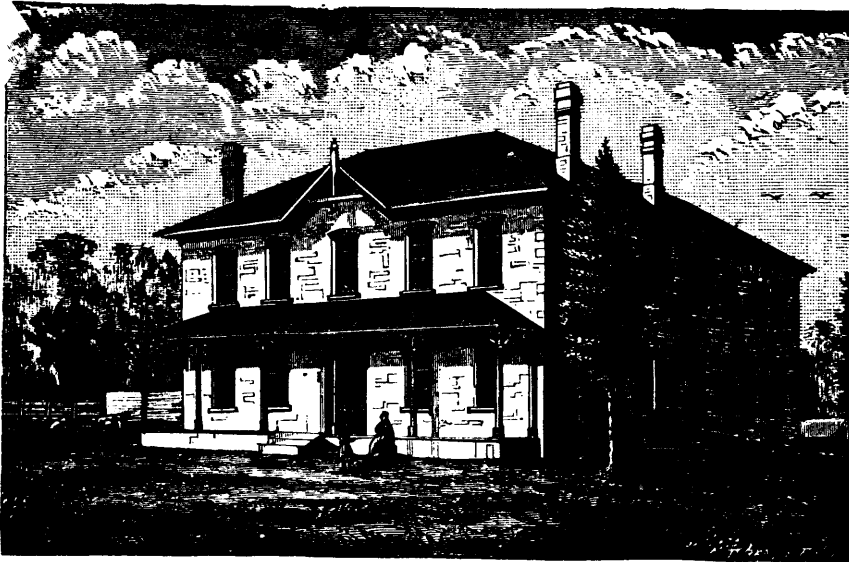


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WAWANOSH HOME.

Letter to the Sunday Schools.

MY DEAR CHILDREN,—To-day we are going to pay a visit to the Wawanosh Home, and see if we cannot find out something interesting about the Indian girls for whom it was built. First, you must know that Wawanosh is an Indian word, meaning “a large bird sailing overhead.” It was the name of an old Indian chief with white hair, who used to live on the Indian reserve at Sarnia. We have had several girls of that name at the Home. The first was named Alice—she came sixteen or seventeen years ago; was, in fact, one of the first pupils; and when she grew up she married Adam Kiyoshk, a Shingwauk boy;—their son, a little fellow just eleven years old, is now at the Home. There are twenty-six girls at the Wawanosh at present. Three have quite lately gone out to service, and we hear that they are doing very nicely. We have girls of all ages at the Home—indeed, at one time, a married woman arrived as a pupil, with her two children, a little boy of about three years, and a papoose, or baby. Her husband had been a Shingwauk boy, so he sent his wife to the Wawanosh to be educated. Unhappily, she had rather an idea that her position as a married woman gave her a right to scold

at the little girls occasionally, and once she had rather a tussle with two of the most mischievous ones in the School, giving it to them hot and strong; but they had their revenge. Marching up-stairs, they seized upon the innocent little papoose, all tied up in its cradle, and shoved it under the bed as far back as they could. The papoose (thinking it probably the most sensible thing to do under the circumstances,) went to sleep.—The mother’s consternation on finding it gone, was great; however, it was discovered at last. What the irate

mother did to the two offenders, history does not relate.

But this happened several years ago; there are no girls more than eighteen or nineteen years of age at the Wawanosh now. They all dress alike, in dark blue serge dresses, trimmed with red braid. These are their uniform dresses; on week-days they have to wear whatever their friends send them.

On Sundays, they all come down to the Shingwauk chapel (a distance of about three miles) in time for morning service at 11 o’clock. The little ones drive, and the older ones walk. They have their lunch at the Shingwauk, and stay for Sunday School and afternoon service, returning home at about 5 p.m. On high days and holidays, the boys and girls always spend the day together, and enjoy themselves very much.

The Wawanosh is very nicely situated; though the river is some distance away, there are lovely woods close by, which in summer abound with wild flowers and berries, and often on a Sunday the girls bring a pretty nosegay to some favored Sunday School teacher at the Shingwauk. The building is a large stone one, with a nice broad verandah in front. On the right hand side going in is the Lady Superintendent’s cosy little sitting room; on the left, the school-room, with