



MISSIONARY WORK IN ALGOMA.

ON the morning of Wednesday Sept. 10th the Bishop of Algoma started in the Evangeline for his tour in Manitoulin Island, accompanied by his son (on his way to Scotland), and the Rev. J. F. Renaud, Incumbent of St. John's in the Diocese of Montreal, who was in search of a sorely needed holiday, and readily consented to act as chaplain. A heavy thunderstorm having delayed the start from Sault Ste. Marie till 10.30 p.m. and further detention occurring at Garden River, to enable the Bishop to see the missionary there, we only succeeded in getting as far as Thessalon that evening, and right glad we were to succeed in making it, as another thunderstorm, confidently predicted by our Indian pilot, Joe Green-sky, had burst on us, wrapping us in profound darkness, illuminated only by the frequent lightning flashes, one of which suddenly revealed land about a mile ahead, and so guided us to a very welcome haven. Thursday brought with it a fair wind, though heavy sea, and we made our 100 miles safely and successfully, reaching Little Current by 6 p.m. By noon next day we were anchored in the pretty, sheltered Bay of Manitowaning. All through this trip of about 160 miles our little boat behaved most admirably, and more than realized our expectations.

On Sunday morning, as the bell rang out its summons, the congregation assembled for worship in St. Paul's church, built forty years ago by Dr. O'Meara, and still, notwithstanding its exposed position, in good repair. Since the advent of the Rev. J. Cole somewhat more than a year ago, the financial and spiritual life of the mission has received a new impulse, while the general tone of church feeling and sentiment has wonderfully improved. During the years immediately preceding, several families, discontented with the irregular services supplied, had drifted away to other communions, but this process has been effectually arrested, and a degree of confidence restored in a short time, which lays a solid foundation of hope for the future. Sundry improvements, too, have been made in and about the church edifice, such as the tinting of the interior, the purchase of lamps, the removal of the pulpit and prayer desk to better positions, and the construction of a solid side-walk from the street to the church and vestry doors—all accomplished by the combined energies of pastor and people.

In this connexion honorable mention must be made of the active interest taken in the welfare of the parish by the members of Mr. Cole's family. "*Sister omnes.*" Letters, for example, were written to individuals in Toronto and elsewhere, giving plain, unvarnished statements of existing needs, and money, etc., came in quick response. Musical entertainments were made as attractive as local talent would admit, and the treasury proportionately replenished; while, for the musical portion of the church service, a choir was trained, (numbering 18 or 19 persons,) by Mrs. Cole, which, as the writer can bear witness, would compare favourably with those of much more pretentious places. The morning congregation numbered 120, several having turned away for lack of seats, The Bishop preached from 2nd Corinthians v, 10, and gave notice that at the conclusion of the evening sermon, he would address the church members on some matters of local interest. In the afternoon he addressed the Sunday School, and in the evening preached again to a congregation of 150 persons, from Acts ix, 6, applying his text, at the close, to the duties owed by those present, first to Christ, as the Head of the church, in their character of believers, and next, to the church as His body, as co-workers with Him, in everything affecting the church's well-being. Various modes of co-operation in Church work were pointed out, and strongly urged, the twofold argument being adduced that these works of mercy and kindness lightened the burden borne by their pastor, and at the same time were among the only substantial evidences of their faith in Christ. On Wednesday morning the Bishop and the Rev. J. S. Cole started on an exploration of the interior of the Island, making their first halt at Hilly Grove, about six miles out, where arrangements had been made for a service, which was held in the school house, a congregation of about 40 being present. After service a vestry meeting was held, at which half an acre of land was offered by Mr. Sproat, contributions of money by several present, and 70 days of voluntary labour, towards the erection, not of a "church-hall,"—the Bishop stated his objections to such a course—but a *Church*, to be sacredly set apart for the worship of Almighty God. Pecuniary aid was promised from the Diocesan Fund, and also from the S. P. C. K.

Refreshed by Mr. Sproat's bountiful hospitality, and our one-horse buckboard exchanged for a light farm waggon and pair, we set out on our journey to