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REPORT

OF THE

Mission to the Lumbermen

IN THE

VALLEY OF THE OTTAWA.

Presented to the Synod of the Presbyterian Church
of Canada in connection with the Church
of Scotland, June, 1871.

D. Gordon



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NOTE.

The following Report was presented and approved by the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada in connection with the Church of Scotland at its last meeting. It was deemed advisable, and was consequently determined, that the Report should be published and circulated in the interests of the Mission. Any contributions to the Mission, either in money or in appropriate literature, will be gratefully received by the undersigned.

DANIEL M. GORDON, B.D., *Convener.*
ANDREW DRUMMOND, *Secretary-Treas.*

OTTAWA, JULY 1ST, 1871.

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REPORT.

In presenting their third Annual Report, the Committee on the Mission to the Lumbermen desire to acknowledge the goodness of the Great Head of the Church in the success which has attended their labours, and to recognize therein a renewed call to diligence and fidelity.

Your Committee were enabled to secure the services of two ordained Clergymen during part of last winter, viz: of the Rev. Hugh Cameron, who was, however, unable to engage in the work as long as he expected or desired, and of the Rev. H. J. Borthwick, who spent two months in visiting the shanties in the districts of the Gatineau, Colonge and Black River. The nature and extent of the work accomplished by these Clergymen may best be shewn by abstracts of the detailed reports which they presented to the Committee.

The Rev. Mr. Cameron reports as follows:—

“By the appointment of the Rev. H. J. Borthwick, A.M., to the Mission field of Litchfield and Colonge, I felt happily relieved from visiting the shanties on the Colonge & Black River. There were, however, a few shanties on McGillivray Lake and some other neighbouring lakes, which could not be conveniently reached by Mr. Borthwick, and which I visited and supplied with literature, staying one night in each shanty and conducting Divine Service. The remainder of the literature I sent to shanties on the Madawaska and Ottawa, that could not be visited by any of our Missionaries. After my return home, lists were sent to me, containing subscriptions in aid of the Mission to the Lumbermen to the value of \$58.00. This money was wholly unsolicited by me and was contributed by men of all denominations. It is, in the opinion of your Missionary, of the greatest importance that this Mission be not only prosecuted with still greater energy, but extended. Shantymen are becoming interested in the Mission, and expect the annual visit of the Missionary as much as the family expects the pastor, and feel a corresponding regret when they are disappointed.”

The following is a summary of the detailed and interesting report presented by the Rev. H. J. Borthwick:—

“I left Ottawa on the 20th January last for Fort Colonge, in the Township of Mansfield, at the mouth of the Colonge River, and arrived there on the 23rd. Having consulted with the Hon. George Bryson, who is much interested in the continuance and success of your Mission, I proceeded to visit the shanties accessible from his neighbourhood. As a general rule, it is of little use, as far as Missionary operations are concerned, and as far as my experience goes, to reach the shanty before night-fall, as the men are not accessible till then, and it is the most appropriate season for addressing them. On one or two occasions, however, I was enabled, from the kindness of the ‘bosses’ to hold my service after dinner, thus overtaking two shanties instead of one in the day. In this district the shanties are generally at a considerable distance apart, so that rarely could more than one shanty a

day be overtaken. Permission to address the men was invariably, and with courtesy, granted by Roman Catholics and Protestants alike. I made it a point never to introduce controversial subjects as between R. Catholics and Protestants, but only to preach the simple Gospel, and this, I believe, had the best effect. Such subjects were frequently referred to by individuals afterwards, and then, of course, I did not hesitate to point out the errors of Romanism, and I have reason to believe, from information subsequently received, that more than one family has been brought to renounce these errors from these and similar conversations.

"Having visited the lower Colonge shanties, I then struck in through the Townships of Leslie and Thorne to the shanties of Messrs. Gilmour & Co. on the Kazabazua and Pickannock, feeders of the Gatineau. Among the French B. C. settlers in the neighbourhood of Otter Lake in this district an interesting movement has for some time been in progress towards a purer form of faith. Several conversions, and I believe genuine ones, are reported, and many are wavering. I had every facility afforded me and encouragement shewn in reference to my work by Mr. Lunam, the agent of Messrs Gilmour & Co. at Otter Lake Depot.

"Having spent about ten days in this neighbourhood, visiting also and holding family worship in all Protestant private houses, I retraced my steps to the Colonge to prepare for an extended tour up the Black River. I spent over three weeks in this tour, but was unfortunately overtaken by a heavy storm, which prevented travelling by conveyance on the side roads leading to the shanties. I tried to visit these on foot, starting from the depots as central points, but this I found too fatiguing in the soft snow. On one occasion I walked over 15 miles with my pack on my back, on another 10, but I found this was to be no profit either in time or labour. As there seemed to be no prospect of the storm abating, I concluded it was better to head down stream again, with the consolation, however, of having reached the highest shanty on the river. This Black River trip involved a journey of upwards of 300 miles, a large part of it through very hard roads and during very unfavourable weather. I was everywhere received with the greatest kindness, and all attention was shewn me by all parties.

"As an unfavourable idea as to the usefulness of your Mission has been abroad among some persons, I made it a point to enquire on this head of all who, I thought, might be able, from their position, influence, or education, to form an opinion on the subject. I conversed on the topic with proprietors, foremen and workmen, and the universal result was gratification at its initiation, and regret at its not being more extensively carried out."

"I may mention that, besides my own labours, I heard also of the Rev. W. McEwen, of Pembroke, having this winter devoted a considerable portion of time to this work; also of several Wesleyan Methodist Ministers having done the same. These separate individual efforts, were they all emanating from one Central Committee of the different Churches, would have a better effect and be productive of more influence in behalf of the cause.

"I spent, in all, two months in the work of the Mission, visited 51 shanties, addressed about 1600 persons, one third of whom were Protestants, and travelled about 1000 miles. I received from shantymen and others the sum of \$47.00 as free contributions to the funds of your Mission. I have to record with thankfulness the assistance and material encouragement received, in the prosecution of my labours, from Messrs. Bryson, of Fort Colonge, Messrs. Caldwell and McTiernan of Black River and others. It is a matter of sincere thankfulness also to our Heavenly Father that in this tour of over 1000 miles, prosecuted during a period of about two months, I met with no accident, was not a day sick, and returned in better health and strength than I had when I set out on my Mission."

In addition to the work accomplished by the Rev. Messrs. Cameron and Borthwick conducting service and distributing religious literature among the shantymen, your Committee were enabled during the past winter greatly to extend the circulation of suitable literature. Large supplies were received by them from various sources. The Religious Tract Society, of London, sent through the Clerk of Synod two valuable cases of their publications for free distribution. The French Canadian Missionary Society forwarded, through Col. Haultaine, 10,000 pages of French tracts. Donations of suitable magazines and papers were received from R. A. Ramsay, Esq., of Montreal, and from Mrs. Johnson of Ottawa. The Colonial Committee of the Church of Scotland sent one case of mixed religious literature, which was not, however, received in time for distribution; and your Committee purchased 2000 numbers of the "British Workman," a periodical peculiarly suitable for workmen. To the Societies and private individuals who have thus rendered them very material assistance your Committee tender their grateful acknowledgments.

From these supplies your Committee were enabled to prepare large parcels of mixed appropriate literature, which were readily distributed among the shantymen, not only by the Clergymen engaged in the work of the Mission, but also by several of the employers, and by some of the young teamsters who were willing to circulate them among their fellow-workmen. In this way many of the shanties which could not be visited by the Clergymen were yet furnished with excellent and attractive religious literature, both in English and French. In the selection of tracts particular care was taken that none of a controversial nature should be distributed, for, while in all their work your Committee desire to act in a purely non-denominational Protestant spirit, they at the same time endeavour to avoid all possible cause of strife between the Roman Catholic and Protestant lumbermen.

Your Committee have been much gratified and encouraged by the increasing testimony which they receive from different quarters regarding the value of this Mission. They are well aware that the agency at their command is very small when compared with the vast extent of the field which they attempt to cultivate. They still cherish the hope that eventually they may be able to secure the services of Missionaries, whose special work shall be to carry the Gospel to the shantymen, and they would hail with delight the co-operation of other branches of the Protestant Church in this most important field of home-mission work. At the same time, they think that the method which they have hitherto pursued is, under existing circumstances, the best possible one, and they have reason to believe that their labours during the past winter have been more extensively useful than during any previous season, on account of the great increase in the amount of religious literature which, from different sources, has been supplied to them, and which, by various means, they have been enabled to circulate.

Your Committee would very gratefully acknowledge the pecuniary assistance rendered to them by several of the leading lumberers, especially in the city of Ottawa, and also the unsolicited support rendered to the Mission by the shantymen and others, who more immediately experience the benefits bestowed by it.

In conclusion, your Committee would express the hope that He who "bestoweth liberally and upbraideth not," who "despiseth not the day of small things," would bless their feeble efforts, and would enable them so to extend their labours as to embrace the whole section of country included in the operations of the lumber trade. Deeply impressed by a sense of the paramount importance of the work, and encouraged by the measure of success they have already experienced, they desire to continue and extend their labours with a living trust in the Lord of Missions. His blessing alone can give adequate strength or permanent success, but that

blessing may be confidently expected to attend every true Christian work and every earnest worker. Humbly, therefore, they hope that this Mission may assist in advancing Christ's Kingdom in our beloved land, of hastening the time when "the wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad, and the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose."

All which is respectfully submitted.

DANIEL M. GORDON, B.D.

Convener of Committee.

ANDREW DRUMMOND,

Secretary.

June, 1871.

NOTE.—Annexed is a statement of the receipts and expenditure during the past season.

RECEIPTS OF THE LUMBER MISSION FOR 1871.

Contributions received per Rev. H. J. Borthwick.			
James Gilman.. . . .	\$2 00	J. Pavasane.....	\$0 50
A. J. McDonell.....	2 00	John Revie.....	1 00
Edward Clarke.....	2 00	N. Maveau.....	50
John Rattray.....	5 00	F. Pichette.....	25
George Bryson, Junr.....	5 00	R. Casette.....	50
Edward Edes.....	4 00	P. Tweesey.....	25
Frank Flood.....	1 00	E. Roy.....	25
Hugh Bennett.....	1 00	A. Branchey.....	25
Arch. Gillies.....	1 00	A friend.....	25
John Gamble.....	50	Do.....	25
John Fraser.....	50	Do.....	25
Nap. St. Jean.....	50	Do.....	50
Chas. McInnes.....	2 00	J. Lalonde.....	25
Ovide Blondin.....	1 00	J. Cuthbertson.....	1 00
Theodore Blondin.....	50	Thomas Craig.....	1 00
Eli Roy.....	50	W. J. McEachern.....	2 00
Dayid Canzen.....	50	John Campbell.....	1 00
Wm. Roach.....	50	Donald McPherson.....	1 00
Patrick McGee.....	50	Z. Jutinville.....	1 00
Chas. Donovan.....	50	John Connolly.....	50
E. Montois.....	25	W. Fletcher.....	50
D. Gravelle.....	25	Joseph Glen.....	50
R. Lalonde.....	25	B. Rollin.....	50
B Roy.....	25	Narcisse Heben.....	50
T. Paquette.....	25	Francis Floop.....	50
R. St. Louis.....	25		

\$47 00

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7

FROM THE SHANTY OF CAPT. WALTER FINDLAY, BLACK RIVER.

Contributions received per Rev. H. Cameron.

George Black.....	\$1 00	Thomas Robinson.....	\$0 50
Samuel Wright.....	1 00	James McAlister.....	50
Frederick Campean.....	1 00	Larance Badard.....	50
Nap. Brunett.....	1 00	Peter Badard.....	50
William Black.....	50	Charles Villinive.....	50
James Ferguson.....	50	Joseph Boulange.....	50
Joseph Blanchett.....	50	Zotique Bartrand.....	25
Wm. Ferguson.....	50	John St. Hilard.....	50
Robert Williams.....	50	Wm. Robinson.....	50
James Davidson.....	1 00	John McKay.....	1 00
Oliver Garvan.....	1 00	John Quinn.....	50
Robert Blair.....	50	Wm. Holden.....	25
Joseph Beland.....	50	Oliver Marion.....	50
Francis Marion.....	25	Edward Caravon.....	50
			<hr/>
			\$16 75

FROM CAPT. FINDLAY'S SHANTY, MACGILLIVRAY LAKE.

Contributions received per Rev. H. Cameron.

George McCaskell.....	\$1 00	Colans Amlan.....	\$0 50
Thomas McCaskell.....	1 00	Desaty Bartroand.....	50
Isaac Condey.....	1 00	Alex. Caderoot.....	50
Wm. Condey.....	50	Oliver Lerew.....	50
Charles Hicks.....	50	Joseph Amlan.....	50
Robert Hicks.....	1 00	Euseme Merrion.....	25
James Brown.....	50	Oliver Merrion.....	50
John Nelson.....	25	Frank Brunett.....	50
George Cox.....	1 00	Hevin Merrion.....	50
James Ferguson.....	1 00	Baptiste Boulon.....	50
John McDonald.....	50	Frank Jerou.....	50
James Davidson.....	1 00	Joseph Bartround.....	1 00
David Brown.....	1 00	Hildy Jerou.....	50
Wm. Hourd.....	1 00		
			<hr/>
			\$18 00

FROM THE SHANTY OF MESSRS. R. & J. BENNIE.

Contributions received per Rev. H. Cameron, McGillivray Lake.

Robert Bennie.....	\$1 00	John Hannah.....	\$0 50
John Bennie.....	1 00	Thomas Ross.....	1 00
Wm. Howard.....	1 00	M. Ross.....	1 00
James Collins.....	50	W. H. Sherman.....	50
Duncan Robertson.....	50	Orrisson Shaw.....	50
Alexander Johnson.....	1 00	Peter Comrie.....	1 00
Thomas Ross.....	1 00	John Barr.....	1 00
David Morre.....	1 00	Henry Little.....	1 00
Wm. Ritchison.....	50	George Smith.....	50
David Innis.....	1 00	John Robertson.....	50
Nimrod Ross.....	1 00		
			<hr/>
			\$17 00

Other contributions per Rev. H. Cameron.

M. Cayea.....	\$0 25	A friend from Havelock.....	\$1 00
			<hr/>
			\$1 25

THE LUMBER MISSION IN ACCOUNT WITH ANDREW DRUMMOND, ESQ., TREASURER.

1870.		
July 29—	To Printing 500 Reports.....	\$18 00
	“ Postage of do.	3 92
Nov. 10—	“ Duty on two cases Tracts from London.....	7 94
	“ Freight and cartage of do. from Kingston.....	3 08
Dec. 4—	“ Freight of French Tracts from Montreal.....	35
1871.		
Jan. 10—	“ 2,000 copies of “ British Workman”.....	20 00
	“ Freight of do.	1 50
April 30—	“ Two months’ salary of Rev. H. J. Borthwick.....	80 00
	“ Expenses of do.	40 00
	“ Salary and Expenses of Rev. H. Cameron.....	14 50
	“ Postage	3 50
	“ Printed Circulars.....	2 00
June 1—	“ Balance on hand this date.....	165 11
		<hr/>
		\$354 85
1871.		
Febry.	—By Balance on hand from 1870.....	\$162 85
April.	—“ Subscription from A. Gilmour, Esq.....	30 00
	“ “ “ H. F. Bronson, Esq.....	20 00
	“ “ “ Levi Young, Esq.....	10 00
	“ “ “ J. R. Booth, Esq.....	10 00
	“ “ “ Wright, Batson & Currier.....	20 00
	“ “ “ W. Spragge, Esq.	2 00
	“ Contributions per Rev. H. J. Borthwick (as per statement).....	47 00
	“ Contributions per Rev. H. Cameron (as per statement), viz.: From Capt Findlay’s Shanty, Black River.....	\$16 75
	From Capt. Findlay’s Shanty, McGillivray Lake.....	18 00
	From Messrs. R. & J. Bennie’s Shanty.....	17 00
	From others.....	1 25
		<hr/>
		53 00
		<hr/>
		\$354 85

ANDREW DRUMMOND,
Treasurer.

Ottawa, 1st June, 1871.