

the young men have any delicacy in asking such a favour from Jesus, she will do it herself. Matthew says she did, ch. 20 : 20 ; Mark says that James and John concurred in the request, ch. 10 : 35, "That we may sit, one on thy right hand, and the other on thy left hand, in thy glory." It was evidently a preconcerted affair, proceeding from a low ambition, quite unworthy their status and dignity as disciples. Jesus parried their question by allowing them to commit themselves still deeper before he exposed their folly. "Are ye able to drink of the cup that I shall drink of, and to be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?" "We are able," said they both. Know then, replied the Saviour that ye shall indeed be baptized with suffering, but your request cannot be granted, "To sit on my right hand and on my left, is reserved for them for whom it is prepared of my Father." Salome and her sons, we may be sure, retired abashed and humbled at the rejection of their petition and confounded by the mysterious prediction concerning themselves. The rest of the twelve protested indignantly against this ungenerous attempt of their brethren to forestall them, when Jesus, calling them around him, warned them all not to indulge in such unbecoming aspirations.

James was one of the disciples who, after the ascension, waited at Jerusalem for the descent of the Holy Ghost on the day of Pentecost, Acts 1 : 13. He was the first to be baptized with the baptism that Christ was baptized with. The story of his martyrdom is briefly told in the twelfth chapter of the Acts.—"About this time, Herod the king stretched forth his hands to vex certain of the Church : and he killed James the brother of John with the sword." The appointment of Herod Agrippa as King of Palestine was one of the first acts of Claudius Cæsar after his accession to the imperial throne, and the supposition is, that Herod signalized the commencement of his reign by this wanton act of cruelty to please the Jews. "That time" must have been about the end of A.D. 43, ten years after the crucifixion of Christ. No reason is assigned for James' execution. It would be enough that he was a prominent member of the hated sect of Nazarenes, and a fearless and faithful defender of the faith. Eusebius, quoting Clement of Alexandria, relates how that James' accuser, "beholding his confession,

and moved thereby, confessed that he, too, was a Christian, so they were both led to execution together." The Spaniards hold to the tradition that between the period of Christ's ascension and James' martyrdom at Jerusalem, this apostle spent several years in Spain preaching, founding churches and working miracles. Be that as it may, Saint James (*Santo Jago*) is to this day esteemed the patron Saint of Spain, and his tomb is shown in Compostella in that kingdom ; for they will have it that, after his decapitation by Herod Agrippa, his body was brought to Spain, and buried amid the scenes of his labours.

Mission to Lumbermen.

REV. W. SHEARER, of Aylwin, and Rev. D. L. McKechnie, of Mattawa, give encouraging reports of their visits to the Shanties this winter.

There is probably no Mission of our Church, that accomplishes so much good with so little outlay as this Mission. It is to be hoped that the congregations of the Synod of Montreal and Ottawa, upon whom it depends for support, will not forget it in their annual apportionments.

The Lumbermen's Camp was one of the great attractions at the recent carnival in Montreal. When we picture hundreds of such camps, filled with men in the backwoods, far from church and civilization, we see the need of such a mission as that which our church maintains. Funds are urgently needed to carry on and sustain the work. Contributions may be sent to Rev. Dr. Armstrong, Ottawa, Convener, or to Rev. R. H. Warden, Montreal.

Our Church has been struggling faithfully for the improvement of public morals—the promotion of temperance—the better observance of the Lord's Day—the suppression of all forms of vice—and not without success. Progress may be slow, but it is none the less real. What is gained in other countries may serve as an encouragement to us. In the matter of Sabbath Observance we see it reported that the greatest railway corporation in Pennsylvania—probably the greatest in America—has ordered the cessation of all unnecessary work on its lines. Who knows, but the example may prove contagious?