

OUR PARISHES AND CHURCHES.

NO. 67.—ILFRACOMBE MISSION—DIOCESE OF ALGOMA.



HE mission of Ilfracombe has an area of about five hundred square miles, extending into the townships of Stisted, Chaffey, Perry, Cardwell, Monteith and McMurrich. The present incumbent is the Rev. L. Sinclair, who was placed in sole charge by Bishop Sullivan in August, 1888. In the centre of the mission is Christ church, which stands on the hill overlooking the lake of Ilfracombe.

This church was built of stone in the summer of 1886, during the incumbency of the Rev. John Manning. At that period the lake shore was settled all round by the learned class of English settlers, whose liberal financial help, combined with the addition of funds from England, enabled Mr. Manning to build such a church as now adorns the deserted locality; for all the above mentioned have left, and their memory is retained by their good works to the church, and the shut villas which line the lake shore. It is, however, gratifying to say that a good congregation of working settlers still assemble in the church for divine service, and do all they can to make the services at least encouraging to their pastor by their attendance. In connection with this church is a flourishing Sunday School with over fifty scholars, many of whom come a distance of over seven miles, over swamp and rough roads, and during the flood seasons have to walk through water and mire over a foot deep. The ages of the children, (chiefly girls), who have done this, are from seven years upwards. The success of the school is due, in a large measure, to the unflinching energy of the superintendent, Mr. Charles Smith. Very much credit also is due to Miss Catherine Jane Fair, who has taken a long and kind interest in the school as a teacher and friend to the children. About six miles from Ilfracombe, at Hoodstown, between Fox Lake and Lake Vernon, is St. Jude's Church, the congregation of which is most enthusiastic and devoted to the services of the church. St. John the Baptist's church is nearly twelve miles from Christ church, and at present has the largest congregation in the mission, and a Sunday School of over fifty scholars. The superintendent, Mr. John Tipper, with the help of his sister, Miss Lydia Tipper, and the other members of the family, have been very devoted to the church and Sunday School for a long period of years. St. Mary's church in Novar, a station town on the Grand Trunk Railway, is eight miles east of the centre. This church was built lately and is only advancing slowly for want of funds, but the congregation is good. A service is held also in a school house in Chaffey, five miles from the

centre. Axe Lake, nearly twelve miles west of Christ church, is another of the out-stations.

The above mentioned six stations are insufficient to meet the wants of the widely extended mission. The Rev. L. Sinclair has no horse and no parsonage. The whole mission is one vast labour in the way of travelling; and three services on one day, with the long distances between the churches, and considering that the roads are deep with snow, ice, mire and water in winter, and sand in summer, it will be easily understood that the sufferings endured by the clergyman, without any conveyance but walking, and in many cases running, must be beyond the strength of any ordinary man. The Church of England holds the undoubted pre-eminence in the Mission, and very many of the non-conformists are to be seen from Sunday to Sunday among the various congregations when they assemble for Divine service in the churches of Ilfracombe. The people are chiefly English, Scotch and Irish, are intellectual and hard-working, and have good and happy homes, though they are poor, so far as money is concerned.

Bishop Sullivan, in his report to the Colonial and Continental Church Society, July 1891, says:—"The Rev. L. Sinclair still occupies the mission of Ilfracombe, and has secured for himself a warm place in the affections, not only of his own parishioners, but of others who owe no allegiance to the Church of England. In labours he is indeed most abundant; for in actual truth his life is one long tramp from point to point, summer and winter. He never fails to keep an appointment, be the weather what it may. A missionary who sets such an example of faithfulness in his pastoral duties, and combines with this the declaration of a pure and undiluted Gospel, cannot fail to bind men to him as with links of iron."

No. 67.—THE MOHAWK CHURCH AND INSTITUTE.—II.

BY MISS FANNY SIMPSON.



HE Mohawk church, built about the year 1773, through the instrumentality of the celebrated Theyendenaga, is the successor of that old chapel of the Mohawks, to which, more than sixty years before, Queen Anne had presented the service of communion plate. It was the first Protestant church in Upper Canada and is interesting in many respects. It is fitted up in the Anglican style; the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and the Commandments in the Indian tongue being placed in the usual position above the communion table.

There is a neat altar cloth and a good little organ.

The Royal arms are conspicuous at the west