

Young People's Department.



THE VALLEY RIVER SCHOOL, MANITOBA.

THE VALLEY RIVER, INDIAN RESERVE, MANITOBA.

TWO illustrations have come to us from the far Northwest, Manitoba, showing the Valley River school.

Early in 1895 the Rev. C. A. Sadleir, of Wycliffe College, Toronto, who was the English Church missionary of Russell, took a great interest in the Indians of the Valley River Reserve, which lies far to the north. They were all wild heathen, and the children were growing up without a knowledge of a Creator, still more without knowing of a loving Saviour who longed to be theirs. A young Englishman who was learning farming round here, and who had given his heart to the Lord, a Mr. E. Miller, felt a decided call from on high to devote his life to the service of His Master, and Mr. Sadleir, feeling that the time was ripe and God had supplied the man, opened up the mission in one of the huts, and Mr. Miller held school there till the Indians went hunting. Then he went with them, holding school for the children on the Duck Mountains during the day and camping with them at night. This hard life and exposure, with often barely enough to eat, caused him in June to have a severe attack of diphtheria, and for many weeks he lay in Russell very ill. But God raised him up to health and strength again, and in August he, accompanied by the mission-

ary then in charge of the Russell mission (Rev. George Gill), went to the Reserve to see what could be done to reopen this work. After much prayer, and discussion with a local committee, we decided to erect a schoolhouse, and also a little shanty for the teacher to live in. This has been done. Then the matter was laid before Archdeacon Phair and the Diocesan Committee of the C.M.S., who made us a grant to help us, we raising the remainder required locally and by donations. The work began again, with a regular attendance of twelve children out of sixteen on the roll, and God has blessed it. Most of these children best of all really love Jesus Christ. Then they can read little words, do easy arithmetic, know the "Lord's Prayer," and "Jesus, tender Shepherd," both in English and Indian, and sing many hymns in Indian. The older Indians are invited in every evening to reading and prayers, and many regularly attend; and the light of truth is beginning to grow bright in their lives. We believe the chief is a true Christian.

While the Indians are hunting this year, or away picking berries and roots, the children are all left with one of the oldest, who boards and attends to them, so that they can attend school, and it is indeed a blessed thing to hear these dear little Indians singing, with hands clasped, the grace before meals, and kneeling night and