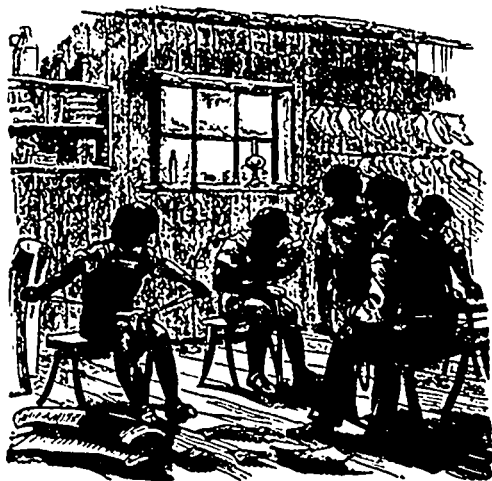




SHINGWAUK HOME SHOE SHOP.

will tell you of some more of his works. Meantime all Christians should save a little to help to educate Indian children in the Shingwauk Home.

THE CHURCH CATECHISM EXPLAINED FOR THE LITTLE ONES.

By Miss M. L. SUTTON, ST. CHRYSOSTOME, P. Q.

CHAPTER I.

THREE GOOD THINGS.

MY dear little children, I am afraid that very often when you repeat the catechism, you do not stop to think what it means; and, perhaps, sometimes when you do think about it, there are many parts which you cannot understand. Now, it is just for little ones like you that I am going to write this work, and I hope to make it easier for you to understand what is meant by the catechism, which you all have to learn before you are confirmed by the bishop.

In the first place, the catechism begins at your baptism, when you were babies; for although there are some people who are not baptized till they are grown up, we know from the Bible that it is God's wish that little ones should be brought to Him while they are young. You have heard the story of Samuel, how he was given to God while he was a very little child; and when our Lord Jesus was a baby, He was taken to the Temple, as it was the custom in those days, when he was only eight days old, to be presented to God; afterwards, when He became a man, He himself told the people to bring their little children to Him. When you were baptized a name was given to you, and that name is called your Christian name, because it was given to you when you were brought to Christ and became His soldier. But who gave you this name? The catechism says, "My Godfathers and Godmothers." When persons are bap-

tized they are required to make certain promises, and as a little baby cannot speak nor understand, our church has a rule that every child that is baptized shall have three grown up persons to make these promises for it; and they are to look after this little child as it grows up, and as soon as it is able to understand they must teach it about the promises they have made for it, and do all they can to have it brought up as a Christian child should be. These persons are called Godfathers and Godmothers. Many little children who are brought to baptism have parents who are very careless about their children's souls. They think they have done enough when they have had them baptized. They take care of their bodies and give them good food and clothes, but they forget they have souls which must be taken care of too; and surely it is a good thing for these little ones to have Godfathers and Godmothers, whose duty it is to take care that they are taught to know the Lord. Now, I think you understand what is meant by Godfathers and Godmothers.

At your baptism you were made three things. The first was a member of Christ. A member means a part. You were made a part of Christ. Your leg is a member of your body and your arm is another. Your legs and arms could be of no use if they were not joined to your body, so your soul can do nothing unless it is joined to Jesus. In your baptism, then, you were made a member of Christ.

The second thing you were made was "the child of God." I need not tell you what that means. You know what a good thing it is to have a kind father on earth; how much better then it is to have a heavenly Father; to have God for our Father. And how happy we should be that, even while we were babies, God let us become his children and took us under his care.

The third thing you were made is "an inheritor of the Kingdom of Heaven." You do not know, I am sure, what an inheritor is. I will try and make it plain to you. But first let me speak about the Kingdom of Heaven.

Heaven is the place where God lives; where Jesus is, and all the bright angels who sing praises to him. That happy, holy place, where there can be no sorrow nor parting, and where there is no need of the sun or moon, because the glory of God is light enough. God is the King of this bright, glorious place. This is the Kingdom of Heaven. This is our Father's house, for we are "the children of God."

An inheritor is one who has a right to a thing by-and-by which he cannot have yet. By our baptism we get a right or claim to the Kingdom of Heaven, which, as God's children, we may hope to enjoy after this life is ended, unless we lose our right to it by disobeying our Father and living wicked lives. How thankful to God we should feel for the great blessings we gain by our baptism. Let us go over them again: first, we were made "members of Christ," that is, joined to Jesus so