



REV. T. W. TIMS' HOUSE AND SCHOOL, BLACKFEET CROSSING.

the Indian capacity for improvement, and also as to Mr. Wilson's success in giving them the needed foundation. This is probably the first instance of the appointment of one of our "red men" to a post at the seat of Government. Who can estimate the importance of its possible bearing on their future destiny among us? The Shingwauk and Wawanosh Homes, we understand, have been struggling under the superincumbent weight of a debt of about \$1,500. Will not some one, who loves the Indian for the Saviour's sake, remove it?

GRAHAMSTOWN.

THE Bishop of Grahamstown in his charge of January, 1888, says in reference to the liquor traffic with the native races: "We must be careful to guard against exaggeration in our righteous indignation against the encroachments of soul destroying influences upon the weaker races. If it were really true, for instance, that any number of our fellow colonists were engaged in a conspiracy for the annihilation of the native races through the sale of liquor with the connivance of the Government and Legislature of the land, no humiliation for our share in such guilt could be too great, and no action too strong. But surely a fair consideration of the actual position and of the treatment of the native population as it is presented, not in theories of political speeches and writing, but under our personal observation, would lead to the conclusion that any

such charge is unjust and untrue. It is certainly passing strange that such a measure as the removal of the excise tax should have been enacted while we have to pay heavy duty on Church furniture and musical instruments. But on the other hand, no sinister design can be fairly deduced from the withdrawal of the restriction imposed upon "proclaimed areas." During a recent visitation journey through the Reserves and districts chiefly occupied by natives I made special enquiries into the social condition of the people. Idleness and sloth, the absence of any real interest or ambition in life; the insecurity of tenure; the jealousies, quarrels and vicious practices inherently attaching to polygamy; the crowding of families and of both sexes into a few round huts; the other traditions of heathenism and barbarism, without some balancing and connective forces such as strict discipline under the chief and the self-restraint imposed by training for the life of the warrior—these appear to me to be the depressing and degenerating influences at work quite as much as any facility for obtaining liquor. In one district I found a great deal of drinking going on, but the beverage was the beer manufactured by the natives themselves, for which the material was abundant. In the prisons there were 50 convictions for drunkenness in 1887 as compared to 80 in 1884. In the country I met fewer drunken men and women than I should expect to see among a civilized people. A local option should be possible for any district where prohibition is found to be desirable, and there should be the means