

## Young People's Department.



SIoux INDIANS.

### INDIANS OF THE SIOUX MISSION.

**T**HIS is a picture of some of the Indians of the Sioux or Dakota tribe, at the mission near Griswold, in Manitoba. The clergyman sitting by is the Rev. Rural Dean Burman, who founded this mission over sixteen years ago—in 1880. At that time the country round, now covered with beautiful farms with good settlers' houses, schools, and churches, and having several villages along the railway running through it, was unbroken prairie. The only people were the Indians, who lived mostly by hunting wolves, foxes, deer, and smaller fur-bearing animals. They were very wild and unsettled, living in tepees of buffaloskins or cotton for the most part, even in winter. At first the work of the mission was full of difficulties. The people mostly loved their wild heathen worship—with its dances and feastings. The heathen priests or medicine men hated the thought of losing their

position as leaders of the people, for they always received presents for trying to heal the sick, and were treated with great respect. Night after night they made night hideous with their wild songs and incessant drumming on their tomtoms. So they opposed the missionary in every way. The people were all very superstitious and ignorant. They expected many presents, and could not see any use in a teacher, unless he had much to give away. When they were asked to allow their children to be baptized, they for a long time refused, because they were told that all who were baptized would surely die. The children often ran away in fear when they saw the missionary coming. When they got over their fear, and were sent to school, they often found it pleasanter to go trapping gophers (a kind of ground-squirrel), which they could cook over a fire, and so have a kind of sly picnic. Or on hot days they much preferred swimming in the river. So for some time it was difficult even to get a chance to teach them.