

convenience suggest. Such is the vehicle which is to convey us to the place of our destination. In the small compass of this boat we have to find room for eleven persons. At night our tent is pitched on some convenient place on shore.”<sup>1</sup>

This company took care not to travel on the Sabbath. Their first Sunday, the seventh of August, was spent at Sault Ste. Marie, “where they were received with Christian hospitality by the Rev. Abel Bingham, Baptist missionary there.” Rev. Jeremiah Porter, so well known in connection with the early history of Chicago, began his work at Sault Ste. Marie this year, but not until about Thanksgiving.

The La Pointe to which the missionaries came, was the “old fort” on the southern end of the island. The first sermon ever delivered in this place by a regularly-ordained Christian minister was by Mr. Hall, in the afternoon of the first Sunday after his arrival. He had held a meeting in the morning, attended by a considerable number of Frenchmen. It is pleasant to read his acknowledgment of “kindness received from Catholic families.”

About the first of September the school averaged twenty-five. “The instruction given has been wholly in the English language, on account of our having no books in the language of the natives. Some elementary Indian books are very much needed. A Sabbath-school exercise has been held on Sabbath mornings with the children.” Meetings for Indian adults were also held, at which a few verses were often read from a small scripture tract prepared by Dr. James of the United States army. The hymn-book used was one published for the use of the Methodist missions to the Ojibways in Upper Canada.

A mission-house, still standing, but unoccupied, was soon built at La Pointe half-way between the old fort and the new. Besides affording a place for worship and teaching, it became the home of all the Protestant missionaries who labored on the island, one of whom, Mrs. Harriet E. Wheeler, thinks that it was built in 1832.

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<sup>1</sup> A bateau of this description can be found in the museum of the Wisconsin State Historical Society.