



CHIEF OF ALGOMA.

It was in the fourth decade of this century that the Church of England became a factor in nurturing the moral and religious life of this great district. About the year 1831, through the energy of Bishop Stewart (the second Bishop of Quebec), then the sole chief pastor in Upper and Lower Canada, a society was formed in Toronto for converting and civilizing the Indians. Sir John Colborne was its patron and its earliest missionary was Mr. Wm. McMurray, now the Ven. the Archdeacon of Niagara. A student in divinity at the time, he entered upon his duties at Sault Ste Marie in August, 1832, and was ordained deacon by Bishop Stewart at St. Armand's (Frelighsburg), on August 11th, 1833. A chapel-school was erected through his instrumentality in 1836, and he baptized 140 persons, among whom were Shingwahcose and his eldest son Augustin Shingwauk, alluded to in Mr.

Wilson's interesting book "Missionary Work Among the Ojebway Indians." Mr. McMurray left in the autumn of 1838, and the fruit of his six years' work was forty communicants.

He was succeeded in November of the same year by Rev. F. A. O'Meara, the present rector of Port Hope, by whom the Indians were persuaded to settle at Garden River. At the same date a mission was established upon Manitoulin Island under the sanction of Sir John Colborne. Rev. A. Elliott, now deceased, had visited it in 1837 and held the first service there, but under the administration of Sir Francis Bond Head, the abandonment of the mission was ordered.

It was re-established, however, under Sir George Arthur, and cotemporary with the advent of Dr. O'Meara to Sault Ste Marie, Rev. C. C. Brough, afterwards Archdeacon of London, was sent to labor at Mah-nec-too ah-ning, now usually written Manitowaning. In company with Dr. Paul Darling, the physician, and Mr. Richard Bayley, instructor, he embarked in a bateau at Coldwater, Oct. 8th, and a month later reached his destination in a blinding snow storm. Mr. Brough remained till 1841. At that date, by an understanding between Bishop Strachan and the Government, Manitowaning was made the centre of operations for all the Lake Huron missions, and thither Dr. O'Meara was transferred from Garden River. His field was then a little diocese, the various points of which he reached during summer in an open boat, and during winter, on snowshoes. To assist in the work, Rev. G. A. Anderson, now in charge of the Mohawk congregation at Deseronto, was appointed to Sault Ste Marie in 1848. He held occasional services for the few whites then at "the Soo," and he travelled westward as far as Goulais Bay and eastward to Bruce Mines, where he held the first service in February, 1849. Owing to ill-health he resigned in November of that year, and was succeeded in 1854 by Rev. James Chance, who had been sent out from England as a layman in the autumn of the previous year, and who, having been ordained in 1856, faithfully served the Garden River Indians for 18 years.

This mission, in common with Manitowaning, was originally supported in part by the Church Society of Toronto, but mainly by grants from the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel and the Colonial and Continental Church and School Society, but in 1858 was taken under the patronage of the New England Company, the oldest missionary society in Great Britain (established 1649). Mr. Chance was, however, withdrawn in 1871 upon the representation that the majority of the Indians (160 out of 300) were Roman Catholics. He was succeeded in the same year by Rev. E. F. Wilson, who was transferred from Kettle Point by the Church Missionary Society and by whom the first Shingwauk Home was founded and opened September 22nd, 1873.

Meanwhile, to return to Manitoulin Island, Dr. O'Meara was busily engaged in important work.