

We had time before the winter fairly set in to put up a chapel adjoining the small house built the winter before for Miss Brodie's residence and school. Before the river was frozen, a quantity of logs were cut and boated down from the larger wood found a few miles above the settlement. These, sawn in two, and set up right, made the wall of the building—the round, rough side, with the bark left on, being placed out. The seams were caulked with moss, a process called "stogging," which, with newspapers pasted upon the smooth surface of the inside, rendered the wall considerably tight. The roof was made of birch-bark carefully placed upon the closely laid rafters, and kept in its place by a heavy layer of turf. Through this a hole was cut for the stove-pipe. The bushes were cut away a few feet from the windows, so as not to intercept the light, which in the short afternoons of early winter is little enough. The "banking" around the building, which the frozen ground obliged us to leave unfinished, was well finished and perfected when winter heaped its snow-banks half on the windows. Cold weather now rapidly came on. The river and its large bays above us, suddenly freezing, imprisoned their rafts, boats and men, the latter encountering what to people in other countries would be dangerous hardship, before they reached the settlement. Storm followed storm till the average depth of snow in the woods, when settled down, was six feet. Farther inside, the Indians tell me, it was nine feet, while the wind piled it in walls around some of our houses, so high that staircases were cut down to the doors, and avenues to the windows. Although we have experienced no such terrible "drift" storms as in the previous winters, the cold was steadily and almost uninterrupted severe till a few weeks ago. For several days in February, the morning temperature ranged from 23 to 36 degrees below zero. There are even now large quantities of snow on the ground, and the river with the outside bays are still frozen so as to be travelled over with the Koomatik. Our house was made comfortable, so that we have suffered very little when in it from the inclemency of the weather. The people have kindly brought us wood and water, and I have had no need to hire any labour.

Our settlement, you will understand, is composed of families who live on various islands and points during the summer for the prosecution of their different fisheries. When the fish is dried and disposed of in September, they nearly all remove their dwelling-places to more sheltered situations—nearer also to the wood and to their hunting-grounds. The location of the winter-station of our Mission at this point on the river is drawing, and will doubtless draw, the shoremen more together here to spend that season.

The number of families this winter is 14, and the population between 80 and 90. This does not include, of course, many other families out of the settlement, who in different ways come under the influence of the mission. The men spend the winter in procuring fuel, and in hunting. While engaged in the latter, they carry provisions with them and stop at night at little cabins away "inside," which are the common property of the hunters, usually returning, however, before the Sabbath. A merciful Providence has especially favoured them the past winter in regard to game; for, while we hear from other parts of the coast of want and starvation, deer, ptarmigans and rabbits have been plentiful here. The day school, which we have only the past week closed, and the principal care of which devolved upon Miss Brodie, has been attended by forty scholars. Many of these were unable to read at all when the term commenced; now, there are scarcely any who cannot read in the New Testament. An evening school has also been kept for the instruction of the young men of the settlement, which has been, we believe, instrumental of good. Both this and the day-school, although requiring much of our time and strength, we consider as valuable and almost indispensable auxiliaries in the greater work of evangelization.

In this work, the direct means have been very simple. The Gospel of Christ and Him crucified has been continually preached and taught.

I held on the Sabbath two meetings—religious service in the forenoon, and a Sabbath School Meeting in the afternoon. I am glad to say that both these