a vast deal of information you would otherwise lose."

A YOUNG man engaged in scoffing, in a bar-room, offered to sell his interest in Christ for five dollars. A stranger quietly took out a five-dollar bill, with pen and paper, and asked the young man to write: "I, —, do hereby renounce, both now and forever, all claim I may have in Jesus Christ, for the sum of"— His hand trembled and stopped. Ashy pale, he said, "Now I may need him by-and-by."—*Ex.*

IN England a piece of land was leased by the Church to the Crown for 999 years in the days of King Alfred. Recently it reverted to the Church of England as being the identical corporation that leased the land a millennium before; and yet Romanists and Protestants assert that the Church of England began under Henry VIII. In another instance property recently left by will, in England, to the "Catholic Church," was appropriated by the courts to the Church of England, on the ground that if the Roman Church had been meant, it would have been styled the *Roman* Catholic.

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