

St. Joseph's Island

REV. R. ATKINSON, INCUMBENT.

The Christmas services in this mission were very bright. All the churches were nicely decorated, and the congregations said to be the largest for some years past. It is specially pleasing to note that the number of communicants (especially at Holy Trinity, Jocelyn) was beyond any previous record. The Holy Eucharist at the latter place was chorally rendered, and a leading layman stated that it was the best service ever held there. It is also worthy of notice that a similar statement was made by the churchwardens at St. John's, Hilton. The missionary-in-charge received many substantial tokens of appreciation, and the offertories of the three services reached a very liberal sum.

A pleasant feature of this festive season was the presentation of a beautiful beaver storm collar to Miss Wilhamson, who has long served as organist of Holy Trinity Church, Jocelyn.

The Sunday School children of this mission were well remembered. A successful cantata was rendered at Richard's Landing. At Hilton the Sunday School children were entertained at the parsonage, where a Christmas tree was held on New Year's night. Mrs. Atkinson treated the young people and their friends to a good tea, and a delightful time was spent.

It may be mentioned in connection with the general work here that very much interest and enthusiasm are being shown by the young people in the work of the Church, and the large and regular number of communicants who present themselves at the Holy Table on the days appointed for Holy Communion is a true sign of spiritual life in this parish.

R.A.

Powassan Mission.

REV. C. H. BUCKLAND, DEACON-IN-CHARGE.

The service held in St. Mary's Church Powassan, on Christmas Day was well attended, and a liberal offertory was presented to the clergyman. Although there has been such a general financial depression throughout Canada, yet the congregation at Powassan returned thanks to God for the mercies bestowed upon them by the Giver of all good things. To-day we as a congregation worship in a church free from all debt, which is in a great measure due to the never-failing interest displayed by the Guild of the Good Shepherd organized in this place on January 21st, 1896, with a membership of seven, and which has increased to twenty-five active members. At the annual meeting of the Guild held for the election of officers for the ensuing year a very satisfactory and encouraging report of the work done was received. The total receipts are \$157.77, the expenditures, \$47.03, leaving a net gain of \$110.74. Of this amount \$65 was paid to clear the debt on

the church organ, and \$10 was given as a Christmas box to the Rev. C. H. Buckland. The balance is in the Post-office Savings' Bank as the nucleus of a parsonage fund. The church at Powassan is greatly in need of a bell. If some generous person would open his or her heart and give a donation toward getting a bell, the members of the congregation would doubtless help toward making up the necessary amount. At the annual meeting of the Guild, the following were elected officers for the year 1897: President, Mrs. Scarlett (re-elected); Vice-President, Mrs. Smith; Secretary, Miss J. Richardson; Treasurer, Miss K. Porter (re-elected).

The members of St. George's Church, Trout Creek, are working hard towards the completion of their church. The congregation is steadily increasing in numbers, owing, in a great measure, to the regularity of the services held there every Sunday at 3 p.m. The wardens have recently purchased a new organ at \$110, paying on it \$60 and leaving a balance of \$50. This church is sorely in need of books for the prayer desk and holy table.

This mission is prospering wonderfully under the charge of the Rev. C. H. Buckland, who holds two services at Powassan and one at Trout Creek every Sunday. In addition he gives a Sunday service at Nipissing every other Sunday, and a weekday service every other Tuesday at Topp's, Chisholm Township. T. S.

unchurch Mission.

MR. T. J. HAY, CATECHIST.

At last our church—the Church of St. Andrew, A. and M.—was fit for use. A stone foundation had been put under it, the outside walls tar-papered, and sided, rough boarded and felt-papered inside, a hardwood floor laid, the walls braced together, and the windows put in. It was a revelation to most of us, for we were going to have a pretty church. The ladies had been busy preparing a white canton-flannel dossal, with a red St. Andrew's Cross on it, lectern and reading-desk hangings of white, and a white and red altar-cloth; and as the church was to be used for the first time on Christmas morning it was decided not to attempt any other decoration. There was a congregation of fifty, nearly all Church people, on that bright and glorious Christmas morn. The service was hearty and the singing good. What a pleasure it must have been to that loyal little band who for years had had no services and no House of God of their own. They had worked to the best of their ability, doing what they could, in fact, more than they were able, in these hard times, in teaming and preparing for the stonemasons and carpenters.

Since September nearly \$450 has been spent on the church. About \$75 was the value of labour given, and \$250 in cash has been expended. This amount came to us from friends, from a grant of \$96

from S.P.C.K., \$43.86 from Toronto W. A., etc., but we are now \$75 in debt. The old debt on the building has been paid off besides. As the workmen only left the building on the 23rd, there was a lot to do. We had a sale of work on the 22nd, and our Christmas tree on the 23rd, and obtained enough money to pay for the stove. The night of our Christmas tree was a cold one, and a large load of people and children came from one of the out-stations, Whitestone, a drive of twelve miles. We have to express our heartfelt thanks to all those who kindly helped us, to the Shigawake, St. Paul's, Toronto, Scarboro', and Collingwood branches of the Woman's Auxiliary, for their bales, for their kind and generous gifts to the missionary and family, and to the Barrie W.A. for a surplice for use in St. Andrew's Church. All the work done has been of the best, and great credit is due to the chairman of the building committee, Dr. O'Gorman, to the churchwardens, Messrs. Sagar and Gibson, to all concerned—and last, but not least, to the ladies, who, as usual, worked faithfully and well for the good cause and for "Jesus" sake. T. J. H.

Christmas at Sheguiandah.

Our Christmas festivities are over and I write a short account at once for THE ALGOMA MISSIONARY NEWS, so that it may be inserted before the season is past, gone, and forgotten—while yet the music of the angels is vibrating in the Christian mind. The Indian church at Sheguiandah was decorated with accustomed taste and splendour, but some new features were added. The bright and morning star still sheds its beams from above the chancel arch with more than its usual brilliancy. It has been relighted, as it were, and recoloured, and the wreaths and chain work that hang around it are festooned in slightly different patterns. The result is very pretty.

I was unable to attend the usual midnight service on Christmas Eve. However, I was there bright and early on the morning of Christmas Day, when we had a celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Morning Prayer was also said and a Christmas sermon preached. The services altogether lasted about three hours. The chanting in the service was excellent and hearty (I have been drilling the children myself lately), but I did not think the singing of the Christmas hymns was as good as usual. We should have had some special practice, which I neglected. However, it was a grand Christmas Day. Then in the evening I drove down again to the Indian festival, where the entire population of the village was assembled to eat their Christmas dinner or supper. The best place at the head of the table was given to the missionary and household, then the chief and wife, then the eldest were seated according to age. I was sorry to see so few aged ones; they have nearly