

The origin of our Society dates from 1850, when it was inaugurated by the members of the Upper Canada Congregational Union, in response to appeals made in behalf of the Indians at Colpoy's Bay, then an Indian reservation. It was first carried on in conjunction with the Upper Canada Missionary Society, and after the union by the Canada Congregational Missionary Society until 1856, when, at the request of the Colonial Society, whose Committee regarded it as contrary to their constitution for them to enter upon missions to the heathen, it was made a separate enterprise, and placed under the supervision of the Middle District Committee. This was continued until 1860, when it was more formally organized into the Society it now is.

Among the efficient and self-denying white missionaries who have been engaged in the work, was the first student of our College, who energetically spent seven years in this service, enduring untold privations and hardships. From the first, native missionaries have successfully been employed in preaching the gospel to their brethren, and it was by these that the work was first extended from Colpoy's Bay to Saugeen. Though, from the fact that the Indians are a decaying race and their habits nomadic, it is more difficult to trace results among them than in any other missionary enterprise, there have been and still remain proofs of no mean measure of usefulness and success in this our work. A flourishing Indian Congregational Church was gathered in 1850 at Colpoy's Bay, to be afterwards scattered, through the removal of the Indians by the Government to another reservation. Three years later another was formed at Saugeen, which now, after ten years' existence under its native pastor, has just entered into a new and neat church building, while mission stations have been extended to the shore of the Georgian Bay on the north and the great Manitoulin Island. Not only can we look at those converted Indians who are living witnesses with us of our success, and they are not a few, but also to many who, according to the testimony of our missionaries, have "died in faith," and are witnesses before God of our desire and efforts to bring their race to him.

During the year just ended the work has been energetically and successfully prosecuted so far as our financial resources and the number of our missionaries would allow. One of our very important stations, that of She-she-gwah-ning, on the great Manitoulin Island, has on these accounts been left vacant, despite the urgent call for a teacher by the chief and his people, while other important places open to us could not for the same reasons be entered upon. In June last the usual deputation for evangelization was sent to the north shore of the Georgian Bay and the great Manitoulin Island. It consisted of the Rev. William Clarke and the Rev. R. Robinson, with the two native missionaries, William Barrell and Peter Keshick. The three last sailed full 500 miles in an open boat amid