

At first the Indians were remarkably shy, and it was only after a long course of uniform kindness that I succeeded in gaining their attention. During the first year I had no congregation; the Church bell, of course, was rung, and regular hours for service were appointed, but only now and then an Indian would venture into Church. At length, in July, 1816, two were baptized. These I call the first fruits of Walpole Island. They are still living—both hold fast their profession, and one of them, named Thomas Buckwheat, has been of great service to me in bringing over to Christianity his brethren of the tribe. Up to the present time I have received into the Church 350 Indians. The whole number of communicants is 56. The Sunday congregations are excellent, and it is delightful to witness their quiet and becoming deportment during Divine Service. The change in the condition of these Indians is obviously very great. Formerly Sunday in their eyes was no better than any other day, and from my own door I have often seen them on that holy day, fishing, or ploughing, planting corn, or having a horse race, or perhaps, what was still worse, sitting in groups by the river side enjoying a pagan jollification. Now all this, I am happy to say, is changed. There has, indeed, been no sudden rush of success, the improvement in their condition has been slow and gradual, and, on that account, likely to be lasting. The Sunday is honoured and kept as a Christian Sabbath. Many of them dress neatly, and come to Church in a quiet, orderly manner, and many of them, I have reason to believe, understand, appreciate, and are influenced by the saving doctrines of the Gospel. Paganism, however, has still many votaries on the Island, but these persons have been influenced indirectly by the good examples of the Christians around them; they are now more orderly, more industrious, and less dissipated than before, and are likely at no distant day to be won over to the profession and the blessings of Christianity.

The Indians have made considerable advances in the social scale. They have a decided aptitude for the mechanical trades. Many of them are rough carpenters and blacksmiths, and some of them are competent to build a house, or execute the interior or pannelled work in a manner which would do credit to a professional tradesman.