

AMERICAN MISSION, 1832.

EXTRACT FROM THE JOURNAL OF W.SUMMERSIDES, UPPER CANADA.

Saturday, January 21. After preaching a month in York, and the places in its vicinity, I walked twenty-one miles into the bush, and stayed all night at Brother Chester's.

Sunday, Jan. 22. Bro. Chester lent me a horse, and I rode eleven miles, and preached at twelve o'clock, and had a good time. I spoke again in the evening, about two miles further, in a new place, where there is no preaching of any kind, and had a precious time. This is likely to be a good opening.

Monday, 23. Rode fourteen miles to Centre Road, and found the society there in a very confused state through some misrepresentations and contentions among themselves. I visited the disturbed part of them, and preached that night to them from ! John iv. 11. Beloved if God hath so loved us, we ought also to love one another; and had a feeling time. I trust good was done.

Tuesday, 24. Walked 4 miles, and preached in a school house, to about half a score of people. A dry time.

Wednesday, 25. Walked three miles, and spoke in a school house to a large congregation.

Thursday, 26. Preached at Four Corners, in the Episcopal Methodist chapel. A good congregation notwithstanding the coldness of the night. I felt pleased to see such a large quantity of sleys and horses stand at the door, many of which had come two, three, and four miles, through the cold frost and snow. Indeed it was so cold in the chapel, although a large stove in it, that it was with difficulty I could stand and preach; my hands were like to freeze to the hymn book. But ! felt wonderfully helped by the Lord.

Friday, 27. I spoke at Churchville.

Saturday, 28. In Bro. Lowden's house. The Lord was there.

Sunday morning, Jan. 29. Spoke at Streetsville, and led a class, and two joined the society. In the afternoon walked four miles, and preached in a school-house, to a large congregation, and met a class after. A great many stayed in and it was a refreshing season from the presence of the Lord. Many were seeking the Lord, but did not then find him. In the evening walked three miles, and preached again to a crowded congregation; and returned to Brother Scotts weary and tired, and stayed there all night.

Monday, 30. Walked ten miles through the snow, and spoke in Brother Paisley's house at twelve o'clock. In the evening walked two miles further, and preached in a school-house.

Tuesday, 31. Preached in Bro. Smith's: then went seven miles, and spoke again.

Wednesday, Feb. 1. Spoke in Etobicoke, and stayed all night in a house where I found a man in despair. I talked to him, and prayed with him, but all seemed in vain. He thought he had sinned the sin against the Holy Ghost. On Saturday I left him apparently shut up in unbelief, but I have heard since that he was a deal better. And the same day I got to York, nearly wore out. The last thirteen days I have preached sixteen times; led two classes; rode fifty miles, and walked seventy miles. The last fortnight the cold has been very severe. At nights every thing around us has been frozen, and the white rime and frost have lain very thick upon the beds in the mornings.

Sunday, Feb. 5. I preached in York in the morning and evening, in the place which we have rented for preaching; and in the afternoon to the prisoners in the prison. It was a solemn time. Some of them wept and seemed penitent, others appeared hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

Monday, 6. I spoke at the Humber the next day, in the fourth concession of York township. On the next day at Blue Bell. I had small congregations at all these places, through the coldness of the weather, but felt much of the presence of the Lord at each place.

Sunday, Feb. 12. Walked nine miles into Scarbro' township, and preached to a congregation chiefly composed of Englishmen, many of whom had been pious, zealous souls in England, but are now in a backsliding state, and buried in the world. After preaching I tried to form a class, six stayed, and we had a weeping time. They all seemed conscious of their loss and lamented it, and were determined to set out afresh for the kingdom. Oh! how many there are in this province that have sold their religion for a piece of American land. The knowledge of it so pained my mind, that I preached in the evening in York, from 2 Cor. v. 4, "We in this tabernacle do groan being burdened." For I may truly say this, viz. seeing so many of this description, has been one of the greatest burdens I have experienced since I crossed the Atlantic, and landed on the American shores. May the Lord save backsliders.

Monday, 13. Travelled fourteen miles into Rane township, and preached in a school-house to a large congregation, and had a feeling time. This is a new place, in which there appears to be a good opening.

Tuesday, 14. Travelled seven miles into Marham township, and preached in Brother Haton's house, who were members of the Primitive Methodist Connexion in England. We had a full house, and after preaching I tried to form a class: about eight or ten stayed, and I set down four names, and appointed one as the leader. This is a new place, and I trust good will be done.

Thursday, 16. Travelled three miles, and preached in a very desolate barren place, a place where there is no preaching near. Our way is open in this direction for upwards of two hundred miles. The harvest truly is great, and the labourers few. Let us therefore pray that the Lord of the harvest would send out labourers into his harvest.

Friday, 17. Travelled twenty-one miles, and walked nineteen out of it, and got to York.

Sunday, Feb. 19. Preached in York thrice, twice in our regular place of worship, and in the afternoon in the gaol to the prisoners. The prison is now favoured with a sermon every Sunday afternoon, by ministers of different denominations, viz. the Church of England, Presbyterians, Baptists, and Primitive Methodists ministers. May the Lord give success to his word among them, and knock off their massy fetters, and bring them out of the prison house of sin.

Dear Brethren, — The Lord is with us: We held our quarter day on March 1, 1832, our number of members was one hundred and thirty-two, an increase of twenty-five the last quarter. Our opening in this province is better now than ever it was.

A GENERAL VIEW OF THE MISSION, 1832.

Brother Summersides has favoured us with a Preachers' Plan for the months of April, May, and part of June, 1832. And for the satisfaction of our readers, we shall give them the inscription of the top of it, with the names of the preaching places and the preachers : they are as follow :

British Primitive Methodist Preachers Plan of the York Mission, Upper Canada.

Esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake, and be at peace among yourselves.
1 Thess. v. 12.

PLACES.

York
Woodells
P. School house
Mc Bride's School house
Scarborough
Blue Bell
Smith's
Centre Road
Churchville
Streetsville
Switzer's S. house
Four Corners
Claridge's
Paisley's
Don Mills
Wallace's
Hogg's Mills
Thorn Hill
Nicholes'
Humber
Haton

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PREACHERS.

W. Summersides
J.P.A. Cherry
M. Brodrick
W. Lawson
R. Walker
R. Smith
S. Dutton
T. Turley
T. Horsley
T. Lowden
J. Agar
T. Lacup
J. Wilkinson

EXHORTERS.

W. Craig
R. Middleton
D. Walderage
M. Watson

References

Primitive Methodist Magazine 1832/329