

## INDIAN BANDS ON THE NORTH SHORE OF GEORGIAN BAY.

A Domestic Mission having now been established at Parry Sound, through the generous and enterprising firm of the Messrs. J. & W. Beatty, the Society is brought into more immediate contact with the Indians on the North Shore of the Bay, where for some years we have had several small Classes, who, amidst many disadvantages, and with only very occasional visits from our Missionaries, have nevertheless maintained their Christian privileges and enjoyments. We give extracts from the letter of the Rev. Mr. Hanson: in addition to his own regular work on the Mission, he has engaged to visit these solitary places.

PARRY SOUND, Oct. 23, 1869.

Some time ago I had the opportunity of visiting Byng Inlet, and at the same time of getting a bird's-eye view of several points of our Indian work.

The work at French River is very limited both in its interest and its extent. The Indians seem to be quite dissatisfied, and are gradually leaving this place for a more fruitful home. Our Society, however, numbers twenty-two,—the entire population, excepting three Catholic families and twenty-four children. The interest at Nashkooting is small, as there are but eleven persons connected with the band. I am glad to say, however, that these are all Methodists, and are striving to live exemplary and godly lives. We do not expect to visit this place much longer, as within a few weeks they are intending to move down to Shawanaga. At this last mentioned place the field is much more extensive. This band is composed of about eighty persons, divided in religious profession as follows: Forty Methodists, twenty Roman Catholics, and twenty Pagans. About fifty children also belong to the place. Shawanaga has also another advantage over the other places, in that whilst they are being gradually deserted, this is gradually attracting to its hunting-grounds a great many from different points. A short time since we were informed of another band of Indians, at present settled about sixteen miles above French River; so, as soon as possible, the Indian assistant will make his way up to that point, and see what can

be done with them. Perhaps, however, the most interesting part of our Indian work in connection with this Mission, is the band of Pagan Indians on Parry Island, about seven miles from the Sound. These people have always rejected the advances of Christianity, and are still stubborn. A few days since, Mr. Beatty and myself, accompanied by the assistant, visited them at their village, and held a council with them in their chief's house. Our object in visiting them was to obtain their consent for the assistant to visit and preach to them regularly; and if possible, to induce them formally to accept the Gospel. They gave us a very courteous hearing, and after a long deliberation, granted, in a limited sense, our first request; but with a dogged adherence to the superstitious "traditions of their grandfathers," they spurned the idea of embracing Christianity. The assistant, however, is to visit them until Christmas, at which time we are to hold another council, when they are to give their "final decision." At the close of the first day's discussion we persuaded them to come to Parry Sound the next day, and continue the deliberations in the church. They very kindly yielded to our request, but I regret exceedingly to state that the result was no more favorable than the previous, and they are still as Pagan as ever. May the Lord of the harvest bless our labors, and gather them speedily into His fold!

Whether the above work will justify the expenditure of time and money, is