

for Shegwaindot Bay, where I intended spending the evening and night, a band of Indians live there most of whom are heathens. The little island on which they are at present, is about seventeen miles from Mahnetoahning, and is nearly half way between that and the Little Current. They have not yet given up dwelling in wigwams; often do they move from place to place to seek the means of their subsistence, their number is about fifty-five. I did not find them all at home, about half of them had gone to the mainland some days before. After we had put our things in the tent of the principal Indian in the place, and had sat for some time, the chief and I visited each tent and talked to those we saw about religion. I put questions to all the adults separately; only two expressed a desire to be taught and to be baptized. Four children were given up to be baptized, and these I received into the church by baptism the following morning. The children of the Indian, in whose tent I lodged for the night, are all baptized except the youngest, who is a boy of about four years of age. I asked the parent if he would not give up his child to be baptized; he said that it was not his wish; he had at one time, he said, quite a large number of children all of whom had been baptized, and only two of whom are now alive; when he saw this, he was grieved, his heart was pained, and he said that if he had another child he would not let the minister baptize it. The child that I wished to baptize was born after he had made his strange resolution. I had spoken to him about the same thing before, and so had Dr. O'Meara. I found the chief a great help to me in this visit to the Indians, what he said seemed to have great effect on such as heard him.

July 19th.—It was a little before sunrise this morning when I started to go to Shegwaindot Bay, the air was cool and refreshing; about six o'clock a.m., we arrived at the encampment where the Indians were; they were taking their morning meal. It was fortunate that I came upon them so early, for if I had come an hour or two later I would have seen perhaps only half of them. Some go away to fish during the day, others attend to their gardens, which are several miles from where their encampment is. I held Divine Service in one of the wigwams; I baptized one child, the father of the child expressed a willingness to be baptized. I told him that after he received some instruction in the elements of christianity, and had a sufficient knowledge of what I thought was necessary for him to know, I would receive him into the church by baptism. Hearing that a heathen Indian whom I had seen last winter, and to whom I had spoken on the subject of religion, but to no purpose, was in the camp, I went to see him, wishing to find out whether any change had taken place in his feelings as regards christianity, and whether he was desirous of embracing it. I first spoke about the weather, fishing and gardening, in order to pave the way for what was to follow. He conversed freely with me, but when I came to speak of religion, he was quite silent; not a word escaped his lips, he would not even reply to my questions. I sat for some time without saying any thing; I then thought that I would press my question. I asked, "What do you think then about what I have been saying?" He replied, "I do not think any thing about it." I said no more, but after shaking hands with him, walked out of his tent.

Oct. 25th.—To-day I resumed my work of translating; I have already translated Exodus into the Ojibwa language, the book which I am now translating is Numbers.

The Little Current, Dec. 4th.—Yesterday I had a very interesting conversation with a woman, who, I have no reason to doubt, has given her

heart to God, and is now endeavouring to serve Him faithfully. This person, until about three months ago, was careless and indifferent as regards her soul's interests. Last September it pleased the Lord to lay his chastening hand on her child, who was about five years old; while playing one day with another child on a wharf, fell over into the water and was drowned. She felt the loss of this child very much; she grieved and mourned over it. Not long after the death of her daughter, she came to the house where I staid and commenced immediately to tell me how sorely she felt the affliction which had come upon her, she felt that God was punishing her for her sins. She knew that she had sinned deeply against Him, and that she had done wrong to neglect the great salvation. She would go to Christ, she said, she would ask pardon from Him; she would put her whole trust in Him. She would strive with God's blessing and help to lead a new life, and to walk as became a follower of the Saviour. How glad I was to hear such language from one, whom I had known before to have lived in the neglect of those things which belong to her everlasting peace. I thought that in her case it was a good thing that she was afflicted; I did not fail to speak comforting and heart-soothing words to her; since that time she has been attentive to her religious duties and has been diligent in serving the Lord.

I had another delightful conversation this morning with a young man, who, I feel persuaded, is a devoted follower of Jesus, and who exhibits marks of a changed heart in his conduct and conversation. His health has been bad for nearly a year. I do not think that he will live long; he has been of great use to me in the village in various ways. There are in the Mission a few persons like this young man. I bless God that he has so blessed the labours of his Missionaries in these parts that we can point to some Indians, who, we feel sure, have experienced that change of heart which is brought about by the Holy Spirit, and who are evidently growing in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Some have been won unto the Redeemer; this fact gives me joy.

I have had occasion lately to reprove some Indians who had obtained whiskey from the traders and had become intoxicated. It is distressing to think of the great prevalence of the vice of drunkenness among the Indians on the Island. Although the law does not allow traders to sell intoxicating liquor to the Indians, yet many of them are found who introduce the liquor among them, and sell it, and they do so in most cases with impunity. Very frequently I am obliged to speak to those intrusted to my charge about the evils of drunkenness.

Mahnetoahning, December 6th.—During my absence from this place two children died, one an infant who lived only twelve hours after its birth, and the other a daughter of Dr. Layton, our medical man. The latter was ill only one day, and was about 11 years old. How sudden was her death! The grief of her parents for her loss was excessive. Surely "in the midst of life we are in death." "Lord, teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom."

December 9th.—To-day about noon the melancholy intelligence was brought to me that a boy and a young man had been found frozen to death two miles from this. The boy was 13 years old and the young man 20. It appears that on the morning of the 7th inst they both started for a little lake, which is five miles behind the village, intending to hunt, that when they reached it they crossed over to the opposite side in a canoe, and that it was on their return to this side, (which was on the following day) they were unable to land at the proper place, being driven by a furious

west-wind to another part of the shore, where the ice extended a considerable distance towards the lake. It is supposed that their canoe upset on striking against the ice. They then struggled to get out, and succeeded in doing so, they ran in the direction of the nearest tent, which was about three miles and a-half from the lake. It was night then, and snow fell heavily. The boy first gave way and fell down, the other could only go a few yards further; he was found next morning about 400 yards from the tent.

In the afternoon I walked to the place where the bereaved parents lived; there in one of the tents were the bodies of the two, who twelve hours before were quite healthy and strong, and who had been so suddenly called away. What a mournful scene it was! A number of Indians, who had come when they heard of the sad occurrence, sat round; all from the sadness which was depicted on their countenances appeared to sympathize deeply with the bereaved people in their loss. I seized the opportunity of dwelling on the subject of death, the uncertainty of life, and the necessity of preparing for eternity. O, that what was then spoken may sink deeply into the hearts of those who heard it, and that it may stir them up to labour more earnestly for Christ, while they have life, health and strength.

Christmas day.—There was a large congregation at church this morning, both whites and Indians attended. Dr. O'Meara preached the sermon. The Holy Communion was administered to eighteen persons. The Church was beautifully decorated with evergreens; over the windows and doors were placed pine-branches. Festoons adorned the front and the sides of the reading-desk and pulpit. The large window in the chancel looked very beautiful.

Sunday, January 2nd, 1859.—This morning after the reading of the second lesson I baptized two Indian women, whom I had been instructing for some time back in the elements of Christianity, and who have for the last few months come regularly to church. The elder one of the two a few years ago obstinately refused to be baptized.

January 24th.—About half-past 10 a.m. I started for the Indian village, which is at the head of Shegwaindot Bay. On account of the great depth of snow on the ice my horse made rather slow progress. As soon as I arrived at the village, I visited all the Indians in their tents; most of those I saw were women and children, nearly all the men were away seeking for food for themselves and their families. Some, it appears, were fishing on the ice; others were looking for rabbits and partridges. I then gave notice that I would hold divine service in the largest tent in the place. Presently all assembled together, and seated themselves as well as they could around the fire. The smoke in the tent was almost intolerable; it was with great difficulty I went through the service. After reading the prayers, I preached about the creation, and the fall of our first parents; great attention was paid to all that I said. One old man, who sat next to me on my left hand, and who is still a heathen, was especially attentive. He must have been much struck with the solemn truths which were delivered; his excited look, and the short exclamations to which he occasionally gave utterance while I preached, plainly shewed it. God grant that the word which was then spoken may have a good effect on those who heard it. May it lead them to enquire earnestly and boldly about the way they may be saved.

The village is nicely situated on the banks of a little river, which from its rapid current is never frozen during the winter. On the north side it is protected by a high hill. The Indians are