

Indians, however, for some time longer.* After his ordination he was taken on the roll of missionaries of the society for the propagation of the Gospel and received an annual grant of £50 sterling as "missionary at Woodstock, Northampton, Prince William and Queensboro' Towns, and Superintendent of the Indian school at Woodstock." In the year 1792, Bishop Inglis in his report to the S. P. G., makes the following statement concerning the Indians in Mr. Dibblee's neighborhood:—

That they are numerous and that 150 families reside near him, and about 100 families more occasionally visit those parts. That most of them have been instructed by Popish missionaries, but their prejudices wear off; many of them regularly attend our services and behave decently, and Mr. Dibblee thinks that as he is now in Priest's orders, they will bring their children to be baptized and put themselves under his care, for hitherto they had only considered him as Half a Priest. Mr. Dibblee is much beloved by the Indians and respected by the Whites, and has made some progress in the Indian language so as to be able to converse on common subjects, and is pursuing the study of it. As he has been already very diligent in his profession, and may be very useful in those parts the Society have furnished him with a quantity of Indian Prayer-books by the late excellent Col. Claus, and have granted him a gratuity of £20 pounds for his services with an intention, as soon as the preliminaries for a Mission is fixed, to take him into their service.

The simplicity of the society in sending out to the Maliseets a quantity of prayer books printed in the dialect of their hereditary enemies the Mohawks, is quite delightful.

Bishop Inglis goes on to say :

But the most remarkable occurrence with regard to the Indians is that they begin to think seriously of cultivating land and relinquishing their present wandering mode of life. The cause of this extraordinary revolution in their sentiments is a failure of their game in hunting, which has reduced them to the utmost distress; and as the failure is occasioned by an increase of our population, which goes on rapidly, their distress must also proportionably increase, and of this they seem sensible. Their sufferings point out to them the necessity of cultivating land for a subsistence, which they see it constantly affords to white people. * * The Indians in Mr. Dibblee's neighborhood have cleared and planted a considerable tract.

It appears from Mr. Dibblee's letter to Col. Isaac Allen that land was cultivated by the Indians at this time at the old Meductic fort, and on the Island opposite the town of Woodstock and also at the mouth of

* There is in possession of Francis E. Winslow, Esq., of Chatham, a memorandum in Mr. Dibblee's writing dated Aug. 6th, 1793, which contains the names of eight Indian pupils ranging from 9 to 17 years of age, and the remark is appended, "These attend me at my house, having been Disappointed in the English school, and improve in their Pronunciation." This is the latest existing record, so far as I am aware, of the Indian school at Woodstock.

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