

## John Rodd.

**J**OHN RODD, whose death at the Shingwauk Home we had the sad duty of recording in our last number, came from Sarnia. He had recently commenced his apprenticeship in our printing office, and was supported at the time of his death by St. Peter's S. S., Toronto. John was one of the first boys who

came to our institution, having arrived in the month of September, 1873, when our first Home, the long frame building at Garden River, was only just completed; indeed it was not quite completed, as will be seen from the accompanying sketch, for the bare laths still appear on the walls, not yet having been covered up with plaster.



The group represents the arrival of the Sarnia children in charge of the Rev. John Jacobs, the native minister from that place. On the right hand, behind Mr. Jacobs, are Mary Anne, who has been supported ever since her arrival by the Tecumseth parochial association; next to her, with a shawl over her head is Nancy, who used to be supported by Holy Trinity S. S., Toronto; behind her, a head taller, is Mary Jane who was formerly maintained by All Saints' Collingwood. To her right, with a hood on, is Betsy Corning who was then supported by St. Thomas' Hamilton; and lastly, the tall girl, Eliza Jane, who was maintained by Mrs. Barker Jones. On the other side, behind Mr. Wilson, the first boy is John Rodd. Behind him is Tommy Winter, the boy who ran away from the Mohawk Institution, and in front, with a scotch cap is Jimmy Greenbird, who was then, and is still, maintained by Miss Peache, England.

When John came to us he was a fat little fellow of about ten years old, a good obedient boy, always ready to work and

do what he was told, and quick at learning. There was no school-room in the old institution, but the children all used to tramp down to the school-house every morning which was about half a mile off. The school-master was Mr. Frost, who is now catechist at Shequiandah; he had been a bootmaker in England, and so, in addition to teaching the children to read and write, he had his bootmaking class twice a week; and there was a cupboard in the schoolroom where the clamps and lasts and shoemaker's wax and leather were stowed away.

The opening of the first Home did not take place until the 22nd. of September, but most of the children had arrived some time before this date, so there was regular school every day, and all was got into good working order. Of the children who were with us at this time, and who "passed through the fire," we still have three, viz: Benjamin Shingwauk, Jimmy Greenbird, and Tommy Winter. On Monday, the 22nd. of September was the grand opening; the