

Correspondence.

OUR INDIAN MISSION.—As Mr. Lister and Miss Baylis have just returned from the upper waters of Lake Huron, it seems a fitting time to say a few words about the work during 1875. Mr. Lister's engagement began 15th May. After visiting the Indian Church at Saugeen Reserve, he sailed from Owen Sound, with two Indians, in the Mission boat "Aurora" for Spanish River and other points north. Miss Baylis had gone up by steamer about the same time, and opened her Indian school for the season. George Richards, the native teacher at Sheshewahning (N. W. part of Manitoulin Island), was glad to be relieved, on account of the sickness of his wife. Eli Richards was installed as temporary teacher; and, considering his youth, did some excellent service during the summer.

James Nahwageesock, who had so long been Miss Baylis's volunteer interpreter at Spanish River, was employed as teacher at Serpent River, and remains there all winter. James, as soon as the ice is formed, will make monthly visits to Sheshewahning (30 miles across), staying a week at a time. W. Walker, native pastor at Saugeen, was "chief pilot" of the Mission boat, and for a month was of great service to Mr. Lister, as interpreter and spokesman, in visiting the migratory bands on the islands and shores of those waters. The Missionary had a very considerable amount of acceptance among the pagan Indians, and several who were very shy of committing themselves to any prospective change of religion, were very willing that their children should have the advantage of Christian schools, and be trained up in the Christian religion.

Miss Baylis has been tried by a falling off in the attendance at her school, consequent upon the dulness of the lumber trade, and the smaller number of Indians in employment at Spanish River Mills.

This, however, will pass away. The comfortable (summer) premises are in good repair, and will accommodate the children of all the former Indian families when they get work at the mills again. Her self-denying labours exert a most beneficial effect on the whole settlement, Indians and whites. At all these places great efforts are made to have the law strictly carried out which forbids liquor being sold or given to Indians.

Mr. Lister was some weeks labouring at Sheshewahning in the fall. The old chief seems inclined to make peace with the priest again, though the more independent of his braves are quite in sympathy with more evangelical views. At a farewell tea meeting which Mr. Lister gave them before coming away, a great deal of speech-making was done, which revealed how the heaven was working; and two young men, one a grandson of the old chief, determined, come what would, to leave Rome for ever, seek an education among the whites, and qualify themselves to teach and preach among their brethren. They came down with Mr. Lister when he left those waters.

The Indian Church at Saugeen is going on steadily, evincing a sound hold of Christian principles in the morals and lives of the people. Here and elsewhere the strong taste of the Indians for musical exercises is made good use of to their spiritual improvement.

Mr. Lister sets out immediately to visit a number of the churches on behalf of the Mission. Let me hope that as a present stranger, but a prospective friend, he may be warmly welcomed for his Master's sake and for his work's sake; and as many opportunities given him as may be for telling, before churches and Sunday-schools, of his toils and prospects in a difficult field.

W. W. SMITH.