

Our Indian Department.

Edited by Rev. W. A. Burman, B.D., Principal of the Rupert's Land Indian Industrial School, St. Paul's, Manitoba. Missionaries having items of interest regarding the Indians will kindly forward them to Mr. Burman.

NOTES OF THE MONTH.

Another addition to the list of workers is Miss Saunders, who came from England with Mr. and Mrs. Keen as far as Winnipeg. From there, after procuring the necessary outfit she started May 19th for the faraway Mackenzie River, by way of Calgary—thence to Edmonton and Athabasca Landing, about 300 miles, by waggon. From the Landing she will go by the Hudson Bay Co.'s steamer down the Athabasca to the rapids. There after freight has been exchanged she will board another steamer, cross Lake Athabasca to Fort Smith on Slave River. Here again changing boats she will proceed in the "Wrigley" down the Mackenzie to Fort Simpson. Ultimately she expects to proceed to Fort McPherson to take part in the mission work there. She is going alone on this long journey, but is sure to meet with much kindness from the ever-helpful officers of the Hudson Bay Co. We trust our readers will remember this brave woman in her work and travels by land and by water. Still another addition is Miss E. G. Dickenson, who has come out from England at her own charges, to assist Bishop and Mrs. Ridley at Metlakatla. Would there were many such devoted women for our Indian work.

Chief Crowfoot, the noted and respected leader of the Blackfeet Indians is dead. He won the regard and admiration of every right minded person acquainted with him. Fearless and outspoken in council, he was a brave, consistent, prudent and far seeing leader of his people. Both they and we owe much to the remarkable man who has passed away, and it is to be hoped that his name and example may long live in the history of our western tribes. What Chief Brant was to the Mohawk confederacy, Crowfoot has been to the wild and powerful tribes of the West. Their names should be linked together in the memory of a people that ever delights to render honor to the patriot, whether he be white or red. When dying, Crowfoot instructed his brother, Three Bulls, to send to Mr. Dewdney some token of the friendship which had so long lasted between them. Three Bulls selected for this purpose the medal given to the dead chief by the Marquis of Lorne, and this has just been received by Mr. Dewdney.

The papers have lately been giving descriptions of the reception given by the Pope at Rome to Buffalo Bill and his cowboys and Indians. They were sent away with his blessing. Surely the Pope should know better than to countenance or encourage this show business, which is resulting so disastrously to the Indians, both spiritually and bodily. Spite of all protestations to the contrary, it is only too certain that many of the misled In-

dians who have followed the showman,—inveigled by plausible stories of wonderful sights, a luxurious life, and high pay, have succumbed to the excitement and physical strain of travel in foreign lands or large cities here. Others have returned home—accomplished in all the vices of civilized races, a pest and a curse to their own people. Surely it is time Christians saw the evil and inconsistency of seeking amusement in the barbarous practices or degrading customs of their fellowmen, be their skins red or white, black or yellow. How much we should resent the idea of our own kith and kin being placed on exhibition in, let us say, the streets of China, or in one of the villages of the Congo valley. This is just the view taken by hundreds of sensible Indians, of the Wild West shows.

As promised last month we now give a partial list of Indian Mission stations in the Ecclesiastical Province of Rupert's Land. We begin with the most easterly diocese, Moosonee, of which the beloved Dr. Horden is Bishop. The following are the principal stations, some of which have several outstations. The date of the opening of work at each is also given: Moose Factory, 1851; York Factory, 1854; Albany, 1855; Matawakumma, 1876; Little Whale River, 1877; Churchill, 1889. We give on this occasion a brief sketch of the work at Matawakumma. Though not permanently occupied until 1876 much work had been done in the district by Bishop Horden prior to his consecration. In the above year the mission was occupied by the present missionary, the Rev. John Sanders. His principal station and residence is Matawakumma, which is 70 miles north of Biscotasing, on the C. P. Railway. Other points visited are Missanabie, Brunswick Post, Ridout Post, Flying Post and Matchewan, all trading posts of the Hudson Bay Company. When Mr. Sanders first went to Matawakumma he found that much had been done to prepare the ground through the exertions of a former officer of the H. B. Co., the late Mr. Thomas Richards. He had taught a number of Indians to read, had influenced the people for good in many ways, in fact had been a real missionary to those who came within reach of his influence. There are 482 native Christians in the district, 58 of whom are communicants. The total number of Indians is 544, all but 14 being Ojibways, and of those not included in the number attached to our missions, 40 are heathen and 70 are Roman Catholics. Most of the latter are recent arrivals in the district, along the line of the C. P. R.

The only school is at Mr. Sanders' station and is conducted by his family; the average number of scholars is 31 in summer, and 10 in winter. Mr. Sanders is assisted in the mission by one Indian catechist who teaches only in Ojibway, but who renders good and efficient service. There is a neat church at Matawakumma and another at Flying Post, both of them