



THE WASHAKADA HOME.

FROM "OUR FOREST CHILDREN."

THE Washakada Home, Elkhorn, Manitoba, which was opened on the 6th of August last, is built on two acres of land, close to the Canadian Pacific Railway track, and quite near to the village. This is an advantage for several reasons,—the stores are close at hand for procuring goods; the church is near for the children to attend; a bootmaker has his shop in the Institution and teaches the boys his trade without any expense being incurred; other trades will by-and-by be started in the same way, and, apart from these and other such advantages, we believe it best for the Indian children to be brought into actual contact with the white people, to have white people around them and with them every day. Prejudices will, we believe, be broken down in this way on both sides, and the children will be more readily weaned from the old life than they would be if the Institution had been built in some sequestered spot. The worst place for an Indian Institution, we believe, is on an Indian Reserve; the next worse place is near to a Reserve; the next worst place is some isolated position away from any town or village; and the best place, we believe, is in the immediate neighborhood of some town or city, where active work is going on all around. Our Elkhorn Buildings are three in number. They consist of the Washakada Home for girls, the Central Buildings where both girls and boys meet for school above and meals below, and the Kasota Home for boys. This, we believe, is the best arrangement possible for an Indian Institution. If we succeed in establishing another Institution at Medicine Hat, we shall erect our buildings in the same way. And indeed we purpose to do the same thing with our Homes at Sault Ste. Marie, so soon as funds will admit of it—make the present Shingwauk Home simply a boarding-house for boys, erect a new cen-

tral building to the east of it; sell our present Wawanosh, which is two and a half miles off, and put up a new Wawanosh Home to the east of the Central.

The Elkhorn Buildings are all very nicely finished; Mr. Broadley, the contractor, so far from shirking any part of his work, has put almost more in than we had expected of him, and has tried in every way to give satisfaction. Very little paint has been used in the inside finishing; the wainscoting and ceilings are for the most part pine, oiled and varnished, and this, with the clean, white, smoothly-plastered walls, gives a very cleanly, fresh-looking appearance to the inside of the buildings. In connection with the Institution, a farm of 640 acres of prairie land has been secured. This was a free grant from the Government, and cost us nothing; but we shall want about \$2,000 for putting up the necessary buildings and the purchase of stock. The farm is four miles distant from the Institution, and this we consider an advantage. Our idea is to build a comfortable farm house, with accommodation for a farmer and his wife, who will board about six of our boys at a time, and employ them in the farm work. The boys will take turns going out to the farm, and it will be a nice change for them.

We trust that our friends, now that we have these Elkhorn Homes actually in operation, will come to our aid, and do what they can to help us. Beyond the kind help offered by the Womans' Auxiliary of Montreal, very little really is at present being done in Canada towards the support of the Washakada Home, and nothing whatever has been guaranteed from England. The Government grant being only "per capita," it makes it very difficult to make "both ends meet," especially just now at the beginning, when a good deal of money has to be expended in going round picking up pupils; and often when we get to a distant Reserve we find no parents willing to part with their pupils, so that we have had the journey for