

1863

Bishop Henry peris
trying to have a prayer book
Print in Oneida

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giving them a service once a fortnight, which was all I *could* do in addition to my duties at Ripon and at Rosendale. They procured a hall and furnished it conveniently, providing a surplice, etc. The room will accommodate about 130 persons, and it is nearly always crowded at the services. I have been there on week days, visiting and encouraging them all I could. I have baptized two infants. There are many causes which make it the hardest field I know of in all the West, and for this, if for no other reason, the blessed influence of the Church is *needed* there more than in any other place I know of. I receive nothing from them excepting traveling expenses. I do not expect to see much fruit of my labors there for a long time, but the promise is *sure*, and in due time I, or somebody, will reap even in that barren field. If the right man could be put there permanently, I believe that a good parish could be built up in a few years, but he would need have great faith and patience and holy boldness.

Menasha—Rev. C. C. Edmunds.

I am glad to be able to report that contracts have been entered into by which the church will be gotten ready for consecration by the middle of April. For the year past services have been held regularly at this place, and also at Neenah. I have been obliged to give up Neenah on account of the difficulty of providing a suitable service-room. Service will be held here twice every Sunday, and on holy days. We have also a Sunday-school.

Oneida (Indian)—Rev. E. A. Good-nough.

By the divine blessing, I am once more permitted to make my annual report from this interesting station.

The mission work, amidst many difficulties and trials, goes steadily on. The adorable Head of the Church continues to bless us in all our endeavors to promote the spiritual welfare of the Oneidas.

Some opposition has aroused the zeal of the faithful, and awakened the careless of my flock to a sense of their duty to their Saviour and to their Church. The exertions against us have increased our congregations, and drawn out the love of the people to their missionary in a greater degree than ever before shown. The male members of the Mission Church went into

the woods during the extreme cold weather of November, and staid there four days and two nights, for the purpose of cutting sufficient cord-wood to buy two new stoves for the little church. I have no doubt but that He who noticed the gift of the poor widow to the treasury of the Lord, will likewise regard and bless the labors of these poor Indians.

The Sunday services at the Mission are well attended; the responses are audibly and devoutly made by the worshippers; the singing is good and constantly improving.

Our venerable and devoted Bishop, who has for so many years manifested the most lively and untiring interest in the welfare of the Oneidas, is now engaged in another good work for their benefit. The Bishop is endeavoring to have published for their use a prayer-book far superior to any former edition. This new book contains a portion of the Psalms of David translated into the Indian tongue, also some hymns never before published in their language. This book will be of the nature and use here of a tract or religious work; and beside its constant use in divine worship, it will be an admirable book to distribute amongst the Indians, as they have hardly any books to read, and most of them are able to read a little in their own language, so that this book may be a means of leading many a wanderer in the ways of ignorance and sin into the way of peace and salvation.

The day-school continues to be one of the best means in my power of doing good. Many who never come to church send their children to school, and from their children learn something of Christianity. And the children who are taught in the school grow up, as it were, under the eye of the missionary, and become, in due time, devoted Christians. Those interested in the welfare of the Indians can help greatly to make our school attractive by sending presents to the children, such as clothes, books, pictures, maps, pens and paper, etc.

Stevens' Point.—Rev. J. B. Pedelup.

In quality of missionary from your Board, I send here my report from November 1st, the day in which I took charge of this parish. As my sojourn here is very short, I have nothing particular to state. Only that our poor place is entirely prostrated, and very poor indeed; no business

Nebraska.

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and no money. Our prospects are very poor. May God grant we may see soon the end of our troubles. If they last long I am afraid our place will be deserted.

This report must necessarily be imperfect, but it is all I can at present say.

In connection with my duties in the parish, I have begun to hold a service for our German population every two weeks, (in German.) The attendance is between 20 and 25.

I have and will attend to Wausau, a small place forty miles from here, where there are few Church-people. I was there for the first time the second Wednesday of this month, and will go there every second Wednesday. I will also once a month hold service at Mosinee, a small place twenty-five miles from here. In my next report I will be able to speak of these places.

Waupaca—Rev. M. F. Sorensen.

I have officiated regularly on every Lord's day, and the services are so well attended this winter, that the hall we occupy is now too small to accommodate all. During the fall considerable work was done on our church-building; and the frame for a church 25 by 50 feet, with chancel and vestry, is ready for raising. I trust that we shall be able to get it up in the early spring and to finish it through the summer.

Although we are so far from the seat of war, yet we feel its evils; business is at a stand-still, and as people get but little for what they have to sell, money is very scarce. Consequently the people here are not able to pay much toward my support, and if it were not for the salary I receive from the Committee, I hardly see how we should get through the winter.

Our hope and prayer is, that God in his mercy will look upon our distracted country, and speedily restore to us peace and quietness.

Superior—Rev. J. Williamson.

During the past three months I have been constantly engaged in the discharge of my duties as a missionary in this place. We have regular service twice every Sunday, beside occasional service during the week, with a Sunday-school, and a Bible class taught by myself. Our attendance on all these means is excellent and very encouraging. Ours being almost the only

service held in this place, gives your missionary an opportunity of presenting the claims of the Church to many who know little of them, and have hitherto not been accustomed to attend her services. From the length of time this church had been vacant, I was prepared to find things far more discouraging than they are. I was, therefore, very agreeably disappointed. I find a very interesting congregation of Church-people, who are punctual in their attendance, and very prompt and ready to attend to every thing about the church. Our attendance from others, also, has been quite large and steady. And as they are an intelligent people, capable of understanding and appreciating the claims of the Church, my hopes are that some of them may be led into the fold of the good Shepherd.

Our principal difficulty here is the want of business. This arises partly from the general depression, but more from our particular location and circumstances. This town sprang up rapidly as a commercial town. It has, therefore, suffered more severely than those that have a farming community to support them. The people are living in hope of a railroad soon connecting them with the Mississippi, which would render this the commercial metropolis of the North-West. Being too short a time here to form a definite opinion of it, I submit these general remarks to the Committee, hoping they will be sufficient to let them see our wants and hopes: namely, a missionary stipend, and a success depending on circumstances and the blessing of God.

Perhaps I should have mentioned that we have a neat little church free of debt.

NEBRASKA.

From the Rt. Rev. J. C. Talbot, D.D.

I HAVE the pleasure to inclose a check on New York for \$11.40, being the amount collected on Sunday last in Trinity Church, Omaha, for Domestic Missions. Though the sum is small, it is given, I am sure, with a willing mind; and as an evidence of interest in the great cause in a far Western mission station, is not without its value.

Mr. West is absent, and I fear will not return. His leave expired on January 10th. The severe weather will doubtless

or too ready sympathizer is suddenly arrested and carried off, to return in far too many instances with undiminished bitterness. Now, I do not say this to cast undue blame on any, but to show how difficult it is to draw men off from the exciting events of the hour, to the contemplations which we would. Sometimes again we think the contest is over, and we shall soon see our people peaceful and happy once more, when we are startled by rumors from some heretofore quiet portion of the State, of some sudden incursion of hostile cavalry, diminishing hope, and setting all wrong as ever. So that it is not surprising if for considerable periods distrust, sullen reserve, and a spirit of revenge seem to be characteristic. Nevertheless, we hope on, and pray that moderate counsels and just judgment may yet prevail; and that men seeing for themselves the "evils of strife, and the horrors of civil war," may be led to exert their energies for its termination and the speedy suppression of its spirit.

I have been hard at work since my last report, and have kept up with an average regularity my various appointments. Just before the late convention, our venerable Bishop passed through the Southern portion of the diocese, and although the notice of his approach was short, (mail facilities not being fully resumed,) we still had something for him to do. With singular appropriateness he seemed to meet the state of feeling in the various neighborhoods, and to revive, by his feeling addresses, something like the devotional feeling which once existed. During his visit, four persons were presented for confirmation, and another (temporarily elsewhere, but also connected with this charge) has been confirmed; all of a position in life to do much for the Church, and whose connection with our communion is a source of very general satisfaction. Our congregations are as good as heretofore, and I am now trying to revive an afternoon service (interrupted by the events of the winter) for the colored people, and in which I had been partially successful.

WISCONSIN.

Herman—Rev. F. A. Beckel.

I HAVE to state to the Domestic Committee as follows: Since my last report:

baptisms, 4; confirmations, 3; communicants present at Whitsunday morning, 78; giving an increase of 24. Parish-school increased by 21 pupils; present number, 64.

The war of controversy is apparently over, the dead are absented, the wounded have been restored by tender care, convinced by the word of God; in fact, thanks, yea, my humble thanks to the Lord, who has so far fulfilled his promise as to actually show unto his unworthy servant that he is with his evangelical truth and apostolic order, even among my German brethren in Herman. The second station I took up, to preach once in fourteen days at Rubicon, is prospering nobly. I have been induced to speak in English. Although I can not use much of the language, I see that there is a pleasant result, and an increase of hearers. The Lord will foresee it. If we were rich, we might build our so much needed church. But no; if we were rich, we might be infidels and want no church. The Lord will move the hearts of our brethren in Christ Jesus to help us, poor in money, to get a nest, where the swallow may raise her young. To lose one or two more months will set our building in the winter. Without a church I am hindered exceedingly. I ought to have, if possible, so much as to pay for the lumber; the workmen I can pay with the subscriptions of the parishioners.

In my difficult state of sometimes difficult and deep controversy, I have not books, authorities of the Church, enough. If there is any one who has any such volumes to spare, they will be thankfully received. I might and would buy my own books, but you know very near the amount of my income, which is to be made enough to support eight healthy persons, the number of my family. The Lord bless His vineyard.

Beaver Dam—Rev. L. D. Brainerd.

Since my last report I have been officiating at Beaver Dam and Fox Lake, regularly. I have nothing of special interest to write, only that we have made a commencement toward getting a church built at Fox Lake. We have now over \$700 subscribed, and the promise of about \$300 more. We hope to be able to build a small church, and be in it by next December. The congregation at Fox Lake has nearly doubled since I wrote you.

Oneida (Indian)—Rev. E. A. Good-nough.

Since my last report the work of the mission has been going steadily forward. The mission-school has been attended by a large number of children, and they learn quite rapidly.

Some improvements have been lately made at the mission; new sills have been placed under the barn, the road moved farther from the house; and forty young apple-trees set out. The Indians are gradually being brought under the influence of the Gospel. Month by month I see in many respects advances in the right way. We are anxious to build a woodshed for the mission-house before another winter sets in. We have some funds on hand now for that purpose, but not enough to pay the expenses of such a building, and we trust that some of the faithful friends of the mission will be able to aid us in this undertaking.

We also need a number of plain-printed English prayer-books, to give to some of my people who can read a little English. I wish to acknowledge with many thanks the kindness of Mrs. M. F. B—, of Longwood, Boston, in sending for the mission a valuable box containing thirty prayer-books, and some primers for the Indian school, from the Longwood Sunday-school," ten dollars in cash from S. S. B—, Esq., a needle-book from a lady, and various other useful articles. May the Lord of all the earth bless them tenfold in this life, and in the world to come give them life everlasting.

Oakfield, etc.—Rev. Geo. Turner.

I have endeavored to discharge my duty as your missionary, correspondent with the claims of my commission since my commencement in this field of missionary enterprise and promise; and though I can not report as favorably as I could wish, yet I rejoice that in the name of our God we have set up our banners in this place, Oakfield; and it is to every lover of the Church in this vicinity the center of attraction and the rallying point to numbers of different denominations. Our congregations are uniformly good and respectable, and I trust, under the fostering hand of a kind and benignant providence, will increase and prosper.

At Mayville, which is a village of some 1500 or 2000 souls, (greater proportion of which are Germans,) I have a respectable and attentive audience, which, in the pro-

cess of time, bids fair for the interest of our beloved Zion. This place has long been neglected. For five or six years they have not had the services of the Church. Patience and perseverance will counteract the effects produced by neglect, and collect the scattered elements which are found in that place and vicinity.

Brandon is a small village located on the Milwaukee and Berlin Railroad. I have visited it several times, but can not as yet obtain a suitable place for church service. I hope soon to be able to report more favorably with reference to this and the other portions of the field.

MINNESOTA.

Winona—Rev. J. H. Waterbury.

About the 1st of March I came here, and began at once to hold Lenten services. We were surprised to find at the Wednesday and Friday services, as well as the three on Sunday, a congregation numbering from twelve to one hundred and twenty, according to the weather and travelling. The average attendance is about one hundred; almost every seat is occupied on Sundays. I continue the week-day services, with a fair congregation. On June 1st the Bishop confirmed eleven. On Friday evenings I meet a class of young communicants, giving instructions on their duties. The Sunday-school and Bible-class number about sixty, with elements of encouragement, though many of them attend other Sunday-schools. The number at Holy Communion has more than doubled, thirty-eight communing on Whitsunday.

The Vestry have voted to build a new church, one of the number giving a lot and the others subscribing something over \$200. The Ladies' Social Circle are working hard to pay up the Bishop's salary and the back rent for the hall that has been occupied solely for church-services during the past two years. There seem to be energy, confidence, and harmony in the parish. I have visited over fifty families that have directly or indirectly signified their purpose to aid and sustain by presence and substance the church in this beautiful young city.

We have much to encourage us. May God guide and direct us in all our doings with His most gracious favor. Every one has confidence in the Bishop and the vigor of the diocese. I see poor and miserable Indians every day coming here to trade.