

Young People's Department.



THE SHINGWAUK HOME.

A "TEACHING WIGWAM."

THERE is a picture of Rev. E. F. Wilson's Home for Indian boys. Mr. Wilson came to this country from England in the year 1865, intending to be a farmer, but almost as soon as he arrived God put it into his heart to be a missionary. One day when he was paying a visit to the Indians of Garden River and Lake Superior an Indian named Augustin Shingwauk said to him:—

"I am going to Toronto to see the Big Black Coat (Bishop Bethune), and ask him that you may come to us as a missionary. And I want, too, to have a big 'Teaching Wigwam' built, where our children may be taught and trained in the ways of white people."

"Then," said Mr. Wilson, "I will go to Toronto with you."

In Toronto they held meetings and collected three hundred dollars. Then Mr. Wilson and a brother of the old chief Shingwauk went to England, where they collected over three thousand dollars: but the Church Missionary Society, who had been supporting Mr. Wilson, wanted him to go as a missionary to the North-West and give up his idea of a "Teaching Wigwam," for they could not give him a salary as a teacher only. But what better missionary could there be than one who teaches heathen children to be Christians? However, this was their decision, and Mr. Wilson did not know what to do; but he went where we should all go in time of trouble, to his knees in

prayer, and then God sent the answer. He got a letter from two unknown friends, "We will guarantee you £100 (or about five hundred dollars) a year for your teaching work at Garden River."

And then Mr. Wilson gave up a salary of eleven hundred dollars for this small sum, but another Society, the Colonial and Continental Church Society, made his salary up to nearly what it was before. And so God answered the missionary's prayer, and in the year 1873 the "Teaching Wigwam" was built and called SHINGWAUK HOME, after the good old chief who had first spoken about it.

But in six days this home was all burnt down, and Mr. and Mrs. Wilson, his own and the Indian children, barely escaped with their lives. Indeed his youngest child, a baby, died two days after and was buried in a rough coffin made on the spot. Yet out of this calamity great good came. Sympathy was stirred up, and soon Mr. Wilson had \$10,000 in hand for building a new Home. On the 31st of July, 1874, Lord Dufferin, Governor General of Canada, laid the foundation stone of the new building, which has stood ever since, as seen in the picture. Here little Indian children are taught to read and write, and work as carpenters, shoemakers and farmers, and all the while are trained as Christian children, some to go back to their own people and tell them also of Jesus. On the following page you will see a picture of how the pupils look when engaged at making boots and shoes.

We should help Mr. Wilson. Next month we