

TORONTO.

From the Report of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, for 1866.

The unabated vigour of the Bishop in administering this most important of all the Colonial Dioceses appears in his own brief summary of his last visitation. He says:

"My labours this summer were greater than ever, and towards the conclusion I became rather fatigued and weary. The truth is, I was for a third of the time unwell, but not so much as to render it necessary to stop. It was, perhaps, my own fault; I was too long out (eighty-nine days), and did not divide them into separate journeys, and take good intervals of rest between them. I shall take better care in future.

"The number I confirmed is 4,299, and the miles travelled 2,760 at least."

The Bishop has, however, in consideration of the vast increase of duty imposed upon him by the increase in the number of the parishes and clergy, strongly urged a subdivision of his diocese, by the erection of sees at Kingston and London. For the latter, indeed, the endowment fund is almost made up. As for two years to come considerable grants in aid of the commutation of the Clergy Reserves Fund have been made by the Society, the names and returns of the missionaries are still recorded in the report.

PENETANGUISHINE.—The Rev. G. Halen forwards a journal extending over part of last year. The following extract contains an interesting account of a pastoral visit in Canada:—

"W. L. came to say that his child was ill, and that he wished it baptized: I promised to go after Evening Service. As he lived eleven miles off, I did not arrive till dark, and we lost our way. This family have many disadvantages to contend with, and have suffered great hardships, but are beginning to get more comfortable. His wife is a Roman Catholic, but the children are brought up to our Church, and his wife willingly attends the Service when I go into that neighbourhood. Returned home the same night, but found it difficult to keep the road in the cleared parts of the forest, as the particles of frozen snow, driven by a strong wind, made it difficult for us to keep our eyes open. In this country, where there are clearings, the roads are twenty-two yards wide; in this space, a narrow road, just wide enough for one sleigh, is beaten: this becomes hard, and bears the horse and sleigh well; but it is often distressing, on meeting another sleigh, to see the poor horses or oxen floundering in the deep snow on the sides of the track. If a snow storm comes on, all traces of the road, where exposed to the wind, are lost. I have sometimes been obliged to walk before my horse for a great distance, with a stick to sound the snow every now and then to ascertain whether we were on the right track. Frequently, to ease the poor horse, you are obliged to walk through the drifts, and on one occasion, some years ago (I could not do it now), we were obliged to take the horse out, trample the road for him about 150 yards through the deep drift, and then return and drag the sleigh through ourselves; this is most fatiguing, and causes profuse perspiration, in which state you have to accomplish the remainder of your journey with the thermometer from 12° to 20° below zero. It was, I think, on this occasion that our faces were partially frozen, just before we arrived at the settler's

house, long after the appointed time of Service. We found only the man at home, who made us as comfortable as he could, frying some bacon, and making us tea. The cold was so intense that the clock stopped in the night, occasioned, probably, by the oil thickening."

NORWOOD.—In this extensive mission, which touches the north shore of the Rice Lake, and includes four townships, the Rev. J. Hilton has three stations at which he officiates regularly on Sundays, and several others where week-day services are held. The want of teachers is an obstacle to the maintenance of more than one Sunday-school. Two churches are in course of erection.

WALPOLE ISLAND.—The Rev. A. Jamieson, who continues to pay much attention to the language of his Indian parishioners, states that three adults were reclaimed from Paganism last year, and that the people generally improve steadily in temporal matters. They succeeded last year in raising 3,000 bushels of wheat. Petawegeshig, a Pagan chief, and some of his followers, have been induced by a promise of money to visit the United States and England, to exhibit the customs of the Pagan Indians. The Society has received a protest from some Indians against certain statements said to be contained in a speech composed for Petawegeshig to deliver in England.

BARRIE.—The Rev. E. Morgan assists the Rev. S. B. Ardagh in the extensive Mission of Barrie. He states that the congregations are on the increase, and that the Sunday-school in Barrie itself has recently doubled its numbers. A fund has been commenced for building a new Church at Barrie.

NEWMARKET.—The Rev. S. Ramsey, who has charge of two townships, forwards a brief record of daily proceedings. The following extract contains a graphic description of the situation of an energetic clergyman in Canada:—

"I have every reason to speak highly of the liberality of the people, and feel confident that if I really stood in need and absolutely required even such a sum as £500, the amount would be cheerfully raised within a month; I am speaking the strict truth when I say there is not an individual within ten miles who would not gladly do me a kindness even at some inconvenience to himself. To attend properly to my two townships would occupy at least eight active clergymen; it is quite grievous to think how seldom I can get at some of the settlers. Had I the means, I would keep five Curates and twelve horses. I hold occasionally a Service in some remote place, in order to collect the children together to be baptized; and, excepting on such an occasion, they never see the face of a clergyman. Recently I drove sixteen miles to baptize children. One man who was prevented bringing his children, five in number, sent word, that if I could go again he would willingly pay a pound. Last summer a poor Irish woman carried a sickly baby sixteen miles here and the same back, in order to get her infant baptized. Two horses, al-

though more than I can afford to keep, are not sufficient, and had I the means, I would lose no time in procuring a third. I think, as the English are fond of new Societies, they ought to establish a 'Missionary Horse Society.' My two horses three years ago would have been worth £16 each; now such could not be obtained under £50 each.

"I have three full Services every Sunday, and drive seventeen miles; also full Services at each of my three churches on Good Friday and Christmas day; the Lord's Supper once a month at St. Paul's and Christ's Church, and also on special occasions at Trinity Church about six times in the year. I have excellent teachers in all my Sunday-schools, and much regret that I can do so little myself; but Mrs. Ramsey makes up for me in this particular, my quarterly reports will show how much my wife accompanies me through the Mission. I considered this a matter of considerable importance. My three villages are rapidly increasing in size; we are getting excellent public libraries; and during the winter, at Aurora, there is a lecture once a week on some interesting subject; the lectures are very efficient. I am lecturing on my tour through Holland, Belgium, France, and Germany; and it is quite surprising to see what an interest the people take. They come in flocks any distance. There is also a debating school in each village; no politics or religion. They manage them exceedingly well; it is quite surprising to observe how well the mechanics can express themselves."

SARNIA.—The Rev. G. I. R. Salter states that the congregations are on the increase. Three Sunday-schools are well attended, and the people generally appear ready to promote church objects. Referring to his intercourse with his parishioners, he says:—

"In a Mission like mine, about fifty miles long, I am necessarily often absent from my own house; and thus scarcely a week passes but I spend a night in one of the humblest cottages, obtaining the best accommodation which the inhabitants can provide. This naturally leads to a degree of friendly intercourse unknown in our fatherland, and induces the people to unobtrusively all their cares and troubles to their clergyman, and consult him on almost every subject.

"Our labours would be much lessened if the emigrants who settle amongst us were furnished with letters from their clergyman in England; for this would enable us to become acquainted with them immediately."

ELORA.—The Rev. J. Smithurst, in addition to his ordinary work, has been engaged in visiting the neighbouring townships, which are at present without a Missionary. He speaks emphatically of the great need of an increase of clergymen to keep pace with the rapid increase of settlers.

ROCKWOOD AND EMO.—The Rev. E. N. Stewart, who is master of the Guelph Grammar School, visits these places regularly in such time as can be spared from his other duties. At Emo, the church appears to be in a flourishing condition. Mr. Stewart records his opinion, derived from long experience, of the disastrous effect of leaving whole townships for years without the ministrations of the Church, which are always best appreciated by