

they are sinking deeper in debt every year. Hence the necessity of settling on good land, so that they may turn their attention to agriculture. As the Indians came to the conclusion to remain and settle on the Christian Island last summer, I thought it important to build a house (that would answer for the present), for the Missionary. Accordingly I endeavoured to procure men and provisions; as well as I could, to carry out my design, although I found it a difficult task, provisions being so scarce.

By begging hard and paying the money down, we procured enough to raise our house. Our raising was very interesting; we had Pagans, Roman Catholics and Methodists, Tawaws, Pottawatamies, and Ojibways, but they were all perfectly agreed and manifested their pleasure at a Christian minister coming to live among them.

We have some encouragement to hope the pagans on Christian Island will embrace christianity. Old Keshah-ta, a great medicine man among the Tawaws, has frequently been to our house. He wears a long coat made of dark print, leggings embroidered with silk ribbon, a large silver brooch on his breast, and a silver ring in his nose, and a shawl on his head like a turban. He brought us some potatoes and corn as a present, and told our Indians he thought it his duty, as he heard we had none. He came with more potatoes one Sabbath

morning; he said he did not know it was the Sabbath. I read to him the ten commandments, especially the fourth (in the Indian language); he said he understood it very well, and it was all very good. All the Tawaws, although a wicked drinking set, are weary of paganism. Their Chief and others of them have attended our meetings, and they are anxious to hear the white Christian Minister tell about the Christian religion. They say when we get an Interpreter and school-house they will all come to meeting and become Christians.

The Pottawatamies are a wilder set than the Tawaws; they are drinking, drumming, and dancing continually. We have often heard their pagan drum day and night. There is, however, some prospect of a change among them.

Some of our Indians from Beausoliel are living here, and are beginning to improve in their circumstances. Most of them cleared land and planted here last summer; thus preparing the way; and as soon as the ice is strong enough they will move their cattle, and in the spring they will come.

When all the Indians from Beausoliel, and others who intend to come from other parts are settled here, in connection with those who are now living on the Island, we shall have a large number of Indians. It will be a very important field of labour.

## DANVILLE.

*Extract of a Letter from Mr. T. Derrick, dated Dec., 11th, 1857.*

At the period of holding our Missionary Meetings it may not be unacceptable to know what good has been done during the last few months for the Danville Mission.

On arriving at this Mission I found a Circuit some 20 miles in length and 16 in width. Members scattered over this ground, 33. Two classes nominally, but really only one; whilst the whole appearance of things indicated the necessity of *strong faith and hard work*.

The idea, therefore, of settling down in any given place as a home was abandoned, for two reasons,—first, to save

expense of board; second, to preach more sermons, and attend to family visitation. And here let me record the kindness of friends in Montreal, and for which may our heavenly Father reward them. On leaving them for this Mission, the noble sum of £20 was presented to me to purchase a horse.

This was soon done, and in the style of Old Methodism the round of the Mission was taken. The kind people gave me a hearty welcome; receiving preacher and horse with kindest entertainment.

Thus living among the people enabled