

## A SUNDAY WITH THE INDIANS.

And now the Lord's own day came round, for we had arranged to spend a Sunday with the Indians. And a memorable Sunday it was. After our usual daily prayers came first a service of Confirmation, at which three young persons received the "laying on of hands." Then followed at once a wedding. Dinedish, son of Ahbeseekung, was married to Nequay, daughter of Mishael. It was a touching ceremony, the two chief figures—typical Indians—kneeling reverently before us. Near them the bride's father and mother, a devout congregation in the background filling the pretty little church, which we had spent some time the night before in decorating. The service was wholly in Indian. The Bishop read the English and Mr. Renison interpreted. A few words of good advice were given by the Bishop in the same manner to the new-made man and wife.

Then came Morning Prayer and the baptism of an Indian baby (twelve months old). The child was tied in Indian fashion to a board, and, before handing it up to be baptized, the mother bound its little arms, which hitherto had been free, making it a perfectly helpless bundle. And a large bundle it was for the Bishop to handle.

Then followed the great service—the Holy Communion. And it did one's heart good to witness the earnestness and devotion of the little band of communicants—twenty in number—as they came up to receive the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. These services, also, were as far as possible in the Indian tongue. Mr. Renison acted throughout as interpreter.

At 6.30 Evening Prayer was said and brief addresses were delivered by the Bishop and Mr. Renison. We spoke of our plans to them. It had been hoped that Mr. George Renison would remain with them as teacher and lay-reader. But the plan was not feasible, the Indian Department not being willing to pay the teacher's stipend this year. It was felt that this would be a sore disappointment to the Indians, but they were urged to wait in trust and assured that God would not forget or desert them.

After dark, around the camp fire, we talked of their future, of the need of close attention to their farms and fishing, the benefit of being away from contact with the wicked world, the excellence of their situation on the shore of the lake, where fish abound and the soil is good. Prayers and "boo-joos" ended a day of blessing.

ADIEUS.

The next day, having paid a brief visit to each house in the mission, we set out on our return journey. It may be of interest to mention that their houses are little log huts which they have built for themselves. These huts are poorly furnished. There is usually a rough table and generally a bed. But there are no chairs, except in the chief's house. A box may be offered a visitor, but the Indians

themselves sit on the floor, leaning up against the wall, making a fringe around the room.

We took leave of our friends on the shore, assuring them that, God willing, we would be with them again next year, and that in the meantime they should, if possible, have a visit from the clergyman temporarily working at Schreiber, who, happily, speaks Objibway.

Monday evening found us seventeen miles from the mission, camping on Flat Rock portage. Making an early start on Tuesday, we pushed on in spite of rain, and by seven o'clock reached the creek at Camp Alexander portage. As the shadows of evening began to fall we pushed out into the foaming rapids, and for a few minutes had an exciting experience. Our canoes were carried with great speed into the swirling current, tossing about like chips on the foaming water, which at times leaped into them. But with an Indian at each end, the frail vessels made a safe passage through the tortuous channel, and we avoided the destruction which seemed now and again inevitable. A run of some twelve miles brought us to Red Rock a little before midnight. Being thoroughly tired out, and thankful for many mercies, we slept soundly. On the following day our guides were all at the train to see us off, and their words of parting came unmistakably from their hearts.

The Indians have the reputation of being idle. Surely they hardly deserve it. At least they work hard in their own way. Canoeing and portaging are very hard work indeed. Some of our fellows, after paddling many miles, carried 150 to 200 pounds across portages, sometimes more than two miles long. This is the life they are accustomed to, and there is a fascination about it, a constant variety, a spice of adventure which keeps them up to their tasks.

No wonder, perhaps, that after this life has been traditional with them for ages, we should find it difficult to detach them from it, and to bind them down to the routine of daily monotonous toil.

## Fort William.

REV. L. J. HARPER, M.A., INCUMBENT.

The most recent event of concern to this parish has been a little visit from Mrs. Boomer, of London, Ont., who, on her return from a trip to the Coast with the Governor-General and Lady Aberdeen, and while the guest of Mrs. Gibbs, of Port Arthur, kindly consented to address the members and friends of our local branch of the Woman's Auxiliary. Quite a number were present, and were much pleased and edified with the accounts given of visits paid to various missionary centres in the Northwest, chiefly among the Indians.

On Sunday, the 28th of August, His Lordship Bishop Thorneloe paid his second annual visit to this parish for his purpose of holding confirmation. It was

a busy day for the Bishop. Morning Prayer was said at 10.30 a.m., and at 11 o'clock the beautiful and impressive rite of confirmation was administered to thirteen candidates. After a short address to the newly-confirmed the Holy Communion was celebrated, when seventy-eight made their communion. At this service the Bishop preached a most earnest and helpful sermon to the large congregation, which completely filled the church.

In the afternoon the Bishop was driven to West Fort, where he again preached at Evensong.

On Saturday evening, from 8 to 10 p.m., a reception was given his lordship in the Town Hall by the Woman's Auxiliary, to which all the parishioners and friends of St. Luke's parish were invited. A large number availed themselves of the opportunity thus afforded of meeting and conversing with their chief pastor, who, in his affable manner, made every one feel quite at ease, and a pleasant evening was spent.

It is to be hoped that on future occasions the Bishop may be able to spend a whole day in this parish and visit the Sunday School in the afternoon, where the children would be delighted to see and hear the bishop all by themselves.

## St. Joseph's Island.

REV. R. ATKINSON, INCUMBENT.

The Rev. H. Gomery visited this mission on the 11th of September, in the interests of the S.P.C.K., and delivered instructive and appropriate sermons. There was a celebration of the Holy Eucharist at Holy Trinity Church, Jocelyn, at which there was a good number of communicants. Some here, as at other parts of the mission, expressed their determination to join in the work of the society. In the absence of the clergyman's wife, who is on a visit to friends in Prince Edward County, Mr. Gomery was well entertained by Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Whybourne, Mr. and Mrs. F. B. Kent, and Mr. and Mrs. W. Canfield. Mr. S. Chappell also conveyed the reverend gentleman to Jocelyn, whither the missionary had gone preparatory to his Sunday's labours. Richard's Landing and Marksville, as well as Jocelyn, will always take a more lively interest in the work of the S.P.C.K. as a result of Mr. Gomery's visit. The services of the day were very hearty and well attended. R. A.

## Gore Bay Mission.

REV. LAURENCE SINCLAIR, INCUMBENT.

The Rev. Henry Gomery gave an address in All Saints' Church, on Tuesday evening, September 6th, in the interests of the S.P.C.K., and on the following day, while having to wait for the steamer, he came to Trinity Church Mills and preached. I am very grateful for his visit, because I feel that good has been the result. I wish he could have