

[May, 1897.]

Quebec Diocese.

DIOCESAN MOTTO:—"Ye have done it unto Me."

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On the evening of March 30th, under the auspices of St. Matthew's Branch of the W.A., a very interesting address was delivered by Prof. Gunn, of Morrin College, on the Indians of the North West, amongst whom he had spent two years. Prof. Gunn most graphically described the manners and customs of those living between Manitoba and the Rockies, and it is with the intention of showing the Indians' from a layman's point of view, that we give a summary of the lecture, which we regret has to be robbed of the polish of Mr. Gunn's eloquence. The lecturer stated that many of us hear constantly of the wants of these people from Missionaries, so to-night he simply meant to draw a picture of Indian Life. If an Indian were robbed of his paint and feathers you would see but little difference between him and a man who had long lived under the southern sun; his nose is of the Jewish type, and his muscles are greatly developed in his lower limbs; he is not idolatrous, but sees in nature a supreme being, and many of their sacred stories resemble those of our Bible; they had a deluge when all were lost but a few, who were saved on a raft; they have for their future abode a good and a bad place, and to reach the former have to cross a slippery log, and when partly over are set upon by six men, who try to drag them into the slimy dirty water below; the good men easily cross it and are then perfectly happy in their new life, blue sky, green fields, buffalo in plenty; the bad Indian goes under, and in vain tries to reach the happy hunting ground. According to the Government the good Indian is he who lives on a Reserve, draws certain rations, and \$5.00 for each wife and child under 14, (but to many the reserve is but a soft bed of death), the bad Indian roams the prairie, the father rides the pony, his wife runs along side with a whip, and the children follow behind; the Indian babies are strapped to a cradle, bound with thongs, and kept in place with hoops, one being placed round the head to protect the child in case of falling, from this is suspended toys, in the centre one of which is kept the good luck stone; these cradles are ornamented with straws and feathers, and if you