

Letters to the Editor.

Indian Missions.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,—One of your articles, headed "Indian Missions," in the current number of the Calgary Diocesan Magazine, has pained not a few of us who are workers in the Indian Missions of this Diocese. I am sure there can have been no wish to misrepresent the facts, nor intentionally to utter an unkind word. The work in our Indian Missions is hard and uphill, and both the older and the younger workers need and appreciate warm-hearted Christian sympathy. Amongst ourselves, as workers, it is a *sine qua non*. I would that it were a more certain factor between the workers and the Church of Christ at large. In this Diocese, however, God grant that there may be no uncertainty in the matter. We do not profess to be free from faults—who does? But we do ask for kindly judgment, and the truest Christian sympathy. One's thoughts recall the words of the sainted Faber:

"There is no place where earth's sorrows
Are more felt than up in Heaven;
There is no place where earth's failings
Have such kindly judgment given."

And again:

"Would that my soul might be a world
Of golden ether bright;
A heaven where other souls might float,
Like all Thy worlds, in light."

I would like, briefly to explain the points referred to in the article. It speaks of "either the unwillingness or the incapacity of some of those closely connected with the work, to learn the Indian language." It is true that some who have within the last two years

joined the Mission, have not yet learned the language. But I am sure that none who were present at our Conference, held last month, could say that any member present (and the representation was almost complete) showed the least unwillingness, or even hesitation, in the matter. Indeed, as Secretary of the Conference, I rejoiced in being able to record the unanimous desire, not only to learn the language, but to leave no stone unturned in the effort to perfect one's self in it. Personally, I believe that every member present was fully capable and really desirous of learning and perfecting himself in the language. The origin of the above mentioned criticism arose from an expression of opinion as to whether it was wise or advisable for Principals of our Indian schools to learn the language, in view of the fact that the great secular aim of the Institution is to give a thorough training in the English language and trades. Into this discussion I need not enter after what has been said above. As to the offer of two of the Clergy to help the younger or more recent brethren in the work, I would point out that one (the Rev. J. Hinchliffe) resigned Indian work shortly afterwards. Prayer and pains can overcome any difficulty, and I am sure that ere long most, if not all our fellow-workers, (ordained and unordained—both men and women) will rejoice in being able to speak freely in the native tongue. It is not an easy language, and it is not everyone whose heart is in the work, who has an accurate ear and a retentive memory. Let those who are not in the work, and who take