

seventeen miles to see if he could induce him to go and give them a service. At one place the settlers, although members of our church, had not seen the face of a clergyman for seven years; their little children growing up unttaught and unbaptized.

There is a wonderful pleasure in preaching the word under such circumstances as these; it is like *pouring fresh water upon a thirsty land*; one can realize a little the glad feelings of Moses when he struck the rock, and the waters gushed out, and he saw all the people crowding round, old and young, to dip their hands into and get deep draughts from the sparkling stream. It is good to see the eyes streaming, and to hear heartfelt bursts of gratitude, and to have the hand pressed by these poor neglected settlers of the backwoods. We of these back settlements come to the front sometimes, and we tell our story of the wants of our poor people, and we marvel that so little sympathy is aroused; and we are glad to get back again into the depths of our forest homes, and mingle again with those who, though poor, are yet *whole-hearted and earnest* in their sympathy.

But I must lead you on with me yet to another portion of our Diocese. We will leave the three and a half millions of land of Muskoka, dotted with its picturesque lakes, and pencilled over with its numberless rivers and rivulets, and we will wend our way northward to the *Island of Manitoulin and the North Shore of Lake Huron*. These districts are a long way apart,—so far apart and so difficult of communicating that the clergy rarely if ever see one another. When the railway is built it will be different,—but at present the only feasible way of getting from Manitoulin to Muskoka is by going round by Collingwood and Orillia through the Toronto Diocese; and in the winter when the upper part of the Lake is frozen even this means of intercourse is withdrawn. Perhaps some have wondered why our late beloved Bishop did not remain at Sault Ste. Marie during the winter months. The reason simply was that, so soon as navigation closed, he would have been *completely shut off from the lower portion* of his Diocese;—and so he devised and carried out the wise plan of giving the summer months to Manitoulin and Lake Superior and the winter to Muskoka. Within the last few months a railway has been brought to *within seventy miles of the Sault* through the State of Michigan, so the difficulty now is lessened, and by making a round of some six hundred miles it is possible now to get from Sault Ste. Marie to Muskoka even in the winter. By and bye there will be a railroad through Canadian Territory, and then it will only be a matter of a day's journey to get from the Central to the Eastern portion of the Diocese.

But there is no railway yet, so we must go by the old route. Leaving Muskoka we take train from Gravenhurst through Orillia and Barrie to Collingwood; thence, if it be summer time, we can proceed by steamboat a distance of 100 miles to *Little Current on the Great Manitoulin Island*. There we are met by the *Rev. R. Hill*, who, like Mr. Mosley, of Parry Sound, is one of the old veterans of the Algoma Diocese, having been settled at his present post some years before the Diocese was set apart.