

responding sense of the obligation resting upon themselves, in consequence of what "the Lord hath ordained, that they who preach the Gospel should live by the Gospel."

The above will probably occupy as much space in your columns as you can allot to one communication. I therefore refrain from writing more at present, but shall send you (D. V.) some account of our next meeting of *Presbytery*, to be holden at Breckwith, on Tuesday, Feb. 26.

I am, my dear sir,

Yours, very truly,

THOMAS WARDROPE.

Clerk, Perth Presbytery.

Blytown, Feb. 18, 1850.

To the Editor of the Record.

WOODSTOCK, C. W., March 13, 1850.

DEAR SIR.—It always gives me pleasure to hear of the prosperity of Zion, especially of our own part of it. I feel as if I had received something personally, when I hear of progress made in any part of the church. Others no doubt have the same feelings. This induces me to send you a short account of our progress here.

In the early part of the summer a very fine site for a church was presented by a wealthy member of the congregation, and the building was commenced in June last. It is now so far finished that we are enabled to worship very comfortably in the basement story; The Church is built of white brick, 42 by 60 feet, and with a basement. It stands on an elevated situation, and is conspicuous for many miles around.

On the 8th and 9th of February, the ladies of the congregation held a bazaar and soiree, to aid the Building Committee to meet the heavy demands which the undertaking brought upon them. The day was very favourable, and the proceeds of the bazaar and soiree amounted to £32 13s. 0d., which, after deducting £8 or £10 for cost of materials, &c., &c., enabled us to pay a handsome instalment of our debt. We have great reason to be thankful for the result in a pecuniary point of view; but there are other causes of thankfulness which we are called to notice; for there was the greatest kindness and friendly feeling shown by the members of other denominations, who shared, not only the sociality, but the labours of the occasion. We cannot too warmly express the grateful feelings we cherish towards Christians of other denominations, who were liberal purchasers at the bazaar; especially must we mention the kindness of those ladies who assisted in the laborious preparations for the soiree, and provided even tables in the evening. There was another pleasing feature of the proceedings, viz., the activity shown by so many of the young persons, of both sexes, of our congregation. To mention names would be invidious. Every member of the congregation seemed to feel a personal interest in the matter, and unitedly and willingly all did their share. While we rejoice that so much has been done, we do not forget that much is yet to be done. The basement story is seated, but not plastered. Nothing is done to the upper story but the laying of the floor, and if the boarded window frames speak of our poverty they speak of our honesty too. A considerable debt still hangs over us, and we do not wish to proceed till we have means to do so; and although we have only the unplastered stone walls of a basement story to worship in, we are thankful for having so much. At the same time, any aid which our friends may kindly send us from abroad will be most welcome. Any remittances addressed to our treasurer, JOHN DOUGLAS, saddler, will be thankfully received.

I am,

Yours truly,

Wm. S. BALL.

THE TONGUE.—By examining the tongue of the patient, physicians find out the disease of the body, and philosophers the disease of the mind.

## SAUGEEN.

We gladly give a place to the following interesting account of Saugeen and its aboriginal population, from an intelligent gentleman who is well acquainted with the locality, and has had the best opportunity for observing Indian character in its various phases. We hope often to hear from him, and will have pleasure in publishing, as we know he has in recording, anything connected with the triumphs of redeeming grace:—

MY DEAR MR. BURNS,—

According to promise, I now proceed to give you a short account of this section of country; first, very briefly, a few particulars of the place itself, and then, a little more fully, something about its highly interesting population.

The country is called, in the Indian language, *Saugeen*, which, being interpreted, signifies "the mouth of the river." It lies about sixty miles north of Goderich, and about twenty-two west of the fast-rising village of Sydenham. Few places that I have seen offer more advantages than it does, for those looking for a permanently earthly home—possessing as it does a most productive soil, a healthy climate, numerous water privileges, an extensive seaboard, on the one hand, and an interior navigation for craft of a small description to the distance of eighty miles into the very centre of Canada, and which, for so much of it as has been surveyed, has been pronounced to be so excellent, as likely eventually to become the Garden of Canada—on the other, a by no means contemptible harbour, and for varied beautiful scenery, exceeding any thing I have yet seen. To give you one instance only. I have seen a scene there which has ever since strongly reminded me of nature's second marriage with her rightful Lord, that I even now see it vividly before my mind. It was on one of those lovely calm mornings, when, as it were, nature having had a refreshing sleep, presents around a prevailing smile, and, in its solitary silent stillness, sends forth a song of praise, sweeter far than even the sweetest of "Scott's" sacred lays—it's ready, cheerful obedience being its song. Huron's wide bosom being cruised over, for the first time this season, presented the idea of an ample robe of purest white—a strong refraction reflecting this, gilded the picture with a transparent belt, and united it with an almost perpetual mirage, which served more to give enchantment to the scene, than perhaps any other thing connected with it, varying and changing in its active form, would now present, as it were, a numerous rejoicing company, and next, a stillness which showed that order and harmony were there. The ethereal vault, in its deepest azure, enshrouded all, and in its midst the brilliant orb of day, irradiating its grateful beams with more than usual lustre. In short, and so complete a picture, which I believe neither poet nor painter could finish, methought I could once more hear this delightful sentence pronounced over the head of parent earth. "And God saw every thing that he had made and behold it was very good."

The "Saugeen Tract," as it is called, being as yet unsurveyed, of course possesses but a small population of Europeans—it, however, has an Indian population of some two hundred all told. These are located on the right bank of the river, about a mile and a half from its entrance, and have, through a healthful missionary influence, attained that degree of civilisation which enables them to appreciate such dwellings, as are generally occupied by "whites" on their first betaking themselves to the forest life—these are so placed in comparatively close neighborhood, as to form something like a regular village. The houses being all of one form, and generally of one size and in line, present a uniformity rather agreeable than otherwise. In the midst of the village a Wesleyan Church of rather an imposing appearance presents itself conspicuously to the view, and is

the more grateful to the eye, for being found so far in the backwoods. The situation of the village is one of the loveliest imaginable, being on an elevated table land, which commands a view alike of several windings of the beautiful meandering Saugeen and its low lying banks, on which rather unexpectedly are to be seen grazing on its verdant sward, cattle in goodly numbers. A sufficient extent of the forest has been cleared, to indicate that agriculture is beginning to be substituted for the chase; but much more—a little cluster of boys and girls are, at certain hours, to be seen gathering together at a particular spot.—These, doubtless, are to be the future "forests of pine and myrtle that will yet clap their hands," when the present "thorns and briers" shall have been cleared away, if they have not already been removed. Indeed, from what I have seen, I am inclined to think that this happy change has at least to some degree already taken place. If I did not witness some evidence of it at a meeting of theirs on last Christmas day, I am surely sadly mistaken, and to give you some faint idea of it I shall attempt to describe it.

The Saugeen Indians held a Soiree, or as they themselves called it, a feast, on Christmas last, to which I was invited. It was held in their church, the only building in which they could all meet. Every "variety of the season" got up in a neat, clean, and orderly manner, was lavishly heaped upon two lengthened tables, each extending from end to end of the Church, the walls of which were most tastefully decorated with flags, pictures, evergreens, and every other agreeable *et cetera*. Four rows of men, each with his better half by his side, being seated at a board arranged after the European style, a portly chief was asked to implore a blessing. This being done in the soft and mild language of the tribe, and with a gracefulness that gave much expression to the act, the cheerful repast began. One company succeeded another at the board until all were served, each separate company being first dismissed, whilst another was invited, by the melody of sacred music, which, for sweetness, variety, and fullness of tone, would leave far in the shade what is sometimes called music, because sung where better singing is expected. This being over, a motion was made to elect a chairman, who was appointed to regulate the amusements of the evening. The choice fell on a shrewd, sensible old man, who, on assuming the chair, bowed gracefully, and acknowledged the plaudits of the company. Forthwith he named a number of individuals in the assembly, whom he gave to understand should be called upon, during the course of the evening, to give addresses on *Temperance*, for the amusement as well as edification of the company there met. The first he called upon stood up, and with a readiness, a dignity, and confidence, commenced an address which, for matter, manner, and effect, equalled, if not exceeded, anything of the kind I have seen or heard on such a subject. One orator succeeded another in the order in which they had been first named by the chairman, whilst a delightful choir gave a most agreeable variety to the amusements of the evening, by filling up each space of time with the sweetest melody in which, above anything else, they excel. The last who spoke was Misquah-quah, or the "red cloud." He spoke for about half an hour, and gave, as the substance of his address, the following, as near as I can remember:—"Mr. Chairman," said he, "and dear friends, I rejoice exceedingly at the favourable view in which the Indian character is now placed, compared with that which my early recollection calls forth. Then, when any feast was to be held, it was the first care of the women to conceal the bows and arrows, guns, axes, spears, and scalping knives, because they were well assured that as liquid fire was to form a prominent article of the feast, there was the greatest danger of the one brother imbruing his hands in the blood of the other, in the course of their uproarious feast; but now no such necessity exists, as the entire absence of such a pernicious article, together with the ac-