

The young men dressing the Church with evergreens, and I have been trimming a large chandelier. To-night, at the usual time, we all assembled to hold the watch-night; we had a delightful time; after the sermon, several addresses were delivered by our native brethren, with singing and prayer. After the close of the service, they all shook hands with each other, and all manifested in their happy countenances, the most unalloyed delight. I have just looked into the kitchen, and the floor is covered with provisions for the Feast to-morrow; a man has to remain there all night to keep up a good fire in the stove to prevent the things from freezing.

January, Thursday 1st, 1857.—New Year's Day.—The Indians' countenances are radiant with joy this morning; they are all dressed in their best clothes, and are going around wishing each other a happy New Year.

Noon.—The things are all now collected for the Feast, the tables are spread and the Indians are gathering to partake of the good cheer.

Evening.—The Feast has gone off in good style. We could not make room for them all to sit down at once, so we had to make *three* removes, yet it was all over by 2 o'clock; all seemed to be satisfied, yet a good deal was left, which was eaten for supper. The afternoon was spent by the men at foot-ball, a game of which they are very fond.—At dark they were all collected, when, after supper, an address was delivered, and we closed by singing the Evening Hymn. Mrs. B. superintended the cooking department, and the arrangement of the tables, and consequently had her hands quite full. This seems a good time to review the past, and I am thankful to say that there is a very creditable improvement visible since the last New-Year's festival. We never had so many collected together before, nor have they ever looked so clean and respectable. This has been to all a delightful time since the holidays commenced; but they are now closed, and I am tired.

Saturday 3d.—This has been the coldest day we have had for the season; thermometer $43\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$, wind strong from N. W.

Sabbath 4th.—Still colder to-day than yesterday, the thermometer 44°

below zero. A good congregation and very attentive. I trust that their having come home to these services has been attended with good.

Monday 5th.—Many of the Indians have come to say "*wahchéa*," (supposed to be a corruption of the term "what cheer,") as they are now starting for their distant hunting grounds. About 11 o'clock, I went with the men about 9 miles up the lake to select a suitable place for a saw pit, in order to get out boards for clap-boarding and lining the Church; returned just after dark, having walked about 20 miles mostly on snow-shoes.

Thursday 8th.—We, this day, received letters and papers from Canada, and also several copies of the "Watchman" from England. A letter also came from Mr. Wood, dated on the 7th of last May, so that it has been on its way no less than 8 months. It is delightful to know that my proceedings have given general satisfaction to all concerned. Reading our letters and papers gives us very great pleasure.

Tuesday 13th.—As there is a prospect of my leaving this place for Rossville, Norway House, in the summer, I am anxious to get all done to the Mission that I possibly can, consequently I have been very busy all day making a door for the new study.

Saturday 17th.—Mr. Wilson came to pay us a visit and spend the Sabbath.

Sabbath 18th.—Very few at home, mostly females and children. This morning, just before concluding the service, the roof of the Church took fire, which caused no little commotion; it was occasioned by the defective manner in which the stove pipe was passed through the roof; providentially but little damage was done, and it was soon extinguished. A dwarf chimney must be made as early in the Spring as possible. Mr. Wilson left this evening.

Thursday 22nd.—Late last night I was sent for by poor old Benjamin Yates, who has been very ill for several months. In the beginning of December, on a Sabbath morning, while returning from Church, he ruptured a blood vessel in the lungs, and discharged a quantity of blood. I succeeded in stopping the hemorrhage, but in consequence of his having long suffered from pulmonary affection, and his