

the Sabbath-school of their own accord, which is encouraging. Before the frost set in, our house settled down considerably. It has started my family three times by its loud cracking. Some parts

of the floor are down three or four inches. When the frost begins to go away, I have some fear that the house will not give us another warning; however, we are trying to do our duty without complaining.

BRUCE MINES.

From the Rev. THOMAS WOOLSEY, 11th November, 1872.

I hasten to inform you that our Official Board were pleased to learn that \$240 had been appropriated by the Committee, a sum approaching so near to the \$250 solicited by them, that had the Mines remained as prosperous in their workings as they have been, I fully believe that the balance would have been raised,—and even now I am persuaded that every effort will be put forth to accomplish it, though Superintendent Williams has, in obedience to orders from England, dismissed a great number of the men, nearly all of whom have left for the States. Each steamer going up the Lakes has borne away some of our people. Yesterday, and the Sabbath before, were days of toil, anxiety, and painful separations, many being compelled to leave as rapidly as the vessels came. At least twenty-five men left yesterday. Our membership has been lessened considerably, but our congregation has suffered materially. Our official brethren have happily been continued to us so far, though we must not be too confident, as I hear that others are to go ere long. Merchants are very much cast down,—orders for winter stock have been countermanded; so you will perceive that we

have good cause for “hanging our harps upon the willows:” but still we “will rejoice in the Lord, and joy in the God of our salvation.”

You may rest assured that we were pleased to learn that the Committee had fixed the minimum salary of Domestic Missions at \$550, a sum which I am prepared to say is fully needed here, provisions being so very expensive, and having in many cases to be brought from a great distance. However, I will do my best to keep the work together, and to inspire the people with holy courage. They are a fine, noble-hearted people, and will, I am sure, do their duty.

The Union Church has been stained and varnished. The parsonage has had quite an addition to the furniture, as also a new boiler and a new parlor stove. I have papered one room and the staircase, and intend to paper all the other rooms. A good sacramental service has been obtained in the place of a black bottle and tumbler, and other expenses will probably be incurred: so you will see that our people have done considerable of late. I got the “service” in faith, and have paid for it. Three dollars are already promised.

SILVER ISLET.

From the Rev. J. H. KEPPEL, Silver Islet, Lake Superior, 1st October, 1872.

I am happy to say that a slight improvement in our prospects is apparent. Our congregation has increased to from 30 to 40 in the afternoon, and from 50 to 60 in the evening. Our morning congregation at the Islet is still small, averaging about 20. We have 30 children in our Sunday-school, after making up the loss of two families that have removed. I have visited Black Bay and Jarvis Island. At each place we have one member. The only way of visiting these places—the first being thirty miles from here, and the second 23—is by the Silver Islet Company's steam tug, and

this only remains long enough at each visit to unload, so that it seems at present impossible to preach to them. I am trying to do what I can for them by distributing tracts, and private conversation. At Black Bay there is a local preacher from Detroit, belonging to the Methodist Episcopal Church. He seems to be a devoted man, and is very anxious to be useful. Should the lake be sufficiently frozen over I will try in winter to visit these mines on snow-shoes, and I hope to remain long enough in each place to hold special services. Here we have five members,—three on the Islet, and