

Our Forest Children.

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SHINGWAUK HOME.

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to those who will interest themselves in the educating and christianizing of the

25,000 Indian Children

of schoolable age scattered throughout our country.

Mr. Wilson's trip to the Rocky Mountains.

I stayed six days with the Rev. J. W. Tims, C.M.S., Missionary to the Black-foot Indians, and it was exceedingly interesting. The blackfoot teepees were all around us, and the kitchen generally full of Indians, either come to ask for medicine or to see the new comer. There are 6,000 of these people divided into three tribes—the Black-foot proper, the Bloods, and the Peigans. They all speak the same language, and are nearly all without exception pagans. Over them presides the renowned chief Crowfoot, and he reigns like a Czar, enforcing his will if necessary by violence. He has his native soldiers under him, and if any of his people refuse to obey when he orders to move camp, or to assemble for a sun dance, he sends his soldiers to pull down their teepees, tear up their blankets, and kill their dogs. Under Crowfoot are three second chiefs, next to him in authority—"Old Sun," reigns over the northern black-foot, "Red Crow" over the Bloods, and "North Axe" over the Peigans; and there are again petty chiefs under these, such as "Big Plume," "White Pup," "Eagle Rib," etc. I made very good friends with these people, and they did me the honour of adopting me into their tribe, giving me the name "Natusi Asamiu,"—the sun looks upon him. I had been warned not to say anything to them about having an Institution

for Indian children, as the people are so entirely set against civilisation and education, and seem to be in constant dread that the white people will take away their children from them. "If they find out that you have got a school for Indian children, and want to take some of their children away," said Mr. Tims, "I know just what they will do—a young man will be sent round to every teepee in the camp, to warn the people not to go near you; he will go round to every teepee and shout into it 'Dont go near that man, he is going to steal your children! Dont go near that man, he is going to steal your children!' Why the Roman Catholics said Mr. Tims have got an Institute built for them by government, only thirty miles from here, at a cost of \$25,000, and they have not got a single Blackfoot, Peigan or Blood child; the people will not send their children to them." So I took Mr. Tims advice, and for the first two or three days refrained from saying anything to the people about my schools. Then, one evening when they were all gathered together to listen to me, I thought I would tell them. Are not all these things in God's hands, and cannot Almighty God turn the hearts of men and influence them by the secret voice of his Holy Spirit; and so I told the people right out about my Homes; how they originated how the Ojibway chiefs took part in setting them on foot, and how they were now filled with pupils almost to overflowing, and then I asked them to let a couple of their boys go back with me, just for one year to be educated. I told them I wanted to learn their language, so that when I came again I might be able to speak with them, and I would surely bring the boys back again at the end of the year. By the