

**THE LIFE OF THE REV. JAMES (SELKRIG) SELKIRK
(AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY)**

INDEX TO CONTENTS

Birth, early home, schooling	1
Voyage from New York; storm	2-5
Arrival at Amsterdam, smuggling tobacco	5
Oppression by Napoleon Bonaparte: Lewis Napoleon on throne of Holland	6
Learning Holland language; Lay-out of City of Amsterdam	7
Boarding a privateer, actions at sea against British; Return to Amsterdam	7-11
Boarding for attempted return trip to America, Aaron Burr on Board	11-12
Capture of British frigate, London	12-14
Passage to America, arrival at Newport	14-15
Reunion with father, grandfather, friends	15-16
Arrival home; rejoining the old Company of Fusiliers; service at Staten Island, disbanding	16-19
Return home; the call of religion; organizing churches	19-25
First trip to Michigan via Detroit; Niles; St Joseph	28-29
Return trip to New York; arrival home; raising funds for church	26-28
Return trip to Michigan with family to Niles	28-29
Trip to Kalamazoo, Gull Prairie, Grand River, Grand Rapids, re. Establishing mission	30-32
Band of Indians at Gun Lake	32-33
Moving to Selkirk Lake	33-34

Visit to Chief Sagamaw	34
Building a house	35-38
Indians join Mission	36-37
Land surveyed for lots, clearing; planting wheat	37, 41
Paymaster at Grand Rapids for settlement with Indians	37-38
Sugar bush, hunting	38-39
The Whiskey-Indian problem	37, 39, 41, 43, 47
Visit of Chief Noonday	39-40
Murder of Chief Sagamaw, funeral	41-42
Trips to Kalamazoo for provisions	44
Religious meetings for the Indians	38, 40, 43, 44, 45, 46
Lack of funds	44
Meeting house	45
Fishing and hunting	46

INDEX
(WHITE PERSONS)

ADAMS, Chancey	16, 17
BARNES, Henry	7
BROWN, -----	14, 15
BROWN, Rev. -----	29
BURR, Aaron	11, 12
CASS, Lewis	32
CHASE, Bishop (Philander?)	25
COMBS, Captain Joshua	11
CUMMINS, Rev. -----	44
DEWEY, Timothy	24
DOW, Lorenzo	24
DUGARDINE, Captain -----	7, 8, 9
DYER, Rev. Palmer	25
FINNY, Rev. -----	23
FITZGERALD, Colonel	26
FORREST, Robert	19
GOODWIN, Mary	32
GOULD, David	1, 15, 16
GREGG, (Timothy?)	35
HAMILTON, -----	11
HARMON?, George	21
HARRISON, Judge Bazil	33

HOBART, Bishop John Henry	24, 25
HOLLISTER, Algernon	25
IDE, May F.	30
JACOBS, Captain -----	10
JOHNSTON, Richard M.	39
KILLIAN, -----	22, 23
LEWIS, William E. (Yankee Bill)	32, 33
LEWIS, Mrs. William E.	32
MERRITT, Willis	2, 3, 4, 5
MURPHY, James	20
MC CAMSEY, Rev. -----	29
MC CAMSEY, Rev. Samuel A.	28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 44, 45, 46
MC COY, Rev. Isaac	30
NAPOLEON BONAPARTE	2, 6, 11
NAPOLEON, Lewis	6
NORRIS, ----- (daughter of Dr. Samuel)	21
ONDERDUNK, Bishop Benj. T.	27, 45
ORPEN, -----	2
POLLARD, Nelson	33, 34, 35, 37
POWERS, Lieut. Nicholas	18
PUTNAM, General -----	1
RUDD, Dr. -----	24, 25
SCHRODER, Rev. -----	28
SELKIRK, ----- (grandfather of Rev. James)	15

SELKIRK, ----- (father of Rev. James) (Jeremiah)	1, 15, 21, 33, 34
SELKIRK, ----- (first wife)	21, 25
SELKIRK, ----- (second wife) (Hannah)	27, 28, 36
SELKIRK, ----- (oldest son)	33
SELKIRK, ----- (daughter)	33
SILVER, Abiel	30
SILVER, Jacob	30
SLATER, Rev. Leonard	30, 21, 32, 33, 34, 39
SLATER, ----- (wife of Rev. Leonard)	31
SMITH, ----	6
STODART, -----	11
STRONG, Return	2, 4
SWAN, -----	1
SWARTHOUT, -----	19
SWARTOUTT, Col. Robert	17, 18, 19
TROWBRIDGE, Charles C.	28, 29, 44
VAN RENSALEER, -----	22
WHITEHOUSE, Rev. -----	27, 28
WILSON, Captain James	18
WORDEN, -----	24

INDEX
(INDIAN PERSONS)

CAUSEQUA	43
COPAMOSSA, Chief	31,32
JUDSON, Adoniram	40
KEOKEESEKUM	42
KEOKEESEKUM (wife) (daughter of Sagamaw)	41, 42
MAWBESE	40
NOONDAY, Chief	39, 40
PENNASSE, Chief	40
SAGAMAW, (sometimes Saginaw), Chief	33, 34, 36, 39, 40, 41, 42
SAGAMAW, Jacob (grandson of Chief)	42
SHUAMUS	42
SHAP-E-QUONK (Big Thunder)	43
TECUMSEH, Chief	33, 39

INDEX
(INDIAN TRIBES)

CHIPPEWA	43
OTTAWA	30, 31, 39
POTTAWATEMIE	33

INDEX OF PLACES

AMERICA	11, 15
CONNECTICUT	
Hartford	15
Litchfield	15
New Haven	28
Sharon	1
Sharon Mountain	1,15, 16
Tolland	21
Waterbury	28
KENTUCKY	39
MARYLAND	
Baltimore	7
MASSACHUSETTS	
Boston	11
Salem	30
Worcester	30
MICHIGAN	25, 27, 30
COUNTIES:	
Allegan County	32, 34
Barry County	31, 32
Branch County	25
Cass County	30
Kalamazoo County	33
Kent County	32
CITIES, VILLAGS, ETC.:	
Alaska (Kent County)	32
Ann Arbor	30
Beardsley's Prairie	30
Bradley	34
Detroit	25, 26, 28, 29, 30, 44
Edwardsburg	30
Gull Prairie	30, 31, 32, 33
Grand River	31
Grand Rapids	30, 31, 32, 37, 44
Gun Lake	32, 34, 36, 46
Kalamazoo	30, 31, 32, 33, 44, 46
Mansion House	32
Marshall	30
Niles	26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 33
Prairie Ronde	33

Pentwater	43
Plainwell	32
Prairieville	30, 39
Richland	32
Riverside Cemetery	31
St. Joseph	26
Selkirk Lake	34
Slater's Station	31, 39
Tecumseh	28
Thomas Mission	30
Wayland	32
Wayland Township	34
Yankee Springs	32
Yankee Springs Township	32
MISSISSIPPI (Upper Minnesota?)	43
NEW HAMPSHIRE	
Con-too-cook-ville	30
NEW YORK STATE	13, 14, 26, 44, 45
Amber	22, 23, 24, 25
Auburn	24, 25
Buffalo	25
Canal (The Erie)	25, 28
Claverac	1
Fayetteville	25
Green's Corners	25
Homer (Courtland County)	20, 21
Jamesville	25, 28
Lansing	21
Manlius	25, 27
Monrovia	24
New York City	2, 12, 13, 14 17, 18, 25, 26, 27, 28
Otisco	22
Pompey	25
Poughkeepsie	1, 15, 16, 19
Preble (Courtland County)	21
Richmond, Fort	17
Rochester	23, 27, 33
Schuyler County	35
Skaneateles	25
Staten Island	17, 18
Tompkins County	35
Troy	1, 27
Weatherfield (Wyoming County)	32

PENNSYLVANIA	45
Philadelphia	20, 28
RHODE ISLAND	15
Newport	15
VERMONT	30
WASHINGTON, D.C.	39
GREAT BRITAIN	2, 6, 11, 16, 40
CANADA	27
Thames, Battle of	39
ENGLAND	2, 7, 15, 27
London	12, 14
Isle of Wight	5
Yarmouth	12
FRANCE	2, 6
HOLLAND	5, 6, 7, 11, 12, 16
Amsterdam	5, 7, 11, 12
New Deep (Dieppe?)	5, 11
Oust Mahom	8
Texel Island	5
Tonnigsen	5
Zuider Sea	7
ATLANTIC OCEAN	2, 15
Rapids (Narrows or Hell's Gate)	2
North Sea	7, 8, 10

THE LIFE OF THE REVERAND JAMES (SELKRIG) SELKIRK

My father settled in Claverac, (N. Y.), where I was born in the year of our Lord, 1790. Of this place I have but a faint recollection, being but three or four years (when) he removed to Troy and my first recollection was having the smallpox by inoculation and I came along like the other boys and had not much interest in the world until my father left that place for Sharon in Connecticut where he put me to a lawyer who sent me to school and made me do his chores. He was an old bachelor not far from forty years of age. He married the daughter of David Gould, who lived on Sharon Mountain—on the very peak—and owned a beautiful farm of three hundred acres. Mr. Gould was a Presbyterian by profession and was a very upright, good man and his wife was an excellent woman. I used to hear her tell of General Putnam and of his bravery for she had lived in the same town with him at the time when he entered the wolf den and brought the (wolf) forth.

Swan, being newly married, put his hand on me severely that I concluded to give up law and went to live with Mr. Gould and never in my life spent two years and a half more enjoyable—the time in which I agreed to live with him. We parted the best of friends and often in after years I visited him with a great deal of pleasure. He is now gone to reap the reward of his well doing and many of the family are gone also.

After my time with him expired, I removed with my father to Poughkeepsie and went to the academy one winter and then concluded it best to learn some trade and made up mind to try the carpenter's trade; but the man to whom I went became unsteady and left his work and became captain of a sloop but did not stand it long. Thus I was left to myself.

***** Page 1 *****

I think it was in the spring of 1810 that I left the city of New York for a voyage to sea. Through a gentleman I became acquainted with a sea captain named Willie Merrit and, after a little conversation with him, I agreed to ship with him for a voyage across the Atlantic. The next day I went on board of the ship Pessevana (or Pessevesana) of New York and found things as the captain told me and got my chest on board as soon as possible. The ship being already on Sunday following, which was about the first of April, 1810, with the owner Return Strong and Captain Meritt, with mate and all hands, we started on the great Atlantic for some port where we could best make a sale of our cargo which was cotton and tobacco.

England had just issued her proclamation denying all merchandise of every nation to France and the Berlin and Milan decrees by Napoleon forbid all nations trading with Britain. From this it can be seen the great difficulty we had of success. But we were on the sea and had commenced our voyage and there was no other way than to make trial.

I as not quite of age and had never been on salt waters before. The scenery was indeed strange to me. I had shipped as a raw hand and, of course, had everything to learn that was to be done on board of a ship. With the captain I had but a short acquaintance but I had taken a great liking to him for the short acquaintance. And I found him to be all and more than I had expected. He was not over twenty-five years old. He had a wife in New York and understood his business well. Our mate's name was Orpen and a very faithful, good seaman (he was).

We had obtained our pilot and he was conducting us through the Rapids ([Narrow or Hell Gate?](#)) and at the proper time we parted with him, making him a present for good luck and steered our course

***** Page 2 *****

east and by north for some foreign land.

The Captain called all hands and told us what he expected of us all: That he should endeavor to do his duty and so must we all. The watch was then called and directed in their duties. I had the good luck to be called in the captain's watch. We had the good luck to pass the first night all comfortably. But, on the morning of the second day I began to be seasick. This was new to me but I thought it was not best to show off sick so I stuck to it as long as I possibly could and the wind began to increase. I saw the captain fix his eye on me and he ordered me atop to furl the maintop gallant sail. I was quick to obey his orders but while at work on the sail the contents of my stomach came rattling on deck and the first I hear was from the captain: "Come down on deck at once."

I left the sail and made my way on deck as fast as possible. When I came on deck I observed the captain laugh but he observed to me very firmly that I must not go aloft again until I had recovered from sea sickness. I, however, kept my watch regularly and after three days of very severe sickness at the stomach I got my sea legs and was as well as ever. Few who are sick going to sea get well as soon as I did.

I soon became acquainted with my duties as a man before the mast and took my regular trick, as it was called, at the helm, excepting in a gale of wind and then it took the captain and four or five hands to manage the helm. Our ship was an excellent sailor, nor did she ever spring a leak through the whole passage, although as the captain observed, he had sailed fourteen years and never encountered so severe a gail of wind as the one we passed through on our voyage.

We were out about nine days, when in the edge of evening, the wind began to freshen and all hands were called to take in sail.

***** Page 3 *****

We went at the work at once and got all snug but the main topsail, when of a sudden the wind blew so hard as to carry away the sail except at the larboard end which was made fast on the main topsail yard and by dint of good luck we seized it by the sheet and hauled it on board. We lost our light at the binnacle and I recollect I stationed at the helm and as soon as our light was obtained we go the ship in as good trim as possible for the present. The gail continued to blow and we to work until all our topmast was housed and no sail was standing except a goose-wing foresail and mizzen staysail by which we steered her before the wind.

All hands were at work the whole night and the next day the wind rather increased. Our jolly boat was hauled or block and block to the davits. The sea rolled over us from aft and the captain ordered me to pull out the plug and release the boat of water which was instantly done and I had but just got on deck when a heavy sea smashed the boat in pieces and naught but the rings remained in the hoods at the davit pulls.

The captain said he never in all his life saw the sea so heavy nor the danger so great. All we could do was to go ahead. We dare not heave to for fear of having our

deck swept. I was not so much alarmed myself because of the stories I had heard of the swelling waves and the howling wind.

As I (have) remarked, the captain was a kind man and on the second day he told me I had better go into the cabin with Mr. Strong, the owner. According to his request, I with some difficulty got into the cabin with the owner. He looked much frightened and was reading the Testament. He asked me if the weather was more favorable. I told him no that the gale (had) increased.

***** Page 4 *****

The third day dawned on us and we were saved. The wind left us suddenly and of all the knockings we had from the waves it seemed impossible for us to have lived but by dint of a good ship and faithful officers and seamen we outlived the storm and the gale. All officers and seamen said they never saw the like before and most sincerely prayed they would never see the like again.

Nothing more striking happened to us until we passed the Isle of Wight and wending our way as we began to approach the coast of Holland, a British sloop-of-war hailed us and sent a boat with officers and crew on board of us in order to examine us to ascertain whether we had any men that belonged to England or Ireland on board, and whither we were bound.; Our papers said we were bound to the neutral port of Tonnigsen, so they bid us adieu.

The captain then called all hands and announced a change of voyage and said it if was possible we should steer into the Texel. We accordingly tacked sheet and steered for this port. We were on the lookout with our glasses to discover an enemy, if one was to be seen.

As we neared the channel that leads to the Texel island, we discovered two vessels making for us. Both were armed and one of them soon overhauled us and fired into us with muskets. They boarded us and took us and said we were their prisoners. They took us into New Deep and kept us a short time and from there we passed up to Amsterdam where after a short season they unloaded our ship and laid her up for a season.

In the meantime, as soon as we had the chance, the captain told us to smuggle as much tobacco as we could on shore and sell it for our own convenience. I accordingly emptied my bed of its contents and stuffed into it good tobacco as much as it would hold and tied my blanket around it and took my chest and all my luggage on shore while the privateers were on hand and got it safely to my boarding

***** Page 5 *****

house without being detected which gave me a fine bunch of money for my labor. We took our board on the sea dyke at the house of Mr. Smith and those who captured us paid six guilders per week while we lived at this place.

We found the Dutch an excellent people, though at the time they were greatly oppressed by Napoleon Bonaparte. At the time Lewis Napoleon had ascended the throne of Holland but did his best to act for benefit of the people of Holland—so much so that Napoleon who placed him there forced him to leave the throne that he might find some other man who would govern more to the interests of France than Lewis Napoleon.

Many Hollanders were ruined by burning of English goods seized under the Berlin and Milan decrees. One large family, who were wealthy, had all their property taken from them and shut themselves up in their house, locked their doors, took their last meal, and finished off by taking poison. They were all found dead at their table where they finished their last meal.

Louis was too tender hearted to remain their king under such circumstances. We know that the emperor of France was most cruelly treated by England but the course he took with other nations would not justify him. Although England had to suffer greatly on account of his Berlin and Milan decrees, yet the amount of suffering was equal in Holland and among all nations who were friendly to him and there never was such a step which Napoleon took that brought a greater amount of curses on his head than the Berlin and Milan decrees. He did not calculate that this state of things would last long but supposed that Great Britain would yield and that it would bring about a peace which all the time he no doubt greatly desired. Great Britain can now see how she treated Napoleon from the beginning to the end of his reign and will, there is no doubt, treat France far better in the future. We can see this fact plainly in the course she has taken with the present Napoleon.

***** Page 6 *****

They appear to be the best of friends at our boarding house in Amsterdam. We had nothing to do but wander up and down the city and learn all we could of the life of Hollanders until every street was familiar to us. In the course of six months I had the language of Holland so that I began to speak it with much ease. Indeed, they took me for one of their own countrymen. I must say that in no other country were American seamen treated better than they were in Amsterdam.

Amsterdam is built upon a half circle commencing with a straight line on the Zuider Sea, where gates open when the tide is going out and vessels enter by canals and pass through the city, which is built upon piles driven into the sand. In due time the buildings will fall as seven of them fell in little over a year. When I was there in 1811, business was lively for Amsterdam was the place to fit out privateers.

We soon got tired of city life and about twelve agreed to go on board of such a vessel ([privateer](#)) If we could find one to suit us, and if the chance offered itself, to seize her and take her to England and serve them as they had served us. I was the last one that agreed to go and the first man to ship. All the others flunked but one by the name of Henry Barnes of Baltimore. We received our hats full of guilders as bounty money. After a day or two in getting ready, we left Amsterdam for the North Sea where we saw several opportunities when we could have taken a vessel with ease but it was impossible for two hands to work a lugger carrying twenty twelve-pounders. Not only so but never were hands treated better by an officer than we were by old Captain Dugardine and perhaps a better man never sailed a ship. Connected with this ship we had a large lugger that could carry 30 or 40 hands; so that we could run upon the shoals of the coast in case of need. We were well prepared to do something in case the opportunity should offer itself.

***** Page 7 *****

It is about nine hours sail from Holland to England the nearest route and we steered for about mid-ocean. Just before sunset we discovered a man-of-war brig in chase

of us. We were sailing east and she was about two miles astern of us. A council was called by the captain and we had nothing to do but plan to escape. We agreed to let the brig run under our lee and then, if possible, haul our wind and lie as close to the east as she would.

The brig had her studding sails out and had to take them in before she could fire to do us any damage. The sun was not more than half an hour high and the brig was so nigh that we could see the epaulettes on the officers' shoulders. We then hauled our wind as close as possible and she commenced her firing. Our lee lug was shot away but we had it repaired in a moment and in a short time we were out of gunshot.

We looked again and saw a seventy-four astern of us and a frigate east of us and a sail ahead of us and we were very certain that some of them would give us a brush. But night coming on with no moon, we were soon clear of the North Sea fleet. We gave three hearty cheers and ran into the bay of Oust Mahom. Here was a fine harbour and from it we could put out to sea with our pinnace or our lugger, as we pleased. After a few days the captain called up and we prepared the pinnace for sea.

In our pinnace we had accommodations for cutlasses, small arms and stanchions on which we mounted about two pounders or blunderbusses, as we thought best.

We had just got well to sea when we saw a large frigate and we then put in again for land and steered for a small island named Skelemankoy and on the edge of the Bay of Oust Mahosn. The frigate came to an anchor and at once hove out two boats and put after us with full speed. The tide was going out and the English ran around within a good musket shot of us and began to fire at us. We soon returned the fire and they thought best not to continue the action

***** Page 8 *****

long and we could have marched to them but thought if they would let us alone we could do the same.

We killed a few rabbits for fresh meat and then pulled our boat in deep water close to the shore where it was deep enough to sail and went up the bay about two miles and crossed the bay to our old harbor.

The English got enough of us and for that time left us to go our own way. The weather was fine and in a day or two we thought it best to try it once more. So, all hands aboard the pinnace once more, to the north a large galliot and the captain gave orders for a chase. The wind was fair and we came up with her in a hurry. She discovered us and crowded all sail to make her escape. But we out sailed her and gave her a shot as a token to heave to. We came up alongside of her and I happened to be the first man that made the leap and landed on her forecastle. Our boat swung round her some distance astern as our sails were taken in. I was well-armed with cutlass and pistols and made my way abaft and took her helm, and hove her to in the wind.

Our men by this time had their oar ready and came on board. We got the vessel in shore as far as we could for the tide. Our captain ordered myself and five hands to wait for the return tide and then to bring her into port. But this was not so easily done for in a few moments we observed a frigate making her way for us. We had nothing to do but to make our timely escape. I had charge of the men and ordered them to take the small boat and put in for the shore.

As soon as the English discovered us they hove their vessel to and out with their boats and as soon as they got near enough fired upon us. We had muskets and cutlasses and I steered for the land and succeeded at last to pull in shore where our pinnace lay. We then got our arms prepared and let them have (it). They found that

***** Page 9 *****

it was a little too hot work for them and gave up. They, however, got the small boat that I was in by its getting adrift.

None of our men were injured in the action; but, if they came out of the action as we did, they were lucky, indeed for we took good aim and had fair shots and I am very certain that they were not cowardly and if they had received no shots they would not have left us. Our object was not to kill men but to defend ourselves and get property if we could.

We were treated by our officers in the beset manner possible, having everything good to eat and plenty of money. On the whole it was nothing but sport for us to try our hand with Johnny Bull. The fact was that they had so many ships of war and so many seamen that there was little chance for us to make money out of them in this way as our Navy was small in comparison with theirs. There was, however, some heavy fighting on the North Sea between their vessels and those of the Dutch and French. Two French schooners went out together and had an action. One was commanded by a Jew. He commenced the action and fought like a man. He had one hundred men. Of these only sixteen were left and some of these were badly wounded. The captain had his leg broken. The English took him and the other captain ran away in a cowardly manner. He was taken to the hospital in port but died of his wound. His name was Jacobs.

The English were altogether the beset at sea. The reason was obvious. The French had no discipline. Every man was so noisy that no one could understand what the officers said, especially in time of action. Men should have little to say but obey the word of command. On our vessel seven different languages were spoken. The French was given in command and the remainder was interpreted. There were but two Americans of us and it was a real Babel when we were at our meals which in good weather were on deck but in storms we could go below, excepting the

***** Page 10 *****

watch and sometimes all but the man at the helm.

I believe it is now a given point that the Americans are the quickest and the best seamen in the world. It appears so from our battles in the late war with Great Britain and it appears that they have given up that we are the best steamboat builders that float the sea, or the best that live on this earth. We had five or six actions at sea with the British but we received but little damage and finally gave it up as of little amount. In about six months we left the ocean and came to Amsterdam in order to look round and see what was best for us to go at. Our cruise was up and in reference to myself, I had a severe time with my instep. It became remarkably lame and I had to employ a surgeon who, after about three weeks, brought on a discharge and I recovered.

At last I thought it best to go on board of a ship that came here and was taken like ourselves. She was from Boston and her captain's name was Joshua Combs. There were

three of us on board and the captain was trying to get Napoleon's liberty to go home in her and his request was granted. But our vessel had to be hauled down and corked and this was to be done by the Dutch carpenters. The work was slow but was well-done and at length we set her sails and hauled her out in the stream to wait a few days for passengers. When all (were) on board we hoisted sail for home and when we arrived at the new deep (Dieppe?) we were detained and some French officers came on board and took possession of us. After about thirty days Aron Burr and a lady of his picking up came on board of us. Burr had killed Hamilton in a duel and America was too warm for him to continue here (there).

Aron Burr was a distant connection of mine through the Stodarts and he being acquainted with my father was very glad to make a friend of me. The seamen all understood who he was and thought it no good augury that he came on board of us. His cabin was near to the

***** Page 11 *****

forecastle so he could hear what the men said. One day he called me into his cabin and said he had neglected to ay his respects to the seamen on account of having much to do in his berth and wished me to carry them his respects together with two large jugs of gin and large number of papers of tobacco to use on the passage home.

The moment this was announced they all said he was a good fellow and that no evil should befall him on the passage home. Burr saw at once the effect the gift had and was glad to purchase his peace with the men. From this time they treated him in the best manner possible.

The clearance at last came and we started out for home; but we were captured by a British frigate and they took us into Yarmouth. We had men enough to have retaken our ship and our mate was an active fellow and had some conversation with the master mate who was stationed on board of us as a prize master. They at once got into a dispute and clinched but our mate was too able and had liked to have thrown him overboard but our officers interfered and arrested the quarrel.

The captain had left for London in order to attend the court of prizes. Col. Burr and his female attendant had also left and went to the same place in order to get a vessel bound for New York which he obtained.

The captain had been paid for taking us home but there his ship was detained and the mate with another captain, who came to Amsterdam shipwrecked, got it into their heads to get rid of supporting us by complaining to the officer of a man-of-war.

I was on the shore in the edge of the evening and standing on the wharf near the ship. I saw a number of men and an officer approaching me. They asked if I belonged on board of the vessel. I replied that I did and they ordered me on board at once. I raised up and went on board the ship. Our hands had just taken to their hammocks and the British seamen went down in the forecastle and cut with their

***** Page 12 *****

the hammock strings and let the men down upon the second deck floor. They then ordered them to get their clothing and go with them on board of a man-of-war.

I went aft to the cabin and found the captain of the press gang drinking with our mate and with the other captain who had taken the liberty to complain of us.

The captain spoke to me. I answered him and he drew up on his fist to knock me down but I believe that I struck him first and he fell to the floor.

The captain of the press gang drew his sword to strike me and I told him to cut away but he did not dare to do it. But he hurried us into the boat and we all went on board of a seventy-four cut down to a frigate to receive men that were pressed. Here, then, we were safe in the service of the English.

Now this was the first English man-of-war I had ever been on. I was ordered below and took my sleep on the cold, hard deck. I got next to a Scotsman and he asked me where I hailed from. I told him fro New York and that I had my protection in my pocket to show them when they wished to see it. After giving me a history of himself, we went to sleep. In the morning betimes I rose up and went on deck.

After breakfast, the captain ordered me to assist the carpenter in cutting an air hole through the side of the ship. I told the captain that I had no objection to go over the side of the ship but as to laboring I should not do it; that if I was a prisoner of war so be it, but I should be of no use to them and pulled out of my pocket the letter I had from New York. The captain took it and read, doubled it up and handed it back to me.

The captain said he would se if I would not work and I replied to him that one man might lead the horse to water but ten men could not force him to drink. We then went over the side where the carpenter was at work. Here we talked some, then went on deck. I was

***** Page 13 *****

then called and examined by the doctor and found to be well in bodily health and then the captain held me for three days and looked at my protection again. He said he believed that I told the truth and gave me my protection and my liberty.

I paid my passage to London in a stage coach and had but sixpence left to pay for something to eat. In the great city of London I paid sixpence for a lodging and my money was all expended. I rose early and made my way to the residence of the American consul and explained my condition. He told me he would find a ship to take me home. He directed me to go across London Bridge and to continue down the river about three miles and that there I should find a ship and could go home in her.

There were two of us this time who kept together as our destiny was New York. Both of us had been taken under the ordinance of Napoleon. It was in the night. After we had arrived at the place we went on board the first ship we could discover. It happened to be the very ship were were directed to board. "Well," said I to Brown, "this is lucky, indeed."

We found some bread and meat which answered for the night. After eating we found a lodging. The next morning we say the captain and he informed us that he should be ready to sail for home in about 15 days.

W now got the ship up to London dock and had time to see the great city. It is a place of great wealth and great poverty. I was often lost and had to inquire my way to find the ship; but I soon became acquainted with the city so that I could find my ship without help. In this city everything to be seen is the work of human hands and we

traversed the city well. We go the vessel ready for sea on time and with all on board hauled out for our passage home.

Our ship had carried to London turpentine and some casks had burst in the hold and stopped the pump well. The ship was so charged with the stuff that we soon were down with dysentery.

***** Page 14 *****

We had left the coast of England and were stretching our way across the Atlantic. Our hands were mostly down with this weakening disease. But our officers knew no one that was sick. Brown had the rheumatism and we lay in our berths near each other. The mate came down into the forecabin but paid no attention to the sick and ordered every man aloft. I told him that I was too unwell to work but he insisted and at last I drew my knife and said to him that I should use my strength in defending myself, which gave him to understand that if he came within reach of me he was a dead man.

This was, indeed, a poser for him and in the future he let me rest without molestation. We had bent new sails but they all went to tatters in a gale. We came on the coast of America and found a schooner capsized but it blew so hard we could render them no assistance. We got at last into Newport in the state of Rhode Island about the latter part of December. I was still sick and went into the hospital, a stranger and alone.

I began to mend very fast and soon began to look to see what ought to be done. I wrote a letter to my father who lived in Poughkeepsie, stating my health and safe arrival.

It was but a short time before my father made his appearance and we embraced after so long a separation. He informed me that he had in my absence been teaching music in a town above this for a considerable length of time and was acquainted with this part of the country. We left Newport for Poughkeepsie and went through Hartford and Litchfield where my grandfather resided and from this place we went to Sharon Mountain and stopped at Mr. Gould's. We found them well and had an excellent visit. The old gentleman was well and very happy to see us and treated us in the most loving and friendly manner. Old Age had bowed his head and he was expecting to leave this earth for a better world. He was well prepared to go whenever God pleased to call him. He had been industrious and had laid up all that was necessary for his family. Religion seemed to be his whole delight in conversation. I believe

***** Page 15 *****

he was truly a good man and he had prayed that God in his great mercy would bless his family and all the human race.

Such a life as he lived is truly worthy of such beings as we are for he was good to all and felt for our world as a Christian should feel. On the peak of Sharon Mountain he had a fine farm and enjoyed it as well as a man could possibly do. I shall never forget his good examples. His friendly manner, nor his liberal attitude. Not to him alone but to his family at large—a better family I never was acquainted with. They are mostly gone to receive their reward. It is seldom we see such a family and we feel happy in letting the world know that there are such men that live for themselves alone but take a deep interest in the family of man and by their example teach us how to live so that when we are gone the world who know us might love our example.

After a short but pleasant visit at the house of Mr. Gould we left for Poughkeepsie and without any accident befalling us arrived safely at home. As soon as it was known the next day, the house was crowded with old acquaintances, who shook hands and appeared to rejoice with us upon my safe return from sea.

The minister of the parish was among the number and being a descendant of the good people of Holland, heard me address him in the Holland language which made him heartily pleased. I sang some excellent songs in Holland which was very gratifying to him and he was truly pleased with my return.

I had lost my wages and everything and had to begin the world anew. It happened to be in the close of winter and when spring came on there was much talk of war with Great Britain. In july following, the Old Company of Fusilliers was ordered by the governor to get equipments for service. I had belonged to them but on account of leaving them for the sea, I was exempt. But one of my old friends being engaged in a printing office and being just married, asked me to take his place to which I at once agreed. His name was Chancey

***** Page 16 *****

Adams, a young man of fine qualifications and much loved by all acquaintances.

We were soon equipped as the law directed and mustered into service. We took a sleep and started for Staten Island. We arrived in the City of New York and after a short recruit started again for the Island where we landed all safe and sound for our duty which was to defend the seaboard. We let the government retain our provisions and found for ourselves such board as we liked. We took a barracks and hired a black man as our cook. Every man was allowed one pint of good coffee daily and we had fresh meat with good bread and everything suitable. We lived in good harmony and our officers dealt with us as we believed they should have done.

We were commanded by Col. Robert Swartout, who was an excellent disciplinarian and we learned our duties like men. We were the first regiment out at this place. Many of our men were glad of the chance to leave his place in the evening; and the guard, having the counter-sign, would take the opportunity to pass the sentinels and make off with the intention of returning before morning. But, this was taking too much liberty and the colonel designed to catch them by altering the countersign while the sentries stood at their posts. The colonel succeeded very well until he came to the gate of Fort Richmond. After he had hailed the sentinel at his post and stated the facts to him, and he told them to go about their business and that no man should have the honour of charging the countersign while that post belonged to him. The colonel tried to reason the case with him but the man insisted it was wrong and that death alone would make him give up his ground. All would not answer any purpose that was said to him and the colonel ordered out every man in the camp and the Fusiliers, being had, soon surrounded him. He ordered them to be off and that death was their portion. The colonel still endeavored to persuade him

***** Page 17 *****

and at last made him a pledge and took his company as a witness that if he would resign his post as far as to permit him to change the countersign, he would pledge his honour

that no harm should fall upon him. After the company had all witnessed this declaration, the man gave up and the colonel changed the countersign.

The colonel then observed that he wished the whole regiment were like this one man and then all would be safe. When those men who had run away came back, they had no countersign and were at once detected and taken to prison. This proceeding had its good effect to prevent the soldiers from running away.

We turned out every day to exercise and there were few regiments in the service that could out do us in manual drill. In handling the 30-pounders that filled the batteries, I took the premium and had some days to spend in the city of New York. With the musket I came off second best and took a premium of liberty in the city for a day or two, I accidentally broke my gunstock and was ordered on parade without a gun. This I did not like and got the liberty of fishing on Staten Island. I first took liberty of our captain, James Wilson by name. The second day I applied to Lieutenant Nicholas Powers and received his permission. On the third day I applied to our second lieutenant and he gave me liberty to go. I tried to go on the next day but they all said no. Our sergeant and six men were sent for me and I obey orders and went on the parade ground without arms. The next day I refused to go without a musket and was placed under guard. I soon took the guard a prisoner together with his musket and in walking with him down the hill toward the barracks, I met the colonel who commanded the regiment.

“Well, my lad,” said the colonel, “you are a prisoner, I suppose.”

I hailed the colonel and corrected his mistake and told him the guard was a prisoner to me for I had just captured him.

The colonel then made a particular inquires, how I was taken and

***** Page 18 *****

what my crime was.

I told him the truth and he discharged me on the spot.

Robert Swartout was an excellent man and a good disciplinarian. He is now dead.

We all had our sport on the ground and served our time out in the best manner but the night before the army left the ground we illuminated our barracks and there came on a terrible storm. I was suddenly taken down with bilious colic. The next day our troops disbanded and left the island. I was left sick at a boarding house and about noon the next day I obtained relief and left also for Poughkeepsie.

I came home and soon regained my health and looked about for something to do to earn a living. I made up my mind to go into the cabinet business and accordingly went to work for a Scotchman, named Robert Forrest. We agreed remarkably well and I soon took out the best jobs and finished them off according to his liking. Every job he gave me was done in the neatest job manner possible and the old gentleman was well-pleased.

At this time there was considerable sickness in the place and I used on some occasions to visit the sick and dying with him. We went to see a man named Swarthout; he was low with consumption and asked me several questions which I answered in the best manner possible. He was in much pain and asked his Maker to relieve him; and was answered at once and complained of no more pain until his death.

This was something I had never witnessed before and I was considerable alarmed for myself. I went home serious and went to my prayers. In about three days I found that peace which I had never known before, although I once thought I had obtained the pearl

of great price. As soon as I became established in my mind, I began to watch and pray in good earnest and for about six months enjoyed my mind in the best manners.

I recollected well that I went to the Dutch Reformed church and

***** Page 19 *****

after the minister had finished his sermon I asked him if he would give me liberty to address his congregation and he consented. I then turned to the congregation and addressed them on the subject of their soul's salvation, about half an hour. A large number were awakened and called to God to have mercy on them. The minister was well satisfied and went into the work with all his might and a great revival of religion followed.

I began to look into the word of God and learn my duty there. I attended the Methodist meeting and they gave me the same privilege and the Lord began a good work for them. In the different churches the Lord worked and all came in that desired. The revival continued in this place about six months.

After this great revival I had the most serious trials which almost used me up. I endeavored to avoid actual sin but had the sorest trials so that I finally left the place and went to Philadelphia and stayed there about six months and being quite unwell left the place to get my health. I formed few acquaintances in this place and kept myself aloof from the people. I worked for my living at the cabinet maker's. The man for who I labored was an Irishman by the name of James Murphy and a Roman Catholic by profession. His religion consisted in fasting on Friday from meat, but living on the best of fish, coffee, and vegetables. I called it altogether the best meal we had in the whole week. He could swear and use bad language. I attended Catholic meetings and found that the whole concern was led off by the priests. There was some talented men among them but I saw nothing that would answer for my immortal soul amongst them and the remainder of Sundays I was among the Methodists and Baptists.

I came through the country to Homer in the County of Courtland and to this place my father had removed. IN the open village we settled. The People were mostly of the Presbyterian order and a very good

***** Page 20 *****

people that attended well to their religious duty.

By coming north to Homer I regained my health and commenced in my Father's house teaching the children to obey God as well as their parents, and after a short time the good Lord began his work and a great number were added to the church. I remarked to my Methodist friends what a severe trial I had passed though and the preachers were deeply anxious that I should unite with them and see if the good Lord would not gain pour out his holy spirit upon us. I thought it the best thing I could do and united my name to the class book. Having done this they besought me to take license to exhort and then recommended me take a license to preach the Gospel which was done accordingly. After various specimens of the work I believed God had performed I engaged to fill a preacher's place and commenced his tour on the circuit. I went and preached in his place until there was a quarterly meeting at Lansing in the State of New York. At this place the Lord was gracious to his people and some were converted to God. We had an excellent

time at this place. George Harmon (?) was our presiding elder and an excellent man he was, possessing much religion and able men to see and feel their duty to God.

The Methodists then took note of the work, which was of great benefit to the preacher. Indeed, they all appeared to know how to labor for God and his blessed cause. I shortly after this left Homer and went a few miles north to the next town of Preble (both towns are in Cortland County), where in about one year I was married to the daughter of Dr. Samuel Norris of Tolland, Conn. I lived in Preble a few years and the doctor died. Preble was a town of excellent land and the people were enterprising. The land lay between two large hills with a beautiful stream of water running through it. The work of the Lord revived and we build a Methodist meeting house of fine dimensions.

About 12 miles north of this place, and wet, in the town of

***** Page 21 *****

Otisco in a place called Amber (Onondaga County), on the east side of a beautiful lake about six miles long and one mile wide. I here made some inquires of people I saw in the public house if they were supplied with preaching. They told me there was seldom any preaching in the place, that the meeting house was five miles from town, and wished me to preach a sermon that evening, if I would. I at once told them to send out my appointment. I was invited to the tavern chamber which I found well done-off and preached to a large and attentive audience.

I tarried the night by invitation of the landlord and in the morning was asked if I would tarry until nine o'clock. I replied that I had borrowed the horse and that I must not tarry long – but, if they wished I would wait until that time. About that time they returned with an excellent young horse, saddle, and bridle and said:

“We have purchased this horse, saddle, and bridle and wish you to take it as a present from us; and when you can come and preach the gospel to us.”

I was much surprised at this but told them I would be there on Sunday next. I started before light on Sunday morning and rode to my appointment and preached to a large congregation in their schoolhouse. The good Lord began the work and some were awakened at this place. I gathered a fine audience and the people insisted that I should remove to their little village. I told them it was impossible for me to do so this year but I would agree to do so the year to come, if my life were preserved and all things were agreeable. I found a man who was willing to undertake it for the time and he went on and served them. The time soon came round and they came with their teams and moved me to Amber.

It is indeed a small village but the inhabitants, although poor, were industrious, and did the best in their power to get along in the world. There were two young men, Van Rensaleer merchants, and but one of them was married when I commenced living at the place. After a short time I had the pleasure of marrying Killian to a young

***** Page 22 *****

lady of the town. They liked to attend meetings and Killian was our chief leader in singing and was, indeed, an excellent person.

The place contained a good physician, two merchants, and mechanics of various descriptions. We very readily got up a beautiful house of worship and dedicated the

building to the Lord. God now began his work in good earnest. Sinners began to say: "God be merciful to me a sinner!" And we believed that God heard and answered their prayers. My duties were, indeed, hard. I had to labor for my support and in addition to this I had to preach very often during the week in which I delighted during my health.

The Presbyterian minister finally moved down to Amber and preached one-half of the time for one year. I believe that he then left us. The Methodist preachers left me in charge for one year and I endeavored to serve them as faithfully as my circumstances would allow. But this was too hard labour for me. While I was preaching in the evening I had an attack on the brain and was forced to resign my preaching for considerable length of time.

I went to Rochester and heard the Rev. Mr. Finny preach and there was a great revival following. The Rev. Mr. Finny appeared to be a good man and I conversed with him on several occasions, but could not make up my mind that God was offering salvation to all mankind and had determined before the foundation of the world that very few should enjoy it. The Lord is, indeed, a great God far beyond our feeble comprehension, but He has given us the Bible for our direction and if we seek him in the manner that book directs he has pledged His word that we shall be saved. And no sinner that humbly offers his heart to Him will be turned away, but will receive His mercy and grace given to him to aid him to do whatever the Lord wills. Here, let me remark that the Methodists are clear in their paving the way for sinners to come to their Savior. There were but few Calvinists in Amber. Our house was well-filled on Sunday and we (felt) the precious presence

***** Page 23 *****

of our God.

Just before our building was raised for the worship of God, Lorenzo Dow gave us a great trail in one of his sermons; he was a singular individual but he preached with power from on high and many a poor sinner will bless the Lord sending him among us.; Timothy Dewey was with Lorenzo and when those two men girded up their loins to call sinners to repentance, the work was well done; nor will they ever forget the goodness of God in sending them to preach the glad tidings of a joy "which shall be to all people." For the course of the revival we had 15 different ministers of the Presbyterians to preach for us and they tried their best to bring the people's mind to their doctrine. But they had no success. A Baptist minister tried his skill to turn the people but he could not succeed. His name was Worden but no man could turn them from what they had heard preached and from what they already believed in Christ, their Redeemer.

As it regarded myself I would like the Episcopal church, indeed. This church I had always liked but knew not how to approach them until I had learned their ways. I went to Auburn to see Dr. Rudd, and he appointed a day on which he would hear me preach and examine me. He came with another clergyman of the church and heard me preach a sermon. They agreed to introduce me to the Bishop of their Church, John Henry Hobart of New York, who was soon to be at Monrovia. On that day I met the Bishop. He examined me and gave me deacon's orders to preach.

I returned to Amber greatly relieved I my mind regarding the ministry. Now my ministry would compare with the ministry of a Gospel church. I had the right, according to the word of God and the practice of the church, to receive a support which was not

allowed a Methodist elder unless he traveled on a circuit or was stationed by the presiding elder. I saw nothing of this kind in the Bible and was able to make them see it also. I was ordained a priest the next year. Bishop

***** Page 24 *****

Hobert came on as far as Auburn and was taken sick at Dr. Rudd's and died at his residence. I as then at Amber and my wife died four hours after the Bishop. I have but little to say on this solemn subject, excepting that the funeral procession of my wife reached from the church to the graveyard, which was about one mile from the church. The funeral was attended by an Episcopal clergy man, named Algernon Hollister of Skaneateles.

I was then called to preach in a new meeting house in Pompey where I served them some time. We had a good revival of religion in Pompey and for a season I filled three parishes: one at Pompey, one at Manlius, and the other not far from the canal, also in the town of Manlius, called "Fayetteville. In this place the Lord revived his work and the people built a house of worship. I was then employed to preach at Jamesville where the Lord poured out his holy spirit and we built a house of worship. The Presbyterians had a large house and the Methodists a good house – and our small church was filled with hearers. Trinity church in New York aided us in payment of our church, which was all important for us. The Presbyterians became very friendly and sometimes I would take my congregation and preach for them.

I also preached one year for a congregation that had built a church at a place called Green's Corners. On a road to this place I preached in a schoolhouse so that the time was properly occupied.

Michigan commenced the sale of her lands and the people were without Gospel in many places and the Rev. Palmer Dyer and myself started for the West. We came by steamboat from Buffalo to Detroit and got into the place by Sunday morning. The Rev. Mr. Dyer preached and I performed the service. We tarried at the place one day, then left. We took the stage and traveled West. The Rev. Mr. Dyer wished to visit old Bishop Chase ([Philander Chase in Branch County?](#)) who lived not far from the road and I took charge of his trunk and went on

***** Page 25 *****

to Niles.

This place was just commenced. A small Presbyterian house was built in a short time and the Church people and Methodists preached in the school house to a very attentive audience. The house could be obtained but a small portion of the time and I went down the river to a place called St. Joseph. It is situated about 20 miles from Niles and was considered sickly at the time. The people were anxious to hear the gospel and I stopped with them seven weeks. We had only a log school house in which to hold our meetings and the benches and fixings were all of a miserable kind. The men of this place were all striving to get rich and the gospel of Christ was paid little attention to. They were men of business and capable of doing well but had left religion at their former places of abode. They were liberal in support of those who gave them the word of Life but were so engaged to get money that none were willing to be for god. There were only

two men and some few women who professed to have experienced the Love of god. Colonel Fitzgerald's wife was a Methodist and he was a liberal man but too much engaged in to give his heart up to his Creator. They paid much attention to me and treated me in the best manner possible and paid me more for the short time I had been with them than I had ever received for so short a time before.

I left them and went to Niles and stayed at that place until the spring of 1836. The people of Niles were willing to build us a house of worship but we were few in number. The people thought it best for me to take a trip to New York to see if I could get some help. I accordingly left Niles for the great city and landed first in Detroit. I had an amount of money with me in specie done up in stockings. There was no account of how much and I told the cashier he must count the money and credit the man for who I brought it. The cashier smiled and asked me why it was not counted and I told him that the man was in too much of a hurry. He then counted the money and made me a present

***** Page 26 *****

of the stockings which contained it.

I had about \$350 which the people had given me for the time I had labored for them in the ministry. At the same time they had not given up their hearts to the Lord. I had never preached so long in a place like Niles before this without having many souls awakened and converted to god. I went by the way of Canada and on to "Rochester. At this place I preached in St. Luke's church for the Rev. Dr. Whitehous and the next week I arrived safe at home in Jamesville.

I had married a wife in Manlius and she was glad to see me return safe and sound. We then got ready and started for New York and had a pleasant passage to the city. Benjamin T. Onderdunk was elected bishop of the diocese of New York. After some conversation with him I tried to get some money to build our church but made little progress there as we had no bishop but had elected the Rev. Dr Whitehous, or rather had agreed to elect him, in case that he was willing to serve. The Dr. went on to tell me that if he was elected our bishop what he would do. In the first place, he would visit England and lay his subject before the good churchmen of that place and explain his plan to build us all churches of the same kind. He said he would cause to be built large churches for \$2,000 and have them all built alike. He would, if he were our bishop, give \$1,000 to every church and thus have them all uniform through the whole diocese.

This would be fine and what he said to me was one reason why I did not urge the people of New York to assist us. I desired to return home to Michigan and to be there at the session of our convention. In conversation with the Bishop, I learned that an attempt was about to be made to divide the diocese of New York—it being a large diocese—and elect another bishop. He told me he supposed the diet was doubtless friendly to such a move. I then took a friendly tour to Troy and up the river to hear the Bishop preach and we had an exceedingly pleasant

***** Page 27 *****

tour.

Before I left the city of New York, I was invited by the Rev. Mr. Schroder to visit him and after dining at this house he took me to a meeting of a few young men who were

members of Trinity church. They had prayers and conversation on the subject of religion and they spoke as men in whose hearts lay the welfare of Zion.

They requested me to state my feelings which I did and endeavored to show them something of the condition of our Western world. They stated they would lend money without interest for building churches. I told them I was not authorized to borrow. They then told me they felt disposed to make me a present of \$200, if I would accept it. I thanked them kindly and told them it was truly a godsend to me for I was extremely short. My wife had returned home after we had gone to New Haven and to Waterbury to visit her friends.

I now started for Jamesville where my family was. We had made up our minds that it was best to travel on West as far as Niles. I put my family onboard of a canal boat and left my former home to find another.

We came on to Detroit and there I bought a large horse and left the place for Tecumseh. It was at this place we held our convention and elected our bishop. Without a dissenting vote Dr. Whitehouse was the man and two presbyters were appointed to notify him of the fact and receive his reply. The doctor had made up his mind not to be bishop. Our people were amazingly surprised, and we were left alone without a bishop for a season.

Mr. Charles C. Trowbridge, one of our excellent men in Detroit, went with another gentleman to Philadelphia, and heard a number of clergymen preach and finally requested the Rev. Samuel A. McCoskry to come on to Detroit and preach, with the intimation they had chosen him to be our bishop. We thought it was wrong for him to take such a step. He was willing, however, to let his name pass through the diocese and if elected that would be time enough for him to make

***** Page 28 *****

his first appearance. The two gentlemen agreed that this was the best plan and the reverend gentleman was consecrated the bishop of the diocese of Michigan. He was ordained at once and took his place in the district.

It was something new to the people but they liked the idea of having a bishop near them. Mr. C. C. Trowbridge took a tour with our bishop from Detroit to Niles and the bishop preached an excellent sermon. He preached in various places with good successes and was well received by the people for his gentlemanly manner. We went on with our house of worship as fast as we could and finally had the house consecrated. I had preached in the adjoining country places and was well-received.

The people of Niles had a very good Presbyterian preacher—a young man named Brown—who had moved into the place together with a number of his people. We labored hard for a revival but we could not succeed. The people of Niles were too much engaged for the world and had no disposition for the religion of the Divine Redeemer and there began to be considerable sickness in the place. On some occasions, I was called to attend two funerals in one day. I was called to attend the funeral of a woman who died of chills and fever 12 miles west of Niles. Three in the family were down with fever on the same day. I did not arrive in season for the burial. I gave the poor husband all the consolation in my power and returned home, but the next day I was taken down with chills and suffered much, but refused to employ a physician. In About three weeks I was about and was invited to preach in a new Baptist meeting house the dedication sermon.

This was 12 miles for our place. It being extremely cold weather and the house newly built, I took severe cold and had a long term with the rheumatism—so much so that I was unable to leave my bed and I resigned my place at Niles. My family remained at this place until I was able to get about. I received a letter from bishop McCoskry. I was too unwell to answer the bishop's call to come

***** Page 29 *****

to Detroit but I wrote that I as too sick to come at present. He was very attentive to me at this time and came at once to Niles and gave us an excellent sermon. I had recovered so rapidly that I started with him on Monday for Kalamazoo.

That day we got only as far as Beardsley's prairie—a dozen miles—and put up with Abiel Silver,*a merchant at that place. The (*Abiel Silver, one of the Cass County's most influential citizens during the first 20 years of its existence, came to Michigan in 1831. Impressed by the beauty and fertility of Beardsley's prairie and the prospects of Edwardsburg, its principal settlement, he located there and with his brother, Jacob, opened a store. Loss of merchandise valued at \$20,000 in Lake Erie and the "Wild cat" banking panic of 1839 forced the Silver brothers into bankruptcy but they continued in business. In Edwardsburg, Abiel Silver donated sites for three churches and contributed money. In politics, he was a Democrat. He was appointed an associate judge in Cass County and a member of the Convention of Assent, or "Frost Bitten Convention" in Ann Arbor Dec. 14, 1836, which accepted terms for admission of Michigan in to the Union as a state. He served as Commissioner of the State Land Office, 1846-50, and instigated establishment of the state school fund. In 1844, he became a follower of the doctrines of Swedenborg. Six years later he sold business interests in Cass County and began preaching in Marshall. He removed to Detroit and soon afterward established in Con-too-cook-ville, N.H., a Swedenborgian Seminary. He spent remainder of his life in the ministry in various Eastern cities. He was drowned in the Charles River at Salem, Mass., March 27, 1881, when he stepped from a train which had stopped on a bridge.) bishop preached in the evening in the schoolhouse. His sermon was excellent. In the morning we started for Kalamazoo where, in the evening, the bishop preached in a small building erected by the Episcopalians but I was unable to attend the services. We had put up at a public house and after the bishop had had a meeting with the people who attended church, he came to the tavern where we stayed in the same room.

In the morning, we traveled on to Gull Prairie where we expected a number of preachers of our Communion to come and visit some Indians at a place where the rev. Mr. (Leonard) Slater had established a mission.* (*The Rev. Leonard Slater was born in Worcester, Mass., in 1802, and was educated as a Baptist minister. On May 29, 1826, he married May F. Ide of Vermont and in the autumn of the same year, they came to the Rev. Isaac McCoy's Carey Baptist Mission at Niles. On their way they passed the site of Kalamazoo and were greatly pleased with the locality. Slater assisted McCoy until the spring of 1827 when he was placed in charge of Thomas Mission, McCoy had established on the site of Grand Rapids in the fall of 1826. Slater was missionary and teacher for the Ottawa's at Grand Rapids for 10 years. In 1836, he bought 80 acres in Prairieville

***** Page 30 *****

Township, Barry County, and established a mission and school, known as Slater's Station. To this place he removed the Ottawa's from Grand Rapids. He moved to Kalamazoo in 1852 and for a number of years returned every Sunday on horseback to preach to the Indians and settlers at the mission. Mrs. Slater died June 7, 1851. Slater died April 27, 1866. He and his wife are buried on the old trading post hill in Riverside cemetery, where they, as groom and bride, looked across the river in 1826 and saw the beautiful site of Kalamazoo.)

The reverend gentleman was very polite to us and lent us all the assistance in his power in response to our inquiries respecting this strange people. Our minister met us at Mr. Slater's and the bishop engaged him to go with us and visit the Indians at their camp and interpret for us. We got ready and left Gull Prairie and traveled as far north as the Grand River, which we crossed in scows. When we got to their camping ground, the Indians eyed us very closely. After a few words with the Chief Copamossa, he made necessary preparations and the bishop began his address. He told the Indians he was authorized by the government of the United States to make them an offer and to aid them in their situation; also, to take them and their children to some convenient place and interest them in the art of farming; also to erect a school for their children where they might learn to read English and become acquainted with the ways of white men. He witnessed how poor they now were and such a course as he would take with them would teach them how to meet the white men in all his ways and by doing so they would soon discover the advantage it would be to them.

The Chief Copamossa then arose to make his reply. He said the bishop's proposal appeared to be a good one; that he had told the truth in saying they were poor—that they were very poor, said he, but the bishop's proposition was a new one to them. "We now have our homes and our children are with us," he said, "But we know not what shall be the hereafter for us. You white men, who wear hats on your heads—it takes you a long time to make a law that suits you all, and how can you expect men like us to decide your proposal at once. It must take some time for us to think upon it and when we have done so we will let you know our minds upon the subject."

***** Page 31 *****

This was about the substance³ of what Copamossa said to the bishop.

We then started for the Grand Rapids where the bishop preached to the people on the Sunday following. The sermon was very good and the people appeared to pay great attention to what was said.

We looked about the village some and were well-pleased with the people's arrangement. On Monday we started for Gull Prairie and reached Mr. Slater's at evening. We had been round through the new country and had seen the bands of Indians. I omitted to mention a small band of Indians who had settled on Gun Lake about 12 miles from Mr. Slater's. We left our horses and carriage at the tavern of Mr. Lewis* and went (*William E. Lewis, famed proprietor of the "Mansion House," on the Kalamazoo-Grand Rapids stage road, was commonly known as "Yankee Bill" Lewis. In a covered wagon he and his wife, son, three daughters, and an adopted daughter left Weathersfield, Wyoming County, N.Y., in the summer of 1836, and settled in what is now Yankee Springs Township, Barry County, most of which is now incorporated in a Michigan state park. While passing through Gull Prairie, now Richland, they met Leonard Slater, the Baptist

Missionary. Lewis followed the blazed trail and at evening the family camped near some springs of clear, cold water. The year before other pioneers had cut away bark from a large oak and inscribed the words, "Yankee Springs," the name adopted for the township. Here Lewis located 1,000 acres and soon afterward opened his tavern which continued in operation until the stage company began to operate its vehicles on the Kalamazoo-Plainwell-Wayland road to Grand Rapids. Lewis' "Mansion House" became one of the famed hostleries in the Middle West. Many men famous in politics were entertained there. Among them were Lewis Cass. Lewis, eccentric and widely-known, represented Barry and Allegan Counties in the State Legislature in 1846. He died in September, 1853, and was buried under a great pine tree near the tavern. His wife, the former Mary Goodwin, died March 11, 1888, in Alaska, Kent County. She was buried in the cemetery there, to which place her husband's remains were removed.)

***** Page 32 *****

on foot about two miles and found them a poor, miserable race. We talked to them also by interpreter. The Rev. Mr. Slater was with us.

The old chief, whose name was Sagamaw*, had three wives with whom (*Sagamaw, a Potawatomie, and associate of Tecumseh, was formerly a noted leader. He headed the small band of Potawatomie's who greeted Judge Bazil Harrison, Kalamazoo County's first settler on Prairie Ronde in 1828 and guided him to the lake where the Harrison family settled. Sagamaw, in some accounts, is incorrectly called Saginaw. He was widely known among the early settlers, and was described as one of the noblest-looking Indians in Michigan.) with whom he lived. He said but little to us and after a short visit we returned to Lewis's, took our teams and went on to the Rev. Mr. Slater's.

We stayed at his house that night and the next morning the bishop gave me directions how to proceed and I started by wagon for Niles. In the first place I hired a man named Nelson Pollard to labor and I purchased a yoke of oxen and a span of horses and made ready as fast as possible to move on to some ground that would suit my purpose.

My father was with me at the time I started for Rev. Mr. Slater's. I supposed that he would rather go home to Rochester, N.Y., but I saw the old man look down. I asked him if he would like to go among the Indians and he answered me that he should like to go where I went. I told him to cheer up and that he should go with us. This at once cheered the Old Gentleman up and I never saw a man more gratified than he was.

I left my daughter in Niles, the only one in the family. We go ready and started and came on until night. We found a good place where we could feed our horses and fix our wagons. We built a large fire to cook our provisions, secured our teams and I slept as happily as I had ever done in all my life. In the morning, we started after breakfast and got as far as Kalamazoo where we remained over night. In the morning we left for Gull Prairie, arriving at Mr. Slater's at noon.

My oldest son was with me. He played the violin; my

***** Page 33 *****

father the clarinet, I, the French-horn. We went outdoors and began to play a march. The Indians came running from their habitations and gathered round us to hear our music. They were very much pleased and we played about 20 tunes to their great amusement.

My hired man went to work Mr. Slater while I looked up land on which to settle. I left my family at Mr. Slater's and went down to visit Sagamaw and also to look for some land that I might buy for the Indians. I found the Old Chief in his wigwam and after I had given the old man a hand of tobacco, which pleased him very much, he told me there was excellent land about six miles from this place and that he would go with me so I could see for myself. But, as yet, he would make no promises, I returned to Mr. Slater's and the next day I started for Sagamaw's camp and found him all right for a tramp in the woods. He had about eight Indians with him, all dressed off in their true Indian style with rifles all charged and ready to shoot game for something to eat. I had to leave them a short time and ride round Gun Lake. They took a canoe and paddles across, while I rode round the north end of the lake. It did not take me long to get along side of them. They traveled directly west (of the lake) about four miles and we arrived at another beautiful lake*. It was about 12 o'clock. (*Known today as Selkirk lake, in the southwest portion of Wayland township, Allegan County, and several miles southeast of Bradley. On farmland still owned by Selkirk's descendants, are buried the missionary, his father and several others. The graves are within a few yards of the site of the mission building, which was torn down about 1912. Descendants of Indians, who attended the mission and school, reside in the vicinity, attending their own Methodist mission church.) They then struck a fire* on the bank of this beautiful sheet of water, the (*A common expression when fires were kindled with flint and steel.) shores of which were dry and as beautiful as could be. In the meantime I took off my port-bags in which I had stored a quantity of short cake. I distributed the short cake among them and there was enough to give all of us a hearty meal. After eating and lighting our pipes, we then attended to business. They showed me a beautiful country around and, indeed, the land was good and the water excellent. I made up my mind at once and resolved to buy the land

***** Page 34 *****

and establish the mission. I found the owners of the land and bought sufficient to establish the mission and took my family and my goods and started for the woods.

We had the good fortune to find a family, which had built a house about a mile from the mission. Here we put up until I could build me a house. I found things convenient for us. We had gotten as far as Mr. Gregg's* and I had to ask his permission for us to tarry with him and (*Undoubtedly Timothy Gregg of Tompkins County, N>Y> (now Schuyler County), who bought lands on sections 28 and 29, in December, 1836.) family until I built me a house. I soon settled the affair with him and gave him one dollar per week for house rent while I stayed at his place. I sent my hired man up to a sawmill for a load of boards and planks for my house and commenced on a shanty in the first place. I then hired some men to assist in cutting timber for a log house and soon got ready to put up the building. The men appeared on the ground to put up the house but I was, in the meantime, taken down with chills and fever. I was too sick to know any who were at work for me.

The people were remarkably kind toward us and appeared to sympathize in our condition. I had in my possession two doses of calomel which I took down the next day and the medicine was powerful, indeed. After it had operated powerfully, I got better

very fast. I think that it was about five weeks when our house was ready to move into it. It was, indeed, a mournful time to move into the woods a mile from an neighbor. But I had undertaken the task and there was no such ting for me as to back out. When the Indians arrived I should have company enough. My time was set, my days were numbered, and if I could do anything for the Indians in twenty years now is the time to commence. I had jut put down my foot that no exertion should be wanting on my part to do the will of God. The time had got along into July and I labored on the land in breaking up some (acres) and fencing some.

I had seen a few Indians and their chief but he had not given

***** Page 35 *****

his promise to come on the land and live with me. He wished to com the matter over in his mind before deciding. I was busy about my new home and fixing up matters and things as they occurred to me and had much to do to get things to suite and for convenience of my wife, who appeared to be a little more reconciled to her lot than she had been . Indeed, I felt for her as it was a new matter for her to settle among Indians, who were in the habit of getting drunk whenever they could get a chance. It was a matter of great trial to my wife. She had wept and mourned over her lot with a deep feeling of horror at the thought of leaving good society and living among a people abandoned to the worst practices in the world. To engage in a cause that seemed impossible of success was, indeed, trusting in God alone for help. For if God were left out of the question, nothing could be done to hope for the least success.

I had given the Indians a small talk upon their situation. I had told them of the chances that would occur and how good it would be fore them to be prepared. In September, Sagamaw, with his band of men, came over to see me and havce another talk on the subject, I endeavored to treat him and his people well and made some preparation for dinner. After they had finished their meal, I rose and addressed them very affectionately on their condition and how the government viewed it.

I told them this was to be a mission established by the government to see if their condition could not be bettered – to raise them out of their troubles and thus prepare them for that world to which all of us were fast approaching.

After I had finished, the Old Chief rose and said he had never remarked he would come onto this land but that now he was prepared to say he would come – and that what he said on this subject would come to pass. He came over once more but I had no interpreter and could say nothing to him.

However, in November he came over Gun Lake with all his band

***** Page 36 *****

and settled with us. He remained with us a long as he lived.

The men were on foot and they arranged themselves in single file. The women and children were on horseback. There were about sixty in all, men, women, and children. They marched to the ground and unloaded their ponies. I told Mr. Pollard to take the ox team and wagon and carry their things to some excellent springs of water. They saw me move their goods and were pleased I had done it.

The men went to work at once and erected their wigwams. The women built fires and their camp was soon smoking and their fires blazing. By that time the sun went down and they were ready for rest. The next morning they rose bright and early to look round to see what was to be done. I saw a number take down their rifles and fire them, then clean them out. I concluded they were going out to hunt deer. They went hunting and before night come in with plenty of venison. I saw at once they were very generous for they distributed their meat round the camp and I also received a share.

We then employed a surveyor who ran out the land in 10-acre lots so that each could have a share and move onto it and fence it. Thus each would know where to go for their vegetables.

They behaved very well a few days but as soon as they could get some excutawawbo (whisky), I saw they were greatly given up to the habit of getting, as they called it, "squiby", and I found at once the Indian traders were getting liquor for them. They had not as yet seen the evil of their doings.

It was now fall of the year and the Indians were expecting the paymaster along soon. They said they would have to go to Grand Rapids to get their money. I had so much to attend to that I declined to go to Grand Rapids to the payment. My people were gone three weeks before they returned home. I soon learned they had saved no money and that their clothing was gone. They all looked down and felt miserable. On Sunday I talked to them on the subject and then that there was a very great wrong somewhere and that they must try to find

***** Page 37 *****

out that wrong and meet it for they were much worse off after they had had their money than they were before they had any. They replied that if I went with them they would be much better off and that I could assist them in saving their money.

I now had a log house built and fixed it up for the winter. I also built a stable for my horses and oxen and went to the marshes to find some hay./ I traveled about four miles and found an excellent marsh where I got enough hay to last all winter.

We had as yet no house of worship. I visited their camps with my interpreter and got along very well. I preached the Gospel to them and endeavored to persuade them to give up this vein world and strive to be for god. But little good was affected among them; nor could anything be done for them so long as they would give themselves up to drinking and ardent spirits. We had affected something thus far and we must wait and see what more could be done for this people.

The first thing was to do something for their living. So we calculated to break up some land and get some wheat in the ground and to keep up our meetings and perhaps the Lord would come among us and send His Holy Spirit and alarm those who were out of the ark of safety.

The Indians attended meetings very well for them and we had some hopes that in the spring of the year a revival would commence and that god would have mercy on the Indians. But very little was done among these people the first year. Some time after this they remarked that they had agreed to give God one year to hear what he said and to keep one ear for themselves. But one spoke and said he had agreed to give both ears to God so that he might speak all of his mind.

The first winter has passed away and the spring opened beautifully and it was time for the Indians to go to their sugar bush. Having everything ready they went off apparently a happy people. There would be time enough after their sugar work to plant their corn and do other necessary work. The women were altogether the most industrious. The men attended to their guns and hunt in in the woods for deer and

***** Page 38 *****

other game.

The Indians found I was much opposed to their getting drunk on the ground I had bought for them. So they would pretend they were going out to celebrate some of their rites. I was aware that drunkenness was their object and kept a look-out for them after they had been gone three or four hours. One day I had my horse saddled after they had been away from camp two hours and rode down in the woods where they had assembled. I found them in a most sorrowful condition, drunk and fighting. One of them took a long stick and struck at a squaw. Had his club not been broken against another stick, he would have killed the squaw. I ordered some young men to arrest him and six of them clinched with him. They were standing beside a large log about three feet thick. They tussled together with all their might and finally all went down together on their heads beside the log. The first who got loose from the others, took the top Indian by the hair and dragged him off, and so on until they had cleared away the whole pile of Indians.

They had now drunk most of their liquor and promised they would finish and come home sober men. They supposed this was a cunning trick. I had now found out their doings and begged them to leave the stuff alone. I perceived they had mended in some small degree and was in great hopes they might see the evil of their doings and reform.

The second year, Noonday* came to pay us a visit from the Baptist (*Noonday, great friend of Sagamaw, was an Ottawa, who had fought by the side of Tecumseh in the Battle of the Thames. It was he who, while visiting Washington in company with Slater, identified Richard M. Johnson of Kentucky, vice president of the United States, as slayer of Tecumseh. Noonday was one of the greatest Indian chiefs in Michigan. He became a good Christian and died at Slater Station in Prairieville. He lies buried in an unmarked grave near the old mission site. Relic hunters long ago carried off the last fragment of his tombstone.) Mission (Slater's) with two or three of their best men. He addressed the Indians in an affectionate manner. He also made another Chief and told him his duty and also that of his wife. Noonday had been a convert

***** Page 39 *****

some time and was very anxious that all the Indians might partake of the blessings of the gospel. He stayed with us three or four days and behaved like a gentleman. I was truly pleased with him for he thought there were other Christians in the world besides Baptists. Indeed, the Indians appeared to like our services so well, we had them translated into their language. By this time I had an interpreter name Mawbese (Adoniram Judson) who was very good to interpret the Indian into English and the English into Indian. He kept sober and was always handy on the ground when I needed him to interpret. He is now gone to the world of spirits. He stayed with us until my time had almost expired. He

went hunting with two Indians and they left him in the woods, not half a mile from his wigwam where he died. He had a disease, which, after it had broken, on the outside, gathered again and broke a second time inside, ending his life. Many sorrowed over his removal. He was a man they appeared to like much. In a general way he kept himself sober so he brought no disgrace on the cause of religion.

I recollect that Sagamaw, our Old Chief, was much pleased with Mawbese as they were on the best of terms. The old Indians who came to the mission were in the war against us and were paid by Great Britain for their services against us. I one day heard Noonday telling our Chief Penasseee what a time he once had with our men. Two of the Indians had ascended a large tree well filled with leaves. It was a beach tree and the firing commenced rapidly. He said he fired as fast as he could load his rifle. But soon he found they saw smoke from his rifle and fired a volley into the tree. "Upon seeing this," said Noonday, "we made down the tree the best we could and as it happened, we got clear of the shots." I thought this was very lucky, indeed. But now the Indians think differently. They found we Americans had done right in standing our ground. He remarked that we had a great man to lead us on to victory; that the government had done well by the Indians and if the traders, instead of providing liquor for them,

***** Page 40 *****

had provided them with clothing in exchange for the furs and had used their abilities to teach the Indians how much better they would have been at this day. It is, however, to be hoped that as they incline toward the Methodist church that this people will be faithful to them, not only in showing them the evil of drinking spirits, but in teaching them the art of farming so that in due time they will rise to the good condition of our farmers. The second year we cleared about 22 acres for their wheat and got in in good season, the Indians helping some to log off the ground.

The Old Chief Sagamaw endeavored to let the bottle alone but the poor old man had such a thirst for liquor it seemed almost impossible for him to break off. I recollect one day he had been away from home and lay with his daughter under the fence drunk and came to me to make his confession. I told him I was sorry to see him going so fast to ruin. He told me he was urged to drink and if I said the word he would enter a prosecution at once against the man who sold it to them. I told him it was the only course he could pursue. He went accordingly and took a summons for the gent and obtain judgment and costs against him for \$100. The man who sold the liquor is gone also to settle up his account.

We endeavored to show the Indians what we wanted of them; that it was not for our benefit that they labored but for themselves and sometimes they would work like men and do all in their power for which I would give them credit to encourage them to go ahead.

The Old Chief endeavored to assist me all in his power and would leave liquor for some time; then the temptation would come upon him like a whirlwind and he would give up to it. He thought he should conquer it at last. We had been at the mission about five years and he concluded it best for him to be baptized, as it might aid him much in living aright. But, alas, for him. I think it was the latter part of February when the Indians left the grounds for the sugar camps. Sagamaw and a few Indians moved to a

camp across the beautiful lake that lies in front of my house. They had been absent only a few days when Sagamaw's daughter came across the lake and told

***** Page 41 *****

me that her father had been struck with a club during a drunken frolic and that his brains were knocked out and that she wished me to go and see him before he died. I went accordingly across the lake to his wigwam and sure enough there he lay with his skull broken in. He was breathing his last. He knew nothing nor did he come to again. About twelve o'clock he drew his last breath.

His murderer was pointed out to me. He came up to me and said something but I found he was much intoxicated. I told him, however, I would get a coffin made and that he must bring it on a hand-sleigh, where I would preach to them. After they had brought the corpse up and gathered the Indians together, the wife of Keokeesekum, daughter of Sagamaw, came up to the coffin to look at her father. She stood and looked at him for a moment, then fetched an unearthly shriek and shook her head in great agony. She loved her father and it seemed like death with her to part with him.

The Indians gathered together and I preached to them on the subject and I trust that many of them laid it to heart. The son-in-law, Keokeesekum, concluded he would drink no more liquor and I believe he kept his word for he and his wife made a profession of religion and joined the church. They endeavored to settle the matter for their father's death for it was the son-in-law of the Old Chief that struck the fatal blow by the name of Shuamus. He was shortly afterward imprisoned but they found no bill against him and he lived about one year after he had murdered his father-in-law.

The death of Sagamaw was a sore affliction to us for he took such a liking to us all that we could not help loving the Old Man. There was rarely a day that he did not visit us. He would bring with him a little boy, named Jacob, his grandson, and was much pleased with the little lad. When we gave him something to eat, he would always give his grandson a part. He was a good-natured man, even when drunk and would harm no one.

***** Page 42 *****

We had another chief, a tall man, who had lived many years with the habit of drinking. One day I said to him:

“Do you not think much of the religion of Our Savior?”

He answered me by saying that he would like to try his religion and if he could leave off liquor he was agreed that the Lord would have mercy upon him. He said he meant to make the trail for one year and if he succeeded he would then make a public profession of his religion and lead a godly life the remainder of his days. He attended church regularly, excepting when he was sick. In leaving liquor alone for so long trial he was very sick. I paid close attention to him and he recovered very fast. He had gained the day and he came forward after his time had expired and was united with the church.

The bishop came over to Kalamazoo and he went out to hear him preach and took the Sacrement to his great satisfaction. I must say that he was firm unto the end of his life. His oldest son was named Shap-e-quonk (Big Thunder) and his second son was Causequa. I tried to get the youngest but the Old Chief was fearful and it was a long time

before he would let him come to my house. The youngest son was a man – every inch of him. I taught him the English language and sent him to the Mississippi (Probably meaning in Upper Minnesota) to finish his education but the Chippewas were to wild for him and he left them and came home. He is a Christian in every deed – one that, I trust, loves his Savior Jesus Christ.

Shap-e-quonk is now the chief up at the Chippewa grounds (undoubtedly meaning the Pent-water area to which many Indians were removed) and is much beloved. He is satisfied with their place and likes it much. He wrote me not long since and said that he means before long to come and see me and to do other business also for the Indians who have gone on from this place.

The Indians now began to see that drinking liquor was altogether wrong. The work of the Lord survived among them and they endeavored to let drinking along. They kept a good watch against it and would let me

***** Page 43 *****

know if there was any in camp. I now looked round to see if I could purchase some land and bought forty acres which I cleared for a farm as fast as possible. In the first place I had to get my provisions from Kalamazoo. The roads were new through the woods and it would take me until late at night to get a load home. Sometimes my wagon would break down and I would leave everything on the road and come home in the night and the next day, send oxen down to haul home my wagon. Then I would have to build a log heap in order to fire* my

(*Before being fitted to the wheel it was necessary to expand the iron tire by heating it red hot. Outside of nearly every old-time blacksmith shop, there was a place built of stones – later of cement - for heating tires.)
tire.

I had established prayer meetings, which I held twice a week and the Indians were always there to assist me. All went well at the mission but my pay was hindered, the bishop having charge of it. I was one year without any money and the bishop came to me and I had nothing to eat. He knew this for he had taken the money and used it himself. The gentleman found that such a course would not answer. He had taken the Rev. Mr. Cummins from Grand Rapids in order to let him have some of the money and I stated to Mr. Cummins what course the bishop had taken for thinking it would not answer for him to use the money he had let the Missionary Society of New York have the whole. The Rev. Mr. Cummins said he would not answer. So he went to the bishop and talked to him and he finally concluded that it was best to put the money into the hands of Charles C. Trow-bridge, Esq., (of Detroit) to pay out as it became due and I must say that he was a gentleman of the first water. In no instance had I to wait for what was due me. And now I understand that the Gentleman says, that is the bishop, that he would never place any man over the Indians but a deacon. I wonder what gentleman means by this? Does he mean that he would keep the money and use it if so, his deacon would not last long in such a place as this. This reminds me of a man

***** Page 44 *****

in great power but he will find our church is master over her bishops, as well as over her priests and deacons. She thought so, at least in New York and Pennsylvania. I understand that Bishop McCoskry is friendly with Bishop Onderdonk of New York and I am very glad it is so for truly the bishop needs fiends. I was extremely sorry to have the bishop so unfortunate. I knew him well and saw and heard him preach up the North river before his fall. God knows that he has suffered extremely for the offense that they alleged against him.

The Methodists tried hard to divide our little flock. They went to the camps and tried to make themselves agreeable to the poor Indians, but I saw no good that they effected and I suppose they have lost the most of their power of the spirit that they used to enjoy. The solemn fact is that their Heavenly Father looks down upon their dead formality, so I hear they are losing ground. They once assumed the Episcopacy. They ordained their own bishops, priests, and deacons. I know they have written much on the subject but I cannot see for my part how they can get along with this practice. There is one thing certain – that if they get dissatisfied with their ordination, The Episcopal Church stands ready to assist them and help them grow in a lawful way by ordaining them into the ministry in a proper manner and I am certain that I wish them well.

This has been called by all who were acquainted with it an excellent mission and I am bold to say that the Indians as a body have done better than any other mission got up among them. It was, indeed, a hard task at first on account of their loving ardent spirits but by degrees it (Their Taste) wore away so that they evidently saw their duty. We had the most hopes for younger lads who were coming up to get them to avoid the horrible practice of drinking liquor and our

***** Page 45 *****

success was excellent.

I built a church, or rather took a house I had built for my family, and fitted it up for a meeting house which answered for s season reasonably well, although we could not make it as light as we needed for fear that the boys would throw stones and break the glass; so, we had no windows in the front part. The bishop furnished us with good organ so that when we held services the chants went off beautifully in the Indian language.

It was our duty to live economically and we did. I labored with all the strength I had in order to get along in the work as we should. The Indians were good hunters and brought us in venison and they would go often down Gun lake and fetch us large pickerel. If the bishop were coming I would tell them if they would hunt and bring me a large, fat turkey, I would pay them well for their trouble, which they were sure to do. They began to see their privileges and their conduct was much changed. They attended regularly their prayer meeting which were a great help to them and some of them were happy in their savior. They saw there was true happiness in the service of God and they longed to have all their people taste how good and gracious the Lord was. The women sang delightfully and there were truly good times with us. Now they are mostly moved away from us. They can now see how hard I labored for their good and write me and give me thanks for my labor in their behalf.

We are surrounded with beautiful lakes, which abound in fish, so we can live very well in summers. I went down to the Grand Rapids and assisted the Rev. (Mr. or McCamsey, word illegible) when he was absent and I also preached for the people of

Kalamazoo when they were destitute of a minister. These places were new and it was difficult to get ministers as needed. The churches were then poor and had to get along as well as they could.

***** Page 46 *****

The time was rapidly passing on and I had much to do as I considered the Mission could last but twenty years from the commencement - - and then I should be an old man - and must look for finishing up of my days. I recollect most of the circumstances that transpired while I was missionary amongst this people. How awful was their condition because the traders were utterly opposed to their reformation; it was taking from their living as regarded selling them liquor and they labored with all their might to have them continue in their old practice of buying their whisky and getting drunk. Nothing could be done among them until they could plainly see the object of the traders and their certain destruction and my attention to this point was the first. If they could but see this and believe the truth as it came from their speaker, then there was hope of a reformation and that reformation begun aright would lead them to see how many had been destroyed by this sin.

The original book from which this work was copied is at Packham Hall (Institute) University of Michigan Ann Arbor, Michigan

***** Page 47 *****