

1863

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THE BOARD OF MISSIONS

OF THE

PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH

IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

BY THE SECRETARIES AND GENERAL AGENTS OF THE TWO COMMITTEES.

To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places, might be known by the Church
the manifold wisdom of God.—St. PAUL TO THE EPHESIANS.

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1863.

INDIANA.

Washington, etc.—Rev. H. Hollis.

We occupy the centre of a square. The Terre Haute, Alton, and St. Louis Railroad runs about forty miles north of us, and the Ohio and Mississippi about the same distance south, while on both the east and the west there is a railroad running south to the Ohio River. Through this runs diagonally south-west the White River, a beautiful stream of pure water. In this valley, about seventy miles from Indianapolis, is the town of Worthington, on the Wabash canal, running from Toledo to Evansville. A railway has been proposed through this valley, but at present the dependence is on this canal. From Toledo to Terre Haute it is in repair, and does a lucrative business. From Terre Haute to Worthington it has been kept in repair for some years entirely by private enterprise. Often for months it is out of repair. Last year, from twelve to thirteen thousand bushels of wheat and other produce waited transportation for months. The rains have again injured it, but we now have hopes a responsible company is about to put it in repair from Terre Haute to Evansville, between which and Worthington it is now useless. Upon this canal depends, in a great measure, the prosperity of the town and surrounding country, as well as the parish. At present it is much isolated from the great thoroughfares of travel. Our citizens feel it; but in prospect it is rich and promising. The climate is mild, and will compare favorably with Ohio, or any western State, for health.

Situated as this town is, it cannot be connected with any other parish; and up to the present there has been no point of any promise to warrant a division of the services on Sunday. With the exception of an occasional service in the surrounding country, I have thought it best to bestow my labor upon our parish and our interesting Sunday-school. Yet I hope to do more and more of missionary work. Up to the present I have had no horse or other conveyance to do what I would in this way. I need often a missionary horse. My people are few in number, and furnish but a small sum toward my support. All has been laid before the Bishop, who, we hope, will soon be able to visit us and hold confirmation. We have the paint for our church, and the lumber

to fence our church lots, and hope before long to report the work done. One parishioner has offered to subscribe one hundred dollars toward a parsonage—a good beginning, which, I hope, may prompt others to lend a helping hand.

Later date.

The regular duties connected with the parish have engaged my time and attention during the past quarter. One Sunday morning I held divine service at Scaffold Prairie—the remainder at our church. Our congregation and Sunday-school remain about as usual, the latter quite interesting. We are making some improvements about the church, and are anticipating a visit from our Bishop to hold confirmation.

Bloomfield is the county seat for this, Greene county. It lies about eight miles south of Worthington, on the opposite or east side of White River. It is not a place of that relative importance often attached to county towns. The location is usually admitted to be unfortunate, and the population small. Worthington, I think, is admitted to be the most important centre of business and influence in the county. Our irregular canal navigation terminates here. At present there does not appear to be any encouragement for services at Bloomfield. A change, however, may take place.

Bloomington is twenty-eight miles east, on the New Albany Railroad, and is the capital of Monroe County. We have no public conveyances to depend upon. Your missionary has never received the promised "missionary horse," and has no means to buy. He cannot make missionary journeys on foot. At present, however, there appears to be no accessible point calling for regular services. Outside the Church, periodical measures to produce religious excitement are much more relied upon, in this section, than the divinely instituted means of grace—prayer, praise, and the preaching of the Word. All the circumstances which surround us for the present, prompt to conserve and strengthen this parish.

WISCONSIN.

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

The progress of this mission for the past year has been most gratifying. A large

proportion of the Indians settled here manifest an earnest desire to learn and obey the will of God. The congregations at the mission services are always large, and the members of it enter with devotion and zeal and true reverence upon the duties of divine worship. Almost every month some new converts are added to the Church. In one instance, I have had the happiness to admit a heathen, that is, one who had grown up in ignorance of the Saviour and his gospel, to the Church, by baptism. There are in this tribe now none who have not at least heard of Christ, though there are yet many here who still refuse to believe and obey the Gospel. The greatest hindrance to the work of the Lord here, is the use of strong drink by many of the Indians; though this is not so great as formerly, for a large number of the young of both sexes have grown up under the influence of the mission, and they are sober, industrious members of the Church; their example is good and their influence in behalf of religion and the Church is very great in the tribe. The young Indians adorned the church building in a very tasty manner, for the celebration of the birthday of Christ; and on that day more than one hundred Indians knelt with the missionary at the Lord's table, to partake of the Lord's supper. My school children have been greatly delighted by a box of presents "from a few friends in Hartford," Ct. These presents not only rejoice the hearts of the Indian children at this joyful season, but they will add much to their comfort during the cold winter, and also encourage them to persevere in the good way. I should be very glad to receive such a box every year for my school children, and hope that I always shall hereafter have some presents for them; and, I am sure, if those blessed with abundance of this world's goods could see the happiness a few presents cause to these Indian children, that I should always have something to give at Christmas.

Later date.

Since my last report, our venerated Bishop has visited the mission, and confirmed sixteen Indians who had been carefully prepared for the reception of the divine blessing in that holy rite. The Bishop, also, by the preached Word, and by wise and loving counsel, "confirmed the Church." My people do not have the privilege of hearing the Gospel message proclaimed by a multitude of preachers,

and therefore the Bishop's yearly address to them is long remembered, and is the means of doing much good.

Our extra Lent services, on Wednesdays and Fridays, are very well attended; one of the members coming to them from a distance of five miles, another from a distance of three miles, and several come regularly who live two miles away. The singing at these week-day meetings is exceedingly affecting and solemn; for the Indians are all good singers, and on these occasions they use old and familiar tunes, and all join in the hymns with confidence and heartfelt pleasure. The mission continues to prosper, and is doing a good and great work, though one that is and must be confined within very narrow limits.

KENTUCKY.

Harrodsburgh—Rev. J. H. Bowles.

I HARDLY need say that the Church people here will be delighted to find that the churches at this place are to be sustained. I have been in this field since the 10th of November last, residing alternately in Danville and Harrodsburgh. It may not be improper to state that it has been a severe struggle with me, pecuniarily and otherwise. So far I have not been able to raise money sufficient to meet my necessary expenses since I came here, and am therefore considerably behindhand. This is a field and this is a State peculiarly uninviting to the majority of our clergy. But the call upon my love for the Church, and her maintenance among this people, so afflicted and so depressed by causes beyond the Church's control or theirs, was a strong one, and I responded as I was persuaded I should respond; it may have been at a sacrifice of comfort and peace, but if I can be sustained here at all, I feel sure that I shall be amply repaid for any inconveniences or anxieties I may have been subjected to. I do not think there can be found a better field to begin Church work in America than this is. No money can be raised, because the people have suffered too much to have it in their power to give, though hitherto all of them well to do, and many of them rich. But better than all else, a genuine spirit of interest seems to be awakened in the cause of Christ throughout the whole of the district under my control.