

his Lordship, and the distribution of prizes to successful students. There was no want of animation in the dusky faces now, nor question of interest in what was going on. As Wanbegezis, the head-boy received his honours he was greeted with as much enthusiasm as would have been evinced by any school of white boys for their medalist, and no less pleasure was manifested when little "Pete," the baby of the school was called up to take a prize. One of the brightest faces among the competitors was that of a small youth named Beesaw, who, I was informed, had complained that his examination was not difficult enough! I have not relied only on such external signs of intelligence but have studied the examination reports, and talked to the pupils, besides making enquiries on all sides with regard to the capacities of the Indian children, and am surprised to find it admitted that they would often put the children of the white man to shame. We have to remember that they have not only made a certain progress in the subjects they have studied, but that the work has to be done in which is to them a foreign language, and when this is considered the progress made is not only satisfactory but surprising. The Bishop at the prize giving suggested that the exhibition of specimens of the boot-maker's, and carpenter's skill on the occasion of the closing exercises would be interesting to visitors, but my lengthened stay here has enabled me to see both carpenter and bootmaker at work in their respective shops. Indeed I have had work done by the latter, and stood by while he adjusted a patch on a boot hardly stout enough for these rough Algoma roads. The present instructor at the Home in the Carpenter's department is an Indian who has been trained here, of whose work there are many specimens to be seen by those who will take the trouble to look for them. Of the agricultural pursuits I may also speak as I have seen the boys at work making hay, for though it is holiday time some volunteered to remain to keep the place in order during the summer months. It is hard work though in the hot sun while the others are away pleasuring, and it is no wonder that the labourer sometimes shows signs of drowsiness and weariness of his task. Truly it is not wonderful that these wild children of the soil find it hard to take to settled occupations. Who that has wandered among the lakes and backwoods of this Canada of ours, does not feel at times the charm of the nomad life creeping over him, and sigh just a little for the days when existence was simpler, wilder, freer? Let us not be too hard on them, our red brothers that they find it so difficult to yield to the pressure of the chains of our civilisation. Alas! did our boasted civilization appear more heavily laden with the fruits of christianity, did love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith blossom more abundantly in the white settlement which the Indian sees around him, he would not be so long, I am thinking, in casting in his lot with ours! But I must return to the subject of my theme, and in speaking of the workers I must not forget David, the captain of the school, who besides being an excellent workman is remarkable for his trustworthy qualities. He is a traveller having visited Toronto

where he was invited to spend some days by a lady friend of the Homes, and he gave me a very good account of what he had seen there. There was only one occasion on which I can say that I have seen David at work, as he went away for holidays soon after I came, but I was fortunate enough to have a seat in the 'Missionary,' the boat of the institution when she put off to greet the soldiers returning on the Athabaska. The Missionary was manned by the Indian boys, and commanded by David, on which occasion also the boys drum and fife band did good service, saluting the soldiers to the tune of "for he's a jolly good fellow" as the steamer glided by. I might wander on with descriptions of the Home and its surroundings. In summer time at least its attractions are sufficient to repay a visit, and lovers of the beautiful will find much to delight them in the lovely little chapel nestling among the trees, and the quiet little cemetery on the wild hill-side, girdled with trees, through which may be seen glimpses of a still woodland lake, a fitting resting place this for the remains of the first missionary Bishop of Algoma, his tomb surrounded by those of Indian children whom he loved so well, but time and space are limited, and I will only say more that was the work of these Homes better known, and understood I am sure the aid given would soon be doubled and the work extended. Mr. Wilson's desire to extend the work for the benefit of the Indians farther north has already been mentioned in the last number of the *Algoma News*, and an account of his journey thither with that end in view has been sent to the Church papers. It remains only for me to add, in case I have not made the moral of my little tale sufficiently clear, that my visits to the Shingwauk Home have strengthened my conviction that, though hearsay may be well enough when one can conscientiously find no surer means of information, yet no just or satisfactory impression of missionary work or anything else is to be gained without a little personal trouble, I may mention that the trouble of a visit to these parts is very slight since the C.P.R. boats have made the journey an easy and pleasant one, and the fare is moderate.

E. E. M. M.

Aug. 21st 1885. Shingwauk Home.

Huntsville.

The quarterly business meeting of all Saint's S.S. was held on the 29th inst. Rev. T. Llwyd in the chair. The reports as to attendance, finance, etc. showed the S.S. to be healthy and prosperous. The children's service was appointed to be held Aug. 9th and the pic-nic in Mr. Hunts' grove Aug. 13th. Thanks were expressed to the kind friends in Toronto who through the Incumbent and Mrs. Denton, have supplied the school with books and papers. The Supt. stated that a more liberal supply of S.S. papers was greatly needed.

GEO. ECCLESTON

Secretary.

July 7th 1885.