

*Jackson's Bay, Dec. 3d, 1856.*—Our health, I am thankful to say, continues tolerable; and, so far, the winter has passed pleasantly away. After the Indians had "*taken their debt*", at the Fort, in the fall, quite a number of them came here and spent several days, many of them for the first time; and I had, therefore, a favourable opportunity of speaking to them. At that time several couples were married; and others gave their names for the banns to be published, so that they might be married on their return to the Mission in the Spring. We have now twenty-five couples married according to the rites of the Christian Church. Several others also joined the Society; so that we have now four Classes, with eighty-four members. Our means of grace are very much appreciated by our people; and, consequently, when they are at home, are always well attended. Our last Quarterly Meeting, in September, was very interesting: we had quite a large attendance: many came in their canoes more than twenty miles, to be present at it. It is also very pleasing to know that their religion does not consist merely in attendance on the public means of grace, but that those who are heads of families conscientiously have prayer with their families, wherever they may be. Christianity is improving their general appearance. Those who have houses are evidently desirous of making them as neat and comfortable as possible. Not long since one of the men came to say that he wanted fringe to trim *the skirt of his bed* (*Ne-ba-win abog-wi-on*), by which he meant the hanging for his bed; and I cannot tell you how many ladies' dresses, and white shirts, Mrs. Brooking has got to cut out and make by Christmas.

I shall now proceed to copy some extracts from my Journal, commencing from the date of my last communication:—

June 17th, Tuesday.—The weather quite cold and unsettled. About noon an Indian brought us a number of papers from *Canada*: fully expected to have heard from Mr. Wood and Mr. J. Ryerson, as it is now just a year since we heard from either of them; but to our great surprise and disappointment, no letter came from either. I cannot account for this silence. [Both had writ-

ten repeatedly, but the letters had unaccountably failed to arrive.]

18th, Wednesday.—Working in the garden to-day: planted out the last of the cabbage plants. The garden and potatoes look much better now, than they have at any time since we have been here. The musquitoes are now very numerous and troublesome.

20th, Friday.—We have only one family left on the Mission, the Indians having gone away to the Islands in order to exchange their fish for pemmican and flour, with the passing boats. Very busy during the greater part of the week, in repairing and caulking the large boat. I have to do all these things with my own hands, as there is no one here who can do anything of the kind.

22nd, Sabbath.—Just before service this morning, a canoe was seen approaching the Mission: it proved to be Mrs. Sinclair's brother, who brought us a letter from Mr. Hurlburt. By this man I learnt that the Norway-House Brigade had encamped on an island about ten miles off, where they intended passing the Sabbath; consequently we had our service a little earlier than usual, and in the afternoon went off and held a service with them, for which they appear to be very thankful.

26th, Thursday.—The weather for the last two days has been very stormy, with large quantities of rain; but to-day it is quite warm and pleasant. Having finished and launched the large boat, we went up the river to fetch home some pickets, this afternoon. No less than six canoes arrived, this evening, from the Fort, bringing the wives and children of the men who have gone in the boats. This is as it should be: last year they all remained at the Fort during the absence of the boats; but this year they are spending their time on the Mission, so that their children may have the benefit of the school.

27th, Friday.—To-day repairing the small boat. Sixteen canoes have come from the Fort to-day, some of them bringing wives and children of the boatmen, and others, with strange Indians. Several of the Indians have called on us, and we find that they are most of them anxious to embrace Christianity. Two of them are rather old men, and each of them has two wives: they wanted to be baptized; but I told