

WIKWEMIKONG, ONTARIO, 6th October, 1883.

The Right Honorable

The Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honor to report that the number of children maintained in our two institutions during the past year is about the same as in the previous one namely, a little more than thirty in each institution.

Some disease had the effect of removing four boys who have not yet fully recovered since last winter. One died of diphtheria, and one from congestion of the brain.

The morals of our children have been very satisfactory, and there is in general no difficulty in enforcing upon them the necessity of obedience. It is true that a strict watchfulness is kept over them at all times by some member of the Institution. Besides their studies and working hours, they have a person constantly in attendance to know what they are doing.

Intellectual progress and neatness have kept pace with moral development. As death and disease did not spare several of the most advanced pupils, these were missed very much by both teachers and trade instructors.

The following is a list of those who are learning some useful trade or attainment :—

- One baker.
- Two weavers.
- Two blacksmiths.
- Two carpenters.
- Four shoemakers.

One who had completed his apprenticeship as a shoemaker, after working for some time at his trade with success, found out that he could save more money in the employment of the Institution, there being no occasion for him to squander his earnings.

In general our children are attached to the Institution, and I have witnessed the unfeigned sorrow of more than one of the girls whose parents have compelled them to leave us. More than once I have read with emotion their letters, in which they expressed their regrets at being taken away, and their hopes of coming again. What we may reasonably expect from the generality of children, is certainly not to make great scholars of them. Good and moral as they may be, they lack great mental capacity.

We might desire them to be equal in every respect to their white brethren, which is an excellent wish, but to be grounded upon nature, hopes of the kind ought not to be too sanguine. Indian children may read and spell very correctly, but it would be difficult to make great mathematicians of them. *Re sutar ultra crepidam* said the Latin moralist.

What they may succeed at decidedly, is in becoming good artists and mechanics. They can imitate and re-produce in a wonderful manner the work of others.

Large improvements have been made in the farm, more than twelve acres having been cleared this season. A stone stable 80 by 40 feet, built against the north hill, is now under construction. A barn will be erected next spring.

In the female institution a large and commodious wash house was built this summer, and more tools have been purchased for the different trades.

Although we have not been going abroad soliciting aid from any person, yet we have evidently been blessed by Him who feeds the birds of the air, for whose timely help we should be very thankful.

Our object in devoting all our capacities to the work we have undertaken, is to promote exclusively the moral, intellectual and even material progress of the Indian race, and we shall be happy if this much is accomplished.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your humble servant,

R. BAUDIN, S. J.,

Director.