

mouth of the river. A small Indian Village, inhabited by pagan Indians. Peter Kesshick, Native Teacher, was transferred, as contemplated in last report, at the middle of the year, from Sidney Bay to Serpent River. The negotiations for settling a Teacher had been long pending, and the scheme was, for a time, strongly opposed by the Indians themselves. Mr. Robinson reports, 15th July, 1874, from Blind River, "Serpent Indians here. Visited eight camps Serpent Indians. Saw both the chiefs with their men in council, and persuaded them to receive Keeshick, (who was present), and preached the gospel to them. They are evidently suspicious or fearful, and not at all reliable." On 23rd July Keeshick, with Mr. Robinson's tent, and a sufficient stock of provisions, started for Serpent River; where the Missionary Superintendent and the Secretary found him early in August, gradually winning his way among the people, and spent a Sabbath with him—preaching twice to the Indians, besides (on the Saturday) having a "council," at which the elements of the Christian religion, as well as "business," were thoughtfully gone over. The men were very respectful. An Indian house was obtained for the Teacher, and Mr. Robinson resumed possession of his tent. At the end of the season Keeshick reported that the band had treated him kindly. His scholars had given him great satisfaction. He had given his boys all Christian names, James, Peter, &c., which he assured the deputation they would retain during life, and of which the little fellows seemed very proud. Were they not now on the high road to civilization when they were reading the white man's books, and had, like him, two names? Keeshick is again engaged for Serpent River. All these stations will receive the assiduous care and superintendence of Mr. Lister during the season of open water.

FRENCH BAY, SAUGEEN.

This Indian Church is of the first importance in our missionary operations. It is now many years since it was organized, and its history has been that of a true church of Jesus Christ. A number of men and women, strong in their simple faith in Christ, have gone from its membership to that of the church above, and others still in the church, would, in sincere and reputable Christian walk and conversation, compare favorably with any Christians elsewhere. Mr. William Walker (otherwise called Barrell) still remains in charge of the church as preacher. After having made proof of his ministry at Saugeen and elsewhere for a number of years, he might now, the Directors think, look forward to his being set apart by ordination, to the full work of a Christian pastor. Two of the female members have died during the year. The church has a present membership of thirty. Mr. Walker reports two young people as candidates for church membership. Sabbath School, twenty in attendance. The chapel is free from debt. The little reed organ (for they are very musical) bears still a troublesome debt of \$27. Mr. Walker says in his last report, (April, 1875,) "I have prayer meeting every Thursday. I have preaching at *Saugeen* every other Sunday. Preaching twice at French Bay every Sunday. French Bay is quite a large settlement. Almost all attend my meetings. We have no pastor; I am acting here as preacher. I had revival meetings here last month. Very good meetings. I often visit my friends, and pray with them. We have had some very refreshing seasons." The children at French Bay are instructed in secular branches at a School supported by the Indian Department.

French Bay settlement is six or seven miles north of Saugeen Indian Village—on the same "Reserve." Mr. Walker, by the aid of a trifling grant from the Society, repaired a house at French Bay, and removed his family thither from *Saugeen* in the autumn. He is thus nearer the chapel, and nearer the greater number of his members. This church has been visited, (in each case including Sabbath services among them) since the date of the last report, several times by Mr. Robinson, once by the Secretary, and once by

Mr. Lister
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