

The present circumstances of the Manitoulin Island Mission specially invite attention. The mission settlement at Manitoawning was provided, fifteen years since, with a comfortable frame church, and other mission premises, by the liberality of friends in England. But, unfortunately, the discovery of oil, and other attractions, have directed the attention of white settlers to the Island; and, in 1862, the Indians were induced to surrender to the Government the whole western portion, under a treaty which entitled them to select land for their own occupation. This, the Indians of the mission settlement have now done, fixing the site of their future settlement at Shegwiandah, a place eighteen miles distant; to which the greater number have already removed. Mr. Sims is accordingly compelled to make a journey of eighteen miles by water, to minister to the chief body of the Indians under his care, returning again over the same distance to the old mission-house. He has already proved himself a man of great energy and decision of character, thoroughly imbued with the missionary spirit. But this, it is obvious, must spend his strength for naught, and defeat to a great extent the object aimed at in the original planting of the mission settlement on the island. Mr. Sims is, therefore, most anxious to obtain the aid requisite to enable him anew to establish the Church and mission-house in the midst of his Indian converts; and, at least, to erect a dwelling-house there before the winter sets in. But the funds available for Indian mission work are entirely exhausted, and the only resource is an earnest appeal to the members of our Church, and the friends of Christian missions, to supply the requisite means.

Mr. Sims proposes to remove the frame church at Manitoawning to Little Current, a village eight miles to the west of Shegwiandah, where there is a settlement of Odawah Indians, as well as an increasing white population. At Shegwiandah, a mission school-house, also available for a church, is now in process of erection; and a mission-house and teacher's residence in the same locality, are indispensable for the immediate requirements of the mission, and the spiritual oversight of upwards of two hundred Indians in the vicinity of the two settlements, too poor to do anything in aid of the work carrying on in their behalf.

A sum of not less than \$1500 will be needed before the plans indicated here can be accomplished. But a contribution of \$500 would enable the Mission Committee to erect, and partially finish the mission-house, and place the school-house and Teacher's residence in a condition fit for immediate use.

If this practical work is not effected before the winter sets in, the Missionary will be cut off from all access to the Indians for six weeks, during the formation of the ice, and again for a similar period, on its breaking up; and will only be able to reach his Indian congregation at other times by a journey of thirty-six miles, performed weekly in winter over ice and snow.

Arrangements have been recently effected with the Government for the sites of the church, school, and mission buildings; and it is in every respect indispensable for the welfare of the Indians, and the permanence of the mission, that no time be lost in transferring the Missionary and Teacher to the new settlement.

The mission settlement at Garden River, near the entrance to Lake Superior, is under the care of the Rev. J. Chance, who has laboured there as Missionary with devoted zeal for eleven years. The good fruits of his labors, and those of Mrs. Chance, who assists her husband in the school, are apparent in the striking contrast which their Indian converts present to those who have not been brought under the blessed influences of Christian teaching. But both there and on the Manitoulin Island, the Missionaries of your Church have been greatly impeded by the intrusion of the Roman Catholics on their field of labour. At Garden River this counteracting influence has been a special cause of many difficulties; as the settlement was originally made entirely under the direction of Missionaries of the Church of England; and the intrusion of Roman Catholic Priests, and their Indian converts, on the Reserve, has been a source of much trouble, and of great injustice both to the Missionary and the Indians under his care.

During the past year extensive repairs and some improvements on the church and mission buildings at Garden River, were found to be unavoidable; and for