

who would be gratefully appreciative of every act of kindness and of such a labour of love. At the same time let it be distinctly understood that there will be no romance about this work: it will be hard, toilsome, unpretending, unobtrusive, with results in most cases not very speedily seen nor apparently very great, but securing for the faithful labourer in that great day from our common Lord and Master, in many and many a case, the approving sentence, "Inasmuch as ye did it unto one of the least of these, my brethren, ye did it unto me."

W. D. BALLANTYNE.

MISSION WORK IN MUSKOKA.

Muskoka is one of our important mission fields, and at the present time presents many hopeful aspects. The field is large, extending from Severn Bridge on the south to Nipissing on the north, about 120 miles, and from west to east from fifty to sixty miles. In this extensive region our Students' Missionary Societies have done good work these years by sending some of their members to visit settlers in their dwellings, to circulate religious tracts, and to hold meetings with them wherever they could gather a few families together. Two years ago we visited some of the stations around Bracebridge and had frequent opportunities of addressing the people. At the request of our much-esteemed brother and bishop, Rev. A. Findlay, we resolved to accompany him on a visit this year to the northern part of his extensive diocese, so that we might recruit health, see the country, and witness the condition of our mission stations in these parts.

Having seen some fruits of the comparatively scanty sowing, I would say the Church has much reason to give thanks to God for what He has wrought through the instrumentality of these self-denying young men who have gone into the woods, and amidst many discomforts, have followed the settlers with the gospel of Christ.

These efforts have been highly appreciated by many of the settlers; and from among the young, who have been enjoying instruction in the Bible classes, many shall arise to bless those who have been striving to bring them to the knowledge of the truth.

Elsewhere we have given some account of our experiences during four weeks while travelling in these regions, and our impressions of the country as a land suitable for human dwellings. Here we wish to refer more especially to the Church aspect of the district.

There are now about forty organized Presbyterian congregations, many of which, it is expected, will in a few years become self-sustaining. Mr. Findlay is at present the only ordained missionary we have in this large field. Those who have a definite idea of its extent and the ordinary difficulties of the work in a new country, know that it is impossible for any one man, however well qualified with bodily strength, mental gifts and Christian zeal, to supply the necessities of the people in so many stations, even with the important aid of those students who have given their help these years. As soon as possible another ordained missionary should be sent into the northern part of the field, so that more regular supply might be given during the winter months.

Because the congregation of Rousseau had resolved on having a tea-meeting and desired our presence, Mr. Findlay and I were constrained to take that route for the north-east, although the way by Huntsville is more direct and shorter to Emsdale, which we desired to reach. The meeting was larger than we expected, and the conduct of those present not less commendable than is seen in our cities on like occasions. The money result was somewhere about forty dollars, which goes to aid in completing the church.

As soon as our congregations get light sufficient they will cease raising church funds by such means, and emancipate themselves from the niggardly influence of those ungrateful members who have so small thanks for the gift of Christ that they grudge to give a cent in order to have His worship maintained for the benefit of their children and neighbors. These often get from the world credit for doing their share on such occasions, while they do little more than pay for the bread they eat and the tea they drink. Generally the liberal have the burden to bear in providing the edibles, doing the work, and supplementing the lack of funds at the end.

The following morning we set forth on our journey, and soon entered that great wilderness of rock and pine trees which fire had denuded of their branches some years ago. From the perils arising from a great

thunder storm and the pines shaken like reeds in the wind, we were safely delivered and brought into clearings where here and there are human habitations. After many "ups and downs" over rough and crooked roads for forty miles, we sought and found lodging for the night in the house of a friend of the cause of Christ. The following day we proceeded other twelve miles and reached Emsdale in time for the public preparatory services.

Here the people have erected a place of worship, which when finished will be an ornament to the village. When we arrived, the shingling of the roof was not completed, so we met for worship in a neighboring house, and after making arrangements for public services on Sabbath we returned to the shanty of a kind friend, once a resident in St. Mary's, and largely shared of his hospitality. The following morning we met with about 120 persons in the church, which was provided with temporary seats, and had the honor of consecrating the building to the service of God by preaching His word in it and aiding in the dispensation of the Lord's Supper. In the afternoon we went to Katrine, at the east end of Doe Bay, and dispensed the Lord's Supper to a few members of our Church who had met for that purpose. Here there is hope that a town will soon arise. It is beautiful for situation, and according to a survey there will be a Railroad station at this point. On this account there is reason to expect that this and the congregation at Emsdale will soon become a self-sustaining pastoral charge. During the week we reached a point near Doe Lake P.O., where there is a vigorously growing congregation. Here and at Beggsboro, eight miles south, we had the usual public preparatory services, and on Sabbath, at both places, the Word was preached, elders ordained, and the Lord's Supper observed. Because the minds of some had been unsettled regarding the ordinance of Baptism through zeal for the belief some have recently adopted, we were asked to give an address on that subject in the evening. It seems that some who were once Presbyterians have settled near Doe Lake and have fallen in love with its dark waters. Let us hope that, after hearing the address, the virtue of quantity is not so important as they had got to imagine it to be.

In this field Mr. Brydon has done excellent work and won a lasting place in the hearts of many people through his earnest ministrations during these months. Also Mr. Todd has done and is doing much for the cause here.

During the week we went south sixteen miles to Stanleydale, in the township of Stated, and met with those assembled for worship in a room. After the Word was preached a congregation was organized and the Lord's Supper dispensed. Mr. Campbell has done good work in this region in the face of many difficulties. For the sake of Christ's cause and the well-being of the people he has denied himself by delaying his studies for a session that he might minister to the people during the past winter. Many of the people feel grateful to him for his devotedness to their interests.

As in some other parts of our land we were met here by wrong views regarding the ordinance of baptism. Parents, with whose outward conduct no fault could be found, but who do not even profess to have given themselves to Christ, cherish the thought that they should get their children baptized, and become offended because their wish is not granted.

To avoid any such collisions with those who are so unwisely led it would be well that all our public religious teachers and all our people would study carefully the first principles of this subject as stated in the ninety-fifth question, Shorter Catechism. Such study would do much to keep from falling into the error of baptismal regeneration to which many secretly cleave.

From Stanleydale we went north and west about forty miles to the village of Maganetawan. This promises to be a centre of commerce. It is situated on the leading road from south to north and on the banks of the river, where there is an unfailing water-power, and when locks are built at the rapids in the village there will be forty miles of navigation by river and lakes. The village is rapidly growing. Through the energy of Mr. Mutch, aided by people in the neighborhood and friends outside, what will be a comfortable church is in process of erection, and is now so far advanced that the people can meet in it for worship. It is hoped that some other kind friends will aid the people to finish the building, so that it may be suitable to meet in during winter. Should the Home Mission

Committee succeed in sending an ordained missionary to this place as the centre of his operations much will be done to carry on the work which has been so well begun.

In accordance with arrangement, we went by boat over Lake Almus and met with people who were gathered together for worship in a house, township of Croft. After preaching the word a congregation was organized. During the same week services were held in Spence and in Maganetawan. At all these meetings numbers were added to the Church. Also in each of these places the Lord's Supper was dispensed on Sabbath, and elders ordained over two of the congregations.

Not being sufficiently vigorous for the journey I was left to recruit, while Messrs. Findlay and Mutch made a visit to the township of Strong, where a large number have recently gone to settle. On their return the brethren reported that the people there are destitute of public ordinances and are desirous to have these established among them. From this and other fields just opening are calls coming, and unless the Church more abundantly supply men and means these calls cannot be answered. In those parts where we met with organized congregations suggestions were made regarding methods by which they might systematically raise funds to aid in sustaining ordinances among themselves. Some of these suggestions were adopted and acted upon, so that the people will raise an amount proportionate to their means. Those who are contributing to the mission schemes of the Church may feel encouraged to increase their givings when they know they are helping those who are helping themselves.

From Maganetawan we went to Commanda Creek, twenty-two miles north. We purposed to be present that afternoon at a Sabbath School picnic near the latter place, but because of a change, caused by the burning of a shanty with nearly all its contents, we did not succeed in finding the place until it was too late to find the company, who seemed to have enjoyed themselves as well as is commonly done on like occasions.

Two miles north of the Creek in the evening we met with a number for public worship in the shanty of one of the people. Here also a congregation was organized, and on Sabbath following the Lord's Supper was dispensed in the same place. After partaking of the kind hospitality of this household we departed on foot through these ravines to the Creek, where we found our beast ready to bear us on our way to the next station, near Mecunoma P.O., about seven miles south. There we met a company of people, to whom we preached, and afterwards continued our journey onward to Maganetawan, which, late in the evening, we reached in safety, ready for food and rest, and readily found both in Mr. Best's hospitable home. The following evening, after a ride of thirty-four miles, we reached Rousseau, and were kindly received into the hospitable abode of Mr. Reid, who has entertained many strangers.

During these weeks we had the opportunity of taking part in the services at twenty meetings. The Lord's Supper was dispensed in nine of these meetings. Ninety-four were added to the membership of the Church. In order to be present at these meetings we travelled, chiefly by "buckboard," a little over 400 miles, and over roads more romantic than pleasant for the physically feeble. Those who have not seen such ways cannot well conceive their nature by any description I can give. To know them they must be seen from the seat of a "buckboard," where such an impression of them can be got that shall last about an ordinary lifetime.

We are glad that we have had the privilege of visiting this mission field and of speaking the Word to the people. In the fruit manifest already there is much fitted to encourage the Church to increase her help. The work done has not been labor in vain. The little money spent has not been lost; a rich return now appears: much more will appear many days hence.

Would that those who believe not, and who give their odd coppers grudgingly for mission work, could make a visit to those fields where mission work is rendered; their hearts would be warmed and their doubts scattered. They would grow ashamed of their lack of charity when they see the amount some are doing for the cause of the Redeemer.

R. H.

A CALL has been given to Mr. W. J. Smyth by the congregation of St. Andrew's Church, Quaker Hill.