

On the 24th of last September Mr. Hurlburt wrote,—We occupy our new school-house to-day for the first time. It is one half larger than the room occupied since our arrival : it is 25 by 29 feet inside. Our population has increased

from natural causes more than 20 over the deaths since our arrival. Miss Adams has 101 on her school-register. Such a host of little ones I never saw in the same population.

## OXFORD HOUSE.

*Extracts from the Journal of the Rev. Robert Brooking.*

*Jackson's Bay*, Tuesday, Jan. 1, 1856. To-day we had our New-Year's Feast, for which the Indians had been for some time providing, and to which they had contributed about twenty beavers, 150 rabbits, several pieces of venison, a little sugar, &c. Tea and sugar were contributed by the Mission. About two hundred, men, women and children, were present, being nearly two-thirds of the tribe; and the day passed pleasantly away. It is quite a novelty for these people to sit at a table, and to use knives and forks; and it was rather amusing to see the shifts to which some of them were put; but, upon the whole, they manifested a tolerable degree of decorum. The women were placed at the table, by the sides of their husbands; and, as they were respectably dressed, the sight was very pleasing.

6th, Sunday.—Baptized a young man of promising appearance, by the name of David Alcorn; also an infant.

7th, Monday.—To-day the men went to the woods to saw lumber for our buildings; and one is engaged in getting out logs for filling up, of which we shall want over two hundred, besides beams and rafters. The frame-work was all got out last winter. All these logs, beams, rafters, as well as the boards have to be brought to the Mission, on dog-sleds, a distance of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles.

10th, Thursday.—The weather continues intensely cold. I have several times had parts of my face frozen.

23rd, Sabbath.—Our congregations are small, as most of the Indians are off to their hunting-grounds. They have not been quite so successful, in getting fur this year, as they were last; but they have fared a great deal better, as both rabbits and fish have been more plentiful.

27th, Thursday.—On Monday a family came home who have not been here

for nearly a year, although they have a comfortable house on the Mission; so this evening I went over and had some conversation with them, during which I sharply reproved them for their neglect of the means of grace. Since they were here last, the mother of the husband has died: she was very old, and blind with age. Indeed, from what I could gather from them, she must have been nearly, if not quite, a hundred years old. She was baptized, and a member of Society. She reposed on Christ, and her last audible communication was, "*I am very happy.*" This is the second adult that has died in the faith since we came on the Mission.

29th, Saturday.—This morning, and yesterday morning, for about three hours, there was a striking and beautiful phenomenon on the Lake. The sun was shining out clearly, and not a particle of haze was visible, when all the islands appeared to be doubled, and, in some cases, even trebled; while the most distant shores, which under ordinary circumstances are but just visible, on the horizon, were apparently so elevated as distinctly to be seen above the tops of some tall trees which stood on an island, between the shores and us, about two miles from us. The whole thing appeared so natural and beautiful that it would have effectually deceived a stranger.

30th, Sabbath.—I preached from "Prepare to meet thy God": great attention was paid, and I would venture to hope that some good was done; at least, if tears be a manifestation of feeling, some felt.

31st, Monday.—Every appearance of an early Spring; great thaw to-day. Busy clapboarding the front of the house.

April 1st, Tuesday. Still soft weather, and the snow going off very fast. One of the Indians preparing materials