

## BRITISH NORTH AMERICA.

*Upper Canada Mission, 1832.*

(Extract from the Journal of William Summersides, 1832.)

July 2, Spoke at M'Nabb's village, a new place, thirty-four miles from York. I had invitation to this place by some of the principal persons in it, to preach a sermon on temperance. I complied with the invitation, and preached to a large congregation, from Prov, xxiii 29, 32. The inhabitants are chiefly English, Irish, and Scottish, many of whom were very wicked, and with regard to drunkenness, unequalled perhaps by any other place of its size. But a glorious reformation has taken place, outwardly, (at least,) chiefly through the influence of a temperance society being formed a month ago. And the owner of the distillery, the distiller, and the tavern keeper, have all joined the temperance society, and so have many who had been drunkards, so that the reformation in the village is wonderful. And we have formed a society of eight members.

Sunday, July 8, Held a Camp Meeting in Centre Road, in the Toronto township; after which we had a lovefeast, and I trust lasting good was done.

Thursday 12, Spoke in the open air, beside the Jail, (in York town) to a good congregation, and had a precious time. While I was preaching the jailer swore much, and said that I should not preach there, again. He also caused one of the windows to be put down, that those in the inside might not hear us. But that night he took the cholera, and the next day died. How true is the scripture, that the wicked is driven away in his wickedness!

The Cholera is raging much, many die every day with two or three hour's illness, and generally the wicked, and especially those who are addicted to drinking ardent spirits. Oh! that while God's judgments are abroad in the earth, the people may learn righteousness and prepare for death and eternity.

Sunday, July 15, Spoke twice in York. The Lord was powerfully present. Monday 16, Led the preacher's class. Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, was employed in begging for a new chapel in York.

Saturday 21, Went twenty miles into the country, and on Sunday spoke twice, and had a good day.

Monday 28, Travelled fifteen miles, and spoke at M'Nabb's village. I felt poorly in body, but had a good time. This is the second time I have preached in this place, and there appears to be a good opening.

Tuesday 24, Spoke at Strutsville, in a temperance society meeting.

Thursday 26, Made some arrangements in Strutsville, for building a new chapel. We had the land, and part of the timber, given us by one person. And we begged nearly seventy dollars, and returned home to York the same day, twenty-six miles. Through the exercise of the day, I felt poorly in body, and remained so till Saturday.

Sunday, July 29, Spoke twice in York to large congregations, and gave the sacrament. The power of God was wonderfully displayed, and the communicants in general were made abundantly happy.

Wednesday, August 1, Spoke in the open air, beside the Jail again, and had a great congregation, and had a powerful time. The arm of the Lord was made bare amongst the people: I have since heard that some were alarmed of their state and danger.

Sunday, August 5, Spoke twice in York, and had a good day. On Monday night I led the preacher's class, and fourteen fresh ones were there, and nine joined the society. Several were in deep distress for their souls, and seeking the Lord; and one whose bones the Lord had broken, was made to rejoice.

Tuesday 7, Spoke at Haton's. Wednesday, at Morisson's. On Thursday at Thorobill. On Friday at Nichol's, and met the class after. Many stayed, and some roared aloud in the disquietude of their souls, and two were made happy in the Saviour's love, and could rejoice in a sin-pardoning God.

Sunday, Aug. 12, We held a Camp meeting in the township of Marham. Many were deeply affected, and in the lovefeast held in a school house after, they cried aloud for mercy; a shower of grace descended, and some were brought into the glorious liberty of God's dear children.

Monday 13, Returned home, and met class, and one got liberty, and one more joined the society. O Lord ride on.

Sunday 19, Spoke twice in York, and had a powerful day; and in the prayer meeting one obtained deliverance.

Tuesday 21, Spoke at Strutsville, and had a shaking time.

Wednesday 22, I was employed in begging for the new chapel at Strutsville, and in getting the land measured and secured; and preached at Centre Koad in the evening.

Thursday 23, Spoke at M'Nabb's village, and met a class, and two more joined. I also baptized four children, and made arrangements for building a new chapel there.

Sunday, Aug. 26, Spoke in Toronto in the morning, and had a grand congregation, and led the class after. Some cried aloud for mercy, but did not obtain it. In the afternoon spoke at Strutsville, and led class. It was a melting time, and one joined the society. In the evening spoke in a school house, a hard time.

Sunday, Sept. 2, We held Camp meeting in the bush about two miles from York. It was a fine day. We sung up the town through the main street, which had a good effect, and answered a good end, And near the Camp ground we lifted a flag with this inscription "In the name of God we will set up our banners." Much power attended both the preachings and the praying services. And in the evening we held a lovefeast in York. It was a glorious day, and many were pricked in their hearts, and cried aloud for mercy; and many brought to experience God's pardoning mercy; and to feel the love of God shed abroad in their hearts by the Holy Ghost given unto them.

Monday, Sept.3, We held our quarterly meeting. Much peace and harmony presided, and it was the most flourishing quarterly meeting we ever had since I came here, both with regard to money and souls, and openings. Our number of members is one hundred and ninety-five, having had an increase of ninety-five the last nine months. Our prospects are brightening :

"Lo! the promise of a shower  
Drops already from above."

And we hope,

"The Lord will shortly pour  
All the spirit of his love."

O that it may soon be realized.

Sunday, October 21, We opened our new chapel in York, Brother W. Lawson preached in the morning. The Rev, James Richardson, an Episcopal Methodist, and editor of their weekly newspaper, preached in the afternoon, and me in the evening. We had large congregations, good collections, and a good day; the Lord was present in our assemblies.

The chapel is built of brick; the basement story of stone. It is forty-six feet long, by thirty-six wide and thirty-four feet high, including the basement story. It has eleven windows: two large circular ones at the pulpit. Two on each side in the gallery, and five in the front. The gallery is pewed, and there are pews in the middle of the chapel at the bottom; and all the other parts are forms. It is calculated to seat between five and six hundred people. In the basement story there is an excellent School room, and two neat dwelling houses; one of which I occupy, and I think I never was better suited with a house. It is warm in the winter, and cool in the summer.

The whole cost will be about seven hundred and forty pounds, and we have begged between two and three hundred pounds,

Yours affectionately,

W. SUMMERSIDES.

---

References

*Primitive Methodist Magazine* 1833/114