

LAKE SIMCOE.

The Indians at this Mission do not occupy higher grounds, temporally or spiritually, than they did when the last Report was made,—there having been placed in the way of their advancement several very great impediments. The unsettled state of their temporal affairs has produced a most discouraging and injurious influence upon their minds;—the intimations which they have received that they hold their present settlements by an uncertain and precarious tenure have greatly tended to paralyse their energies and to keep back their improvement.

Certain measures are now in progress which will secure them, as far as possible, from any kind of aggression; and, since the Indians have been made acquainted with this fact, their gloom has been in a great measure dissipated—their confidence restored—and they have again entered upon the cultivation of their lands. New fences have been set up around various inclosures, the shouts of the Indians to their ploughing oxen have resounded through the settlement, and the village has presented an aspect of cheerfulness to which it has long been a stranger. But notwithstanding their various discouragements, there is still much genuine piety amongst them; and it is a pleasing circumstance that their principal chief is a sober, good man, and a firm friend to our cause. At our last Quarterly Meeting most of the Indians belonging to the settlement were present;—they looked quite clean and well—tears flowed from their eyes; and many of them were heard to exclaim—“Lord, it is good for us to be here.” The work amongst the white settlements on the Penatanguishene Road is in a state of growing prosperity. In the immediate vicinity of the Indian village, hearens and members are increasing. Our work amongst the New Settlements includes a tract of country of between 50 and 60 miles in extent:—We have about twenty regular Preaching-Places—twelve Classes—and one hundred and forty Members;—being an increase, during the two past years, of about one hundred and eighteen.

COLDWATER.

At this place we have three good Classes embracing upwards of sixty Members, one very acceptable Local Preacher, and two good Exhorters—all Indians. These kind and affectionate people are truly pious; and, although labouring under peculiar trials, yet they have not been removed from the Hope of the Gospel, but are living and walking together in the fear of the Lord—endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. From the small Tribe of French River Indians we have collected a Class of fifteen praying members, including the head chief and his family. All these have been baptized, and furnish pleasing evidences of their conversion.