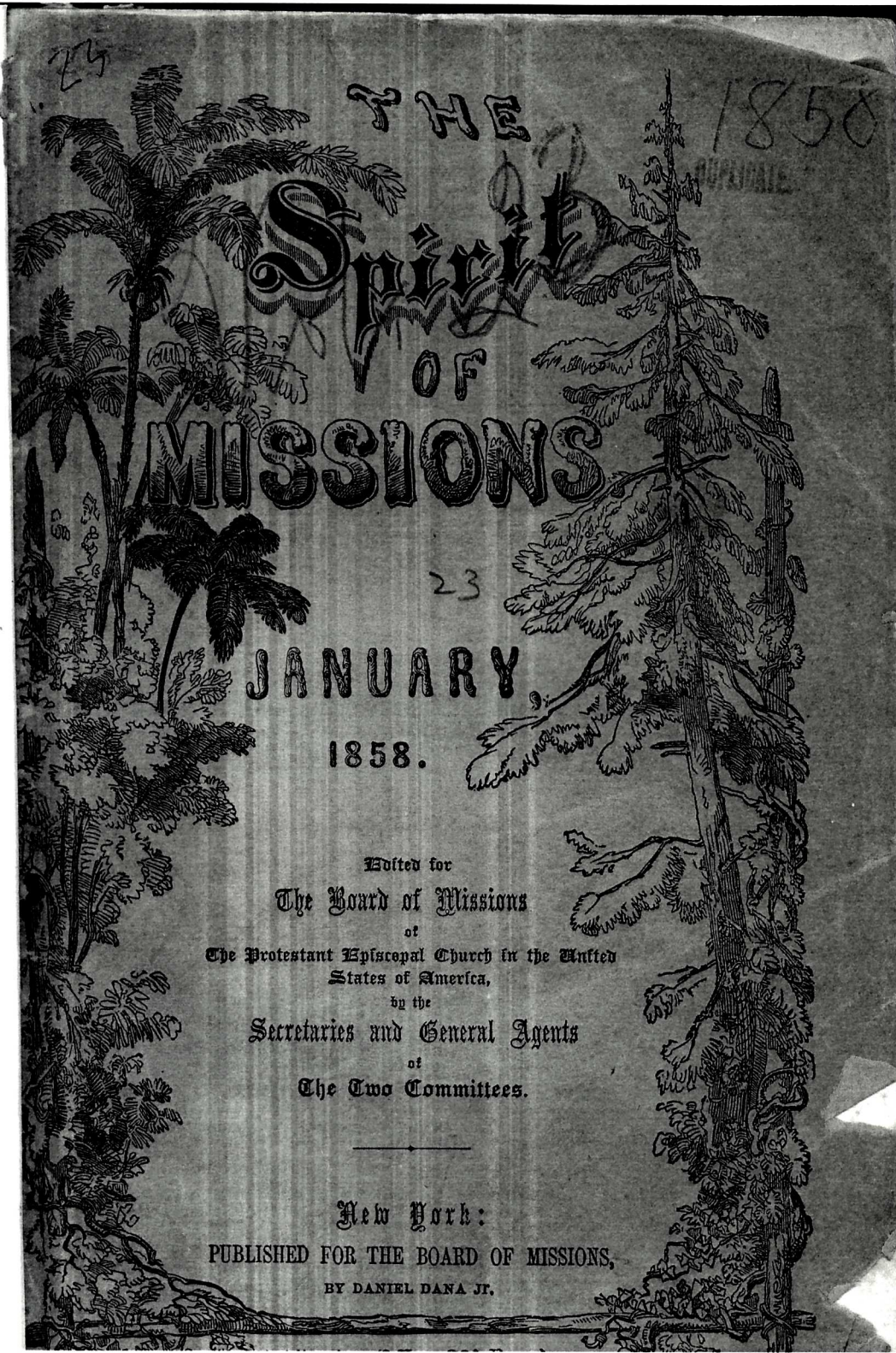


1858



sixteen miles below here, and on the opposite side of the river. At this latter place, my congregations of late have been quite large ; but the difficulty of getting to and from it is pretty formidable in the spring and fall, and sometimes in winter too, when the river is obstructed by bad ice, as it has been for six weeks past. As a specimen of these difficulties (which frequently occur), at my last visit there, I went down on Saturday by water, the boat cutting its path much of the way through ice one-third of an inch thick. By Monday morning the river was completely blockaded with ice, and no other way left me to get home but on foot, by a road through the swamps, which was at that time impassable by any beast of draught or burden. I waited as long as my engagements would permit, and then crossed the river, partly in a skiff, and partly on cracking ice ; and, after being dragged, by the exceeding kindness of a friend, on a pony sled about four miles on my way, I shouldered my pack, and put off on foot, and alone, through the remaining twelve miles, leaping over the quagmires, or into them, as the case might be, from log to log, and from bog to bog, and reached home just at nightfall in a bitter snow-storm, and in time to make my preparations for the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day service I had previously given notice of. I was amply rewarded, however, by seeing our beautifully decorated and illuminated church for the first time filled to overflowing, with "all sorts and conditions of men," many of whom are never seen in a church on any other occasion than Christmas Eve.

Upon the whole, I indulge the hope that my work here is slowly prospering, and that I may yet "bring sheaves with me" from this unpromising field.

Wisconsin.

Greeny Ba (Oneida Indian Mission)—Rev. E. A. Goodnough.

THIS Mission is in about the same state as heretofore. The congregation is at present larger than usual, and there seems to be a lively interest manifested, on the part of many poor Indians, in the religion of the Saviour of the world ; but alas ! too many of them are under the influence of the great enemy of their souls, to such a degree that they cannot break the bonds of sin in which they are held. Many of them try to reform, try to repent, weep, and beg for pardon, and promise that they never will sin again ; and the very next time they go to Green Bay, they become intoxicated, and rush, like lunatics, into all sorts of sins, crimes, and degradation. Another young Indian, to whom I have preached the Gospel, and who was disposed to listen, has perished, body and soul, through strong drink, the past winter, having been frozen to death while drunk. This makes five young men, all of whom might have become good, respectable Indians,

who have died through the direct agency of whiskey, since I have been here. I say, that the whiskey traffic with Indians is a shame, a disgrace, and an awful crime, that is permitted to be carried on freely by all civilized Christian (so called) whites. Better to carry on a war of extermination with Indians than to sell them liquor.

Minnesota.

St. Peter—Rev. Ezra Jones.

I AM happy to be able to report the successful progress of my Mission.

The attendance upon the services is steadily increasing, and I think an interest is already awakened, which will lead to good results. We are looking forward to a visit from the Bishop in May ; and already I have classes under instruction preparatory for Confirmation. I meet them in private houses on week-day evenings, wherever I can bring two or three together.

We have been spared any serious embarrassment from the hard times ; for our Church is not in debt, except to the Missionary, and, *Deo volente*, it will not be in debt. We have already experienced largely the benefit of the maxim, "Pay as you go," and we can cheerfully recommend it to others.

I suppose, my dear brother, I am indebted to your suggestion for ten dollars, sent to us by the Sunday-school of St. Ann's, Brooklyn. It was received last month, and I have delayed to reply until I made my report, for the lady who sent it gave me only her initials. I now enclose a line for her. Will you do me the favor to forward it ? We have not adopted the plan of making appeals or acknowledgments through the papers. We have chosen to work quietly ; make known our wants modestly through our private friends, and reply to them personally. It has in our case been blessed to the furtherance of our work.

At times we have endured rather more privations than commonly fall to the lot of Missionaries, even on the frontier. But, *laus Deo*, we have been well, and have worked cheerfully and hopefully. The thought of retreating has never been harbored. We have to some extent won (by conquest) the good will of our neighbors, and our present prospects are more cheering than at any point before.

I can but thank you for your kindly sympathy. The offering from St. Ann's was very timely and acceptable.

We have now a very comfortable house, though small, and all the essentials of life common to so new a country. I have done as much pastoral work, and as much study and writing, in three months past, as ever before in the same time, and I never enjoyed it better.

The "pew system," in our new church here, together with the very imperfect means provided for warming it, has had the effect of making our congregation, the past winter, less numerous on ordinary occasions than it was before, in the school-room, where all felt they had an equal right to go, (as they should have in the church,) and which, though dirty and inconvenient, could be made warm in any weather. There are few who have the patience to sit out a service in a temperature twenty or thirty degrees below the freezing point, or the humility to take a seat in a pew that is virtually labeled "for the poor," in consequence of the appropriation of other pews by sale or rent.

The broken character of the winter has added much to the inconvenience and hazard of my visits to the different parts of my mission—the Saginaw river constituting the principal, and sometimes the only practicable avenue of approach to them—and that having been, a great deal of the time, in an uncertain state, between good ice and open navigation; but, by the hand of a protecting Providence, I have been preserved from any serious harm, and have met nothing worse than wet feet and tired limbs in my fifteen-mile walks, that I have frequently been obliged to take between this place and Lower Saginaw, when no beast could carry or draw me through the mixed snow and mud, and water and ice of that flat, moist region. One's sense of dependence upon God's mercy, however, is exceedingly quickened in crossing a *bayou*, deep enough to float a ship of the line, upon ice that yields and cracks under his feet at every step, as has sometimes been my hap this winter. But the servants, I trust, while they are in the path of duty, as well as the Master, may take to themselves the comfortable assurance that "it is written, He shall give His angels charge over thee, to keep thee, and in their hands they shall bear thee up."

Whether all these toils and perils will be productive of any fruit, remains to be seen. The appearances are not remarkably promising here of any considerable increase in our numbers or our godliness. The church edifice at this place, the only one we have in the county, still remains unconsecrated, for want of the payment of a small debt standing against it, and your missionary has to rely chiefly upon your allowance for his support.

Wisconsin.

Green Bay (Oneida Mission)—Rev. E. A. Goodnough.

THIS Mission has not for the past four years been in so flourishing a condition as it is at the present time. The religion of our Lord and Saviour gains friends every day. The enemies who have heretofore

injured the cause of Christ at the Mission have signified their intention to become, from this time forth, warm friends to that cause in so far as possible. Some of the worst persons are beginning gradually to feel the power of the Gospel; they no longer despise the religion of Christ, but see with their own eyes that it has a power which none of them can resist.

This very day a Chief, who has for a long time been an enemy to me, who has even declared that he would drive me away from this place, came to me in the humblest and most Christian-like manner, told me his faults, declared that it was his determination to live henceforth a godly life, and at last took me by the hand saying, "I accept you from this day for my spiritual father." And from many indications I am persuaded that the work of the Lord is, though slowly and silently, yet surely going forward. And in order to show you the progress the Gospel has already made among this tribe of native heathen, I will copy a few words that a female communicant addressed to those she left behind when she was called to depart this life. She said—

"Brothers, I have few words to say. I exhort you to strive harder in the heavenly race. The best of all things are for those who have repented. Therefore I thank the Almighty, who is in Heaven, that He has caused me to see my sins in their true colors, in time. He is the Head, He is above all. And it is His will to make an end to my course in this world. Now I stand before Him, where I have for a long time been expecting to stand. He is going to judge me. And I still humble myself low because He is great. I have always been afraid to break his Commandments. I have always prayed that He would forgive me all my sins; and that I might be on His side and walk in His ways. It is best to pray for His help; it is good to repent every day, and ask for His aid. He will always grant the prayers of those who pray earnestly for goodness. Be more faithful, strive harder: now I am soon to part from you. I have always tried to fulfil the agreement I made with Him when I was baptized. Now He is going to make an end of my course, it seems as though I had all my senses; yet I do not see what He is going to do with my soul. Yet He is merciful, and will forgive those who repent, and they shall receive everlasting joy in Heaven. Always remember that Sunday is God's day. I am not sorry that my life here is finished, for I know there is a better life into which I shall soon enter. Harken to the minister, and pray for him, for he has great works in his hands. I thank you all for your great kindness to me during my long sickness. I think God gave you such minds, and thank you for doing what He told you to do. May we all meet again in the next world. O Saviour, I give my soul into Thy hands."

Soon after this she fell asleep, as we trust, in Jesus. Many more are there here who love God with all their hearts; I wish I was able to aid them more in the Christian life.

The School-house is not yet begun; we hope to commence soon to get

There is another need. Often I could, and most gladly would, distribute small books or tracts, if I had them. But my stock of such things, never large, is now quite exhausted. A donation from any quarter would be most acceptable. Who is there that will supply this need, and so secure the hearty thanks of a Western Missionary, and greatly aid him in his work for Christ and the Church?

Tiskilwa and Providence—Rev. F. B. Nash.

I OFFICIATED in the early part of the Missionary year, once every Sabbath, at Princeton. Our services there were suspended in November, and have not, as yet, been commenced again. I hope and trust they will be ere long. There are some thirteen families belonging to the Church there. They live mostly in the country, and cannot, consequently, aid as efficiently in building up the Church as they could do if they lived in the village.

Here the Church has not grown as I thought I had good reasons for believing it would, a year or two since. Most of the families connected with the Church live some miles from the village. This, in connection with my being compelled to preach alternately on the Sabbath, morning and afternoon, at Providence and in this place, makes it impracticable for me to organize a purely Episcopal Sunday School or Bible Class here, at present. This has been, and is still, a serious difficulty in the way of the growth of the Church. The congregation attending our services are always quite respectable, in point of numbers. Our services have, manifestly, exerted quite a happy influence upon the community.

At Providence, there has been quite an accession of life and strength to the Church. There would be, there, quite an efficient Church; would all professedly connected with it co-operate in sustaining it as they ought!

Michigan.

Marquette—Rev. Henry Safford.

Our church-edifice, erected through much self-denial on our own part, and by the aid of many friends, was consecrated by our Bishop on Thursday, the 20th of August last. But with sorrow we confess that it was then, and is now encumbered with debt. Would that we could say, "the debt is paid," and it certainly should be said could your Missionary only pay it.

We have, however, to acknowledge the donation of surplice, communion-cloth and napkins, and communion service, from certain benevolent ladies of New-York. These gifts, so much needed and so very acceptable, have

done much to encourage us in this far distant field, and have awakened the conviction that we still have friends who think of us and give us their sympathy.

We have much to encourage us in our work. Our congregations are attentive and on the increase. Our Friday evening services, with lecture, are generally attended by almost every one of our communicants, and a good degree of interest is manifested in them.

We have also lately commenced services in a new town, fourteen miles distant, with encouraging prospects; so far our services have called out a goodly attendance. May it prove that the Lord has much people in that prosperous village. For this station Prayer-Books are much needed, but we scarcely dare ask for them, our reports hitherto have been so full of wants. With the blessing of God, however, we hope that ere long this parish will be able to take care of itself and of its vicinity.

Wisconsin.

Green Bay (Oneida Indian Mission)—Rev. E. A. Goodnough.

THIS Mission is, thank God, prospering and advancing gradually, being the means, under the adorable Head of the Church, of leading many Indians to renounce the practices of iniquity, and to devote themselves to the service of the Lord.

Bishop Kemper again visited this Mission the 20th of June; he preached an admirable sermon from the text, "Whosoever, therefore, shall confess me before men, him will I also confess before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven." The Rt. Rev. preacher illustrated the text by showing that by our actions we confess or deny our Saviour. After the sermon, nine youthful Indians, male and female, came forward to the chancel-rail, and knelt for the imposition of the apostolic hands of the devoted Bishop. Then they arose and stood in reverential and attentive attitudes listening to the Bishop's address, full of heart-stirring appeals and godly advice.

These young persons had all been on trial, and had received instruction from the Missionary. Most of them are thought to be the finest young people in the tribe; four young men, heads of families, especially, are such as cheer and encourage the Missionary, and are an earnest of still greater fruits in the Lord's own good time. At the conclusion of the apostolic rite, the Holy Communion was administered by the Bishop, assisted by the Missionary, to about one hundred tawny sons and daughters of the forest. On this occasion the little Mission chapel was full of Indians, who had come up to worship the Great Spirit in the beauty of holiness. May they never forget what God has done for them.

The congregation is always large and attentive, giving evidence that the work of the Lord is going on in their hearts; and every friend of the Indian should rejoice and be glad, that notwithstanding all the difficulties in the way, there are a few red men, our brothers after the flesh, who try to love and serve God.

We have commenced the evening service in the English language; so far it works well, and gives the Missionary great satisfaction. This in time may do great good.

Marquette—Rev. G. R. Bartlett.

SINCE my last, the Bishop has visited and held confirmation at this station. The services are well attended, both at Marquette and Kingston. At the latter place the attendance on our services has much increased since last spring. On Sunday, February 28, Bishop Kemper visited that place, preached to a large and attentive congregation, and confirmed three. On the same day he preached here twice to large and attentive congregations, and confirmed two. Since then, the attendance on the services of the Church has been better than before, and it is hoped that the interest in religion then manifested, will be much increased, and the cause of the Church greatly strengthened in both places.

Mineral Point—Rev. J. Phelps.

IN transmitting my Annual Report, I can only say that, like most of our Missionary stations, this also has had to endure the financial difficulties of the past year; but they are passing away, and with the close of the year we shall have no further need of pecuniary assistance from the Domestic Board. On the whole, we have gained strength during the year past, notwithstanding the "hard times."

The continued nursing care of the Board of Missions has not been in vain; but the full result will more properly accompany my next and last Report.

I have not confined my labors altogether to this place, but as opportunity permitted have gone out to the neighboring communities, for the purpose of holding occasional services. These services have always been well attended and received. Some three or four stations around me, within a distance of ten miles, have thus been visited. And now, what gratifies me very much, we are in a fair way of having these dispersed sheep regularly visited and cared for by an itinerant Missionary, from our Diocesan Board of Missions. If we only had money, money enough to

sustain six or eight itinerant Missionaries, I believe the number of communicants in the church could be increased tenfold in one year. Really it is astonishing to see how ripe the field is for the harvest all around us; but because the people are widely scattered, we cannot reach them by establishing some three or four stations. The West needs itinerant Missionaries. There are but few places where stations can be formed to advantage. There are a few such in the larger western towns, but in general, itinerants can do more towards establishing the Church than stationed Missionaries. If we only had money, the Church might almost at once take possession of the land; but as we have not, others must, and will, occupy before us, as is generally the case. Men are not wanting—we have them—those too who are zealous and faithful in the ministry of the Church; but because they cannot be sustained they must teach school, or go to farming, or give themselves to some other uncongenial secular work. Still, with all our hindrances, the Church is growing, becoming stronger, and is doing a good work for the future. For this we may, indeed be thankful, though it is so far short of what it ought to be.

Wausau and Mosinee—Rev. T. Greene.

I COMMENCED my mission in Mosinee county, on Easter Sunday, by celebrating divine service at Knowlton, and on the following Thursday I reached Mosinee, where the services of the Church are always well received.

One Sunday in each month is devoted to this station.

I arrived at Wausau on the 10th of April, where I officiated three Sundays in each month, visiting during the week some small stations, one on Rib River, one on Treppe River, and one on the Big-Eau Claire. There are also several Church families scattered throughout the country; all, with one exception, entirely destitute of Church books.

It is a matter of deep regret that Missionaries are not plentifully supplied with prayer-books, tracts, and Sunday-school books. In my own case the growth of the Church is greatly retarded, for want of the above. I cannot open a Sunday-school until I receive the necessary books—Testaments, Primers, Offices of Devotion, &c. The minister, teachers, and scholars are all ready for the work, but where are the books to come from?

In the month of September, 1857, the parish of St. John's, Wausau, Wisconsin, was duly organized. The Church, which is to be free, will be built of plank, 30 by 56, with pointed windows and open seats. The walls are to be papered inside. The Hon. Albert G. Ellis, of Stevens Point, has donated a good organ to the parish; the Hon. W. S. McIndose has given a lot, 60 by 120, and the Hon. Charles Shuter, besides contributing largely in lumber, has promised us a bell, and is at present fencing in the church lot.