

Fort Hope is built on the south shore of the west end of the lake, and the buildings amount to only 5 or 6 in number. It is quite a new settlement, as it was only established five years ago by the H. B. Co., in order that they might secure the furs of those Indians who live in the vicinity of Eabamat Lake. Really, it has all the appearance of a backwood's settlement, as the ground has only partly been cleared. At the west end, stands a Roman Catholic Church just being erected, and at the east end stands the English Church, just going up also. So, having the H. B. Co.'s settlement between, there is no danger of the extremes meeting. Besides there is a creek between, separating us, each church having its own congregation on its own side.

The Indians of Fort Hope may be estimated at 500, all dependent on the H. B. Co. for the necessities of life, and with whom they carry on a brisk trade. They speak the pure Ojibbeway language and anyone speaking Cree to them is not understood. When I first began to teach among them, I knew very little about the Ojibbeway tongue, but after hard study and perseverance, I have succeeded so well as to be able to think and speak in their language now.

Though the Indians are nominally Christians, yet the ignorance and vice prevalent among them is a sad and deplorable. I could tell you many thrilling stories concerning their creeds and customs as heathens but time fails me, and I will reserve that item for another letter. One day as I was catechizing a group of Indians I asked them the question: Who is Jesus Christ? sad to say, but true nevertheless, not one of the group could tell me; they did not know there was a Son of God; they did not know there was a loving Saviour.

Ever since the day of my landing, I have been busy teaching, preaching, etc., having daily service morning and evening, and four services on Sundays, once, during the summer I visited Marten's Falls, and endeavoured to arouse them into Spiritual life.

In addition to my evangelistic work, I am also superintending the Church, planing and doing most of the work myself as Indian assistants are so stupid, that I cannot trust them even to drive a nail properly.