

three, and a discrepancy in the Minutes compared with circuit list, gave me a decrease of thirty-two.

The work during the year was not without its discouragements. Being a probationer and totally unaccustomed to Indian life, I frequently found myself inclined to be disheartened; still I struggled on, and gradually became interested in and even fond of my work and people. Having to leave them to themselves in the spring, and knowing I would be absent for some time, I did so with many regrets, but having faith in God, I committed them to His tender care until my return, which did not take place before July of last year. It was no small pleasure to me to find that the two faithful brethren in whose hands I left the church, had continued the two services each Sabbath without a solitary intermission. When one of these brethren took ill (an illness from which he died a few weeks after my return), another came forward and took his place. Still another who had never attempted to preach before, when a disappointment was pending, readily took the pulpit.

Since my return the work has been of a much more encouraging character. Nine of the young people have already joined with us. I organized four classes, but had to organize another, in order to avoid crowding. These things certainly give me much encouragement; but I am learning by dear experience that such evidences must not always be taken for their face value. By them the over-sanguine missionary is too apt to be led astray. One has to get below the surface and understand the domestic life of the people, and sometimes the revelations thus brought to light are not of the best character.

The work is tedious; it takes time to uproot old superstitions and plant the knowledge and wisdom of God, to give virtue the domain where vice and debauchery have so long held their sway. Still it can be done, and we have many evidences of the power of the grace of God to save to the very uttermost; and I do think that, considering the time that has elapsed since the commencement of missionary enterprise, and the many imported evils which have militated against the efforts of the missionary—evils whose power can only be understood by those who have to oppose them—the advancement made along the most approved lines of Methodist doctrine and discipline is marvellous indeed.

Personally I have no complaints to make. I enjoy the work, notwithstanding its many peculiarities. The travelling is at times pleasant, at other times not quite so pleasant. After struggling along with your faithful dogs, through snow and over bare patches of ice on the lake, throughout the weary hours of the days, wrapping one's self up in a blanket or "rabbit robe," under a tree, with the thermometer 30° or even 40° below zero, is not quite so comfortable or cheery as the hospitality afforded by the good farmers of Ontario or Manitoba. Still as long as the good people of Methodism do not compel the Mission Board to throw us on the tender mercies of the people for support, we can with a willing heart and ready hand, do our best for the cause we represent.

THE story of Joseph has been handed down from generation to generation in Beloochistan.

THE INDIAN WORK.

Walpole Island.—You will, I am sure, be glad to hear from us once more. Since the writing of my last letter the cottage revival work of our church has been kept up nightly by our class-leaders, exhorters, and local preachers, and the host of young men who are members of our Church Band workers. The result of those meetings shows the marks of permanent good in the lives of the converts; and many who have lived in a backslidden state, and some who had given way to dissipation, have both been reclaimed and become living members of the Church.

On last Quarterly Sunday, in place of the usual morning service, a love-feast was held, then the fellowship meeting followed, when our hearts were warmly stirred by the experiences of the young people and of well-tried Christians to the praise of the blessed Triune God. In connection with our evening service a sacramental service was held, and the church was completely filled, during which a divine solemnity reigned through the congregation. Many people of the other churches besides our own people, communed with us. A feeling of Christian unity prevails at present in the entire community. We thank God for this reign of the Divine Spirit.

It is with sadness I report that the number of deaths has been very great since I took charge of this mission. I have buried thirty persons, chiefly among children; among the number several members of our church, one an aged woman about 60, who gave a bright experience at our last quarterly meeting. As I pen these words, I call up a glowing memory of that familiar face,—a face that beamed with sacred bliss. While uttering these words: "I will serve my Saviour Jesus as long as my soul shall live," this thrilled every heart in the congregation, and incited us to sing as with one voice, the 15th Hymn of our Ojibway Hymn-book:

"How happy are they
Who their Saviour obey."

Immediately after three or four at a time rose to their feet, testifying to the blessed reality of Christian experience. Before another Sunday came our aged sister was gone to be with the saints in Paradise. This same woman, in our missionary services last fall, came forward to offer the last quarter she possessed in the world. Let us thank God that our efforts in the mission work are not without success. The outlay on this mission is not a loss to our missionary enterprise when we consider the souls that are safely landed on the shores of eternal rest.

Both the day-schools under our charge and the Sunday-school are progressing very favorably. We pray that God may make us a blessing to those children, and that the influence of the Holy Spirit may be still greater in the heart religion of those Islanders.

Alderville.—Perhaps it will interest you to know that our school has been the recipient of another very great honor. The essays written for the *Witness* competition last winter were published in the columns of that paper, with the understanding that the readers should have the privilege of voting as to which three of the same were the best-written stories. For this