Scriees

respecting the mission at Wellington Valley

announced by James Gunderon, Missionary

1. What journeys have been made by the missionaries during the last twelve months?

There has only one journey been made, that is to say by the Rev. N. Tutton. The numbers of Aboriginal Natives visiting the Missionary Station having for the most part been very considerable, and sometimes more than sufficient to engage the attention of the missionaries in conjunction with the secular engagements devolving on them, travelling was not practicable or desirable.

2. What is the greatest number of native women and children you have seen at any time seen together?

I counted once upwards of 100 at the Native Camp, but number on the day succeding increased to about 110. From 70 to 100 I have usually seen.

The number of many women respectively, I consider to have been almost equal; the latter rather exceeding the former; the former perhaps being the 5 to 6. The number of children heard among the tribes that visit the station as proportion whatever. Even including those children that reside at the mission, they will at the utmost be little 1 to 1 compared to the number of the elderly sexes.

3. What is the number of those Aboriginals that either reside at the mission or migrate within 10 miles of it?

At the various tribes interchange visits at great distances it is difficult to give a precise answer. The number of those that come under this question may be about 60.
IV. Are the missionaries sufficiently acquainted with the dialect of the natives to converse with them? To address them in their own language upon the Doctrines & precepts of the Gospel?

In reference to myself, I must own that I am not sufficiently acquainted with the Native dialect to converse fluently or to give an address. Situated as I am, I have little time to devote to the study of it. The Natives, as far as I can judge, converse pretty fluently in the Native tongue, but I have frequently given them addresses in it upon religious subjects, and to them. At least portions of the Psalms, & the Common Prayer Book. I apprehend, I think, that considerable time of labour will be required before we can fully understand them; and that the study of the language will be a benefit to them, and to the truth of the Gospel in New England.

V. What is the number of those Native children that have received religious instruction to any extent, or attended the ordinances of religion?

About 20 or 30 children have received religious instruction to any extent. The least 20 attend frequently or almost regularly both Church Services on Sundays & Family Prayers in the Week, and about 30 may be said to attend occasionally.

VI. What is the number of those that reside with the missionaries constantly?

There are 12 children male & female that have been from 14 to 16 years, or nearly so, at the mission. About 3 young men of boys have of late with little interruption been with us. About 20 native men, women & children live their camp mostly near the mission. If sick, leave the mission ground. For these we have only written but not visited by us.

VII. What male has but a mind to repeat any religious formulae or Scripture sentences?

There are at least 10 that may be said to understand & recite well in English. Of these, 8 have made considerable progress towards it. Three or 4 have made a slight beginning. None can write a single word. A few, of these, have made a beginning. From 20 to 30 have repeated religious formulae, such as the Church Prayers, Psalms & Scripture sentences.

VIII. Do you observe any instances of religious improvement? Or any propagation among the Natives?

In point of regard to the knowledge of religion, the observance of religious ordinances, a consequence of what is right or good of the contrary...
Here is undoubtedly some, if I should try great improvement. Seeing also we have observed religious impressions in some of them, and some reflection on injury by one commonly observed in the masses of this country, who have not had the benefit of being taught.

As for civilization, though they shew some desire to see strange destinations; on the whole, the conduct of a considerable number shows a change for the better (I do not speak of a real change of principle). Under this, a desire to have lots to themselves, have a desire to have lots to themselves, and a desire to have lots to themselves. They have built new lots for the purpose.

As regards general domestic work, some do it at times very well.

Walls of cleanliness likewise are obtaining with several.

Can you suggest any plan likely to be adopted with more favorably results than those hitherto attempted?

Since the nature of a mission among these savages requires not only a minister of the word of God to instruct them in religion, but also assistants of the labouring class, both for teaching the means of maintaining the mission, and of teaching them a civilized life. I should think all things suggest (and as far as human calculation goes I am certain that before the arrangement is made) that the Mission ought to be managed with a number of good religiously directed men of the labouring class, if possible married. Such men would by word and example have a very different influence on the minds of the blacks from what has hitherto been the case, and they would have the mission to much time, which hitherto they have been obliged to spend by looking after and directing every thing of a secular nature.

I particularly watching a set of wise men. Without however entering further into the subject I beg to refer to the statement in my "Remarks & Suggestions" and the various observations in my diary, especially what I wrote if I recollect well, on the 25th April 1838.

Sydney, Nov. 20th 1838.
Observations on the Aboriginal Mission at Wellington Valley, and the Aborigines themselves

State of Victoria
When the female, the colder being to
make more the victim of violence,

During the day, the cold men do not like to live in a cold
company. It would be a great
crime in the part of a female to
approach a member of men. So
a young man like mine, to offend
a woman of female.

The law is always the blame
on the leading man.

The idea of migration of souls seems to be the same
away that at least have of it nothing distinct. The
choices. Xxxx have been lately. It might go
to be known. I have arrived at many.

And many of them, in public, all the others. I must one comfort. Basically,
the action failed to die. The fear he not afraid you will
die allegedly.