

Mission lot We became the guide of the party, and so secured an inexpensive trip down.

On our arrival at the river we found the people with one accord in one place praying and making supplication unto God. It was our delight to mingle our petitions with theirs for the blessing of a loving Providence on the youthful colony.

On the morrow we ascended the river and took observations. The land is rich and easily cultivated. The wood is abundant and varied: from the soft poplar to the hard oak, from the useless elm to the profitable maple. The natural hay grounds are the finest we have ever seen in forest land. Fish are plentiful beyond the river's mouth among the adjacent islands. Fur is said to abound in the recesses of the immediate woodland. Nature seems to have provided everything necessary for the support and happiness of a thrifty people. The Indians are delighted and thankful both to the Government and to Providence for the Reserve that has fallen to their lot. The chief gracefully allowed us the privilege of choosing a situation for ourselves anywhere within the bounds of the Reserve where no one had already settled. We chose the foot of the first rapid, the limit of navigable water. The ground is high. The site is central. There are landing privileges above and be-

low the rapid. A bridge would be inexpensive and easily made. So far as our judgment goes, no other unoccupied spot in the Reserve possesses equal merit. The frontage is nine chains. It has already been surveyed, and in due time will be deeded to the Methodist Missionary Society.

We found that Thomas Hope, the interpreter whom Bro. Ruttan allowed to accompany the people from Norway House, labours among them with great assiduity and acceptance. An unfinished house has been borrowed for the winter. Thomas Hope, with the help of the people, has completed it. Windows were sent over from here. A stove has been rented, and service will be regularly conducted and the school kept open for the winter. We have promised to visit them quarterly and administer Sacraments. The people are anxious for a minister the next summer, and if authority could be obtained, would, I think, help to prepare the way for building.

Thirty more families, it is said, will follow next summer, early, and altogether it will be a large and interesting charge for any minister.

Anxious to receive instructions as to what movements are to be made in the matter of establishing a Mission at Fisher River, I ventured to urge the propriety of preparing the heavy timber immediately.

*From the same, dated January 30th, 1878.*

The last two months have to me been months of unusual toil and activity. I have hardly had an idle day. All the outposts of this mission have been visited, baptisms have been performed, and sacraments administered, and it seems but proper for me to give you some account of the work of God at the several appointments.

At Poplar River I met nearly all the people, and preached to them of the provision made for our spiritual well-being both in time and in eternity. When my discourse was ended several manifested a desire

to speak. One, the chief, spoke at great length, solicited teaching from us, confessed their need of enlightenment, and implored us to become their spiritual guides to the better country. Others desired another day to be set apart for service and discussion, and their request was acceded to. Next day many came. We spoke to them of our great need of God and of God's ability to supply our every want. After the sermon one old man, evidently the spokesman of the rest, got up and avowed his attachment to Paganism, and declared his intention of remaining a heathen