

The Island Lake work of this Mission is most encouraging. A very important change in the operations of this Mission introduced by Mr. J. R. Matheson is the conversion of the ordinary day school into a mission boarding school. The children are thus always under Christian influence and have also a far better chance of acquiring the English language when it is the family tongue than in their own homes. There are now five boys and five girls under such training; but there will, without doubt, soon be more, as the scheme will soon command the confidence of the Indians both far and near. This means, of course, a large expense, greater than the fixed allowances (which are only for teaching), can at all meet; and help towards the feeding and clothing of these little ones will always be acceptable to Mr. J. R. Matheson and his able fellow worker and partner in life, Mrs. Matheson.

Christian brethren! we earnestly ask you to pray for us, and not only pray but help us in kind or cash, and either direct or through approved channels of help to the Lord's work of evangelizing the heathen.

I. J. T.

#### DIocese OF ATHABASCA.

 HE Bishop of Athabasca (Dr. Young), concludes his annual letter, just published:—

"With one horse to pack our bedding and provisions, accompanied by my Beaver attendant, I started on for my one hundred miles walk to Lesser Slave Lake. One afternoon and night of pouring rain and snow retarded our journey. Early on the fourth day I reached St. Peter's Mission, no longer to receive a bachelor's welcome, but to find our missionary there, the Rev. G. Holmes, cheered and strengthened by a wife like-minded with himself. He could speak of no great additions to our ranks; but the work is evidently deepening. On the following Monday, accompanied by Mr. Holmes, I started for a forty miles ride to Whitefish Lake. Our way at first was over some fine open prairie. We then entered the woods, our road a bridle track encumbered with fallen timber, and broken by frequent creeks, swamp and soft muskeg, that scarcely afforded footing to our two saddle horses and a pack horse. The ride was not without its ludicrous incidents. Once Mr. Holmes turned round to see bishop and horse rolling in a muskeg. Later on in the day, while at a hand gallop over some loose timber, it did not require any great stretch of imagination to fancy oneself in a cavalry charge; myself in the third rank, the second rank horse already riderless, Mr. Holmes in the first rank, with gun slung over his shoulder. All at once there was a clatter and a crash, and

down went Mr. Holmes, man and horse. It was well that the incident called for nothing more than a hearty laugh. Daylight disappeared two weary hours before we reached the little mission shanty, standing in a clearing, and facing the moon-lit lake. The barking of the mission-train dogs was our only welcome, Mr. and Mrs. Robinson having already retired for the night. They were, however, soon up and busy preparing us some supper.

"Early the following morning the Indians began to drop in by twos and threes. Until about two o'clock we were engaged in talking with them; setting before them the truths of the Gospel, and urging them to make use of the mission we had been enabled to establish among them.

"I heard a few months ago from the Secretaries of the C.M.S., at Salisbury Square, that the committee were willing to apportion £100 annually to new work in this diocese, being portion of a bequest made to the Society many years ago, but only just fallen in, and available for new work taken up in any of their N.W. American missions. This is, indeed, most opportune help. It will not, however, cover all the most needful expenses of a new mission so inaccessible as Wabiskaw, and we must still appeal to our friends for the means to adequately equip this mission.

"Then, again, we need a helping hand for our Clergy Endowment Fund. Toward this the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge have made an appropriation of £500 to meet £3,500 from other sources. This grant is payable in instalments of £100 to meet each sum of £700 received from other sources. I am truly thankful to say that the first £700 is received, but it will require much generous liberality on the part of our friends, if we are to reap the benefit of the whole of the Society's kind appropriation. Ours is just the case where the old Latin proverb: *Bis dat qui cito dat*, is most applicable."

#### THE NEGLECTED LETTER.

 HE importance of present hours and present opportunities is often but little felt. "To-morrow shall be as this day, and more abundant," is the fond dream of the idle, the indifferent, and the pleasure seeking soul. But how often sad surprises break in upon our mirth and ease, and blast our cherished hopes.

Many years ago, a Greek nobleman made a feast for his friends. In the midst of the festivities, a messenger entered in great haste with a letter. It was from a distance, and was sent to inform him that a plot had been formed by his enemies to kill him that night.