

raise a fund expressly to build a church; and one hundred acres were donated to Williams. The governor ordered the amount obtained by this sale, some \$4,000, placed in the hands of two commissioners, Judges Williams and Miller, of Utica, for perfect security of faithful application. Messrs. Williams and Miller, in the fullest confidence, had placed the money at Mr. Williams' disposal for the purpose of building the church. He employed mechanics, submitted the plans, furnished the material, and in reasonable time the church was built. It was up, finished and occupied the fall I went to Oneida, and was a credit to the Indians, and quite a feather in Williams' cap.

In the early part of that winter, Mr. Williams was notified that the commissioners, Messrs. Williams and Miller, would wait upon him in a few days, to see the new church, and examine his vouchers for the expenditure of the money. Williams was exceedingly exercised about it, for he had no vouchers that would bear inspection. He got an amount figured up to cover the \$4,000; but in such equivocal shape as would not bear the light.

The commissioners came and viewed the church—a small building of a cheap construction, about twenty-eight by fifty-eight feet, with a small vestry-room, and a belfry. They did not express any opinion as to the cost. They then repaired to the house to examine the accounts. Judge Williams, after looking them over, began asking Williams questions, none of which could he satisfactorily answer. After some half hour of colloquy, Judge Williams threw the papers on the table in anger, saying: “I wash *my* hands of the whole matter; those accounts are a mystery.” Judge Miller said as much, and they both left the room. I do not think the matter was ever adjusted. The church was supposed to have cost at most \$1,200 to \$1,400 dollars. The balance of the \$4,000 was not accounted for, and the Indians made it a charge against Mr. Williams for long years afterward. This matter seemed to affect Williams' mind somewhat seriously; but did not cure him of his habits of equivocation.

Soon after I had completed his back correspondence, he brought a new thing on the tapis. This was to write out an Indian speech. In 1819, Rev. Dr. Jedidiah Morse had traveled through the