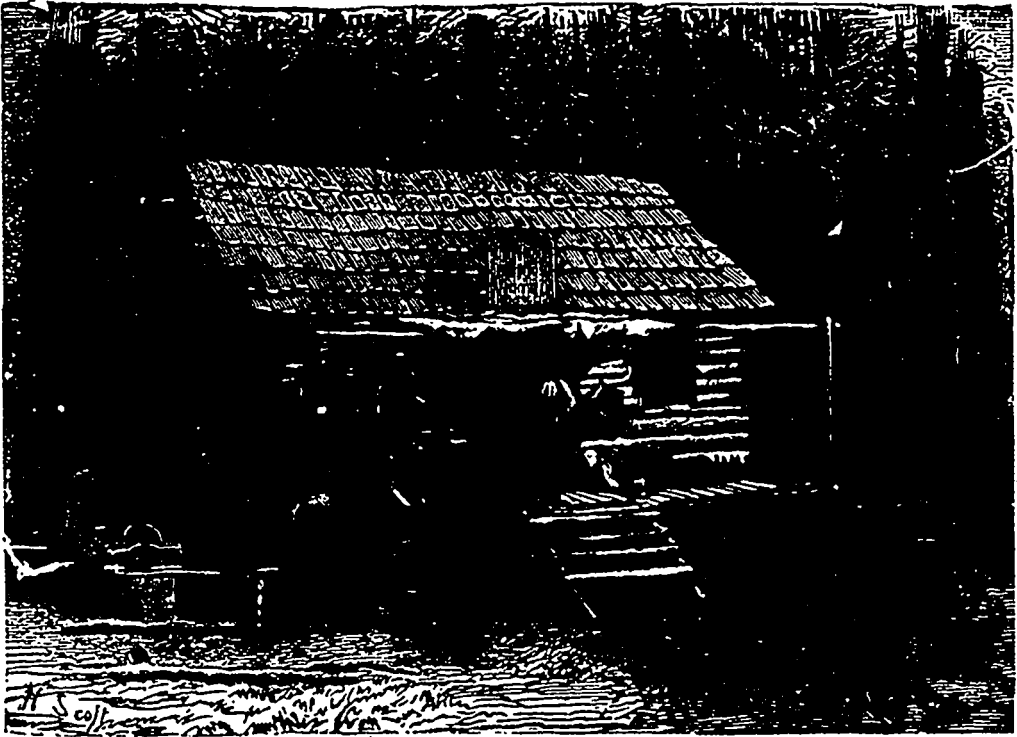


Young People's Department.



A BACKWOODS HOTEL.

THE BACKWOODS HOTEL.

IN the backwoods of Canada there is many such an hotel as that shown in the picture. In some parts of British Columbia especially, buildings of that kind are frequently seen. Of course, they are very rough places and are noted for a great many things that are not there. They might almost be called the "not there" places. As a rule there are no women there, but, like the lumbermen's camps, are kept by men alone. And what would home be without mother or sister or auntie or some one to keep the house in good order and looking trim and neat? Women generally laugh when they see a house that is kept by men only. There are such lots of things that men never think of when they try to keep house. Then again there is no doctor. If any one gets sick he must get well again the best way he can. If his case is very bad a doctor may be got by sending a long way for him; but as a rule men in the backwoods contrive to keep in pretty good health. It is in the case of some bodily accident that the absence of a doctor is felt the most.

Then, too often there is no church, and therefore as a rule there is no Sunday. Unless people are religious they will not care for Sunday. Even in our great cities there are people who "do not

remember the Lord's day to keep it holy." And very often there is no clergyman. Occasionally there is a missionary who moves about from place to place on horseback. He will arrive at a settler's hut or some such "hotel" as the one we have been speaking of, and then he will try to do some good among the men that he meets with there. But it is hard work to preach good things to men who usually live hard and wicked lives. Sometimes the missionary is badly treated, laughed at and driven away; but still he always does some good. There is always somebody who will remember the prayers he uttered and the words he said and wherever he goes the Gospel seed will grow and become useful for good. Every man, however rough, has some tender point in his nature. Some thoughts of home and his father and mother and the prayers he was taught when a boy will come to him even in the miner's camp or the backwoods hotel, and it is often the voice of the missionary or the words of our good old Church service which awakes this slumbering thought. And is not this a good work? Would it not be a good thing for boys to learn to be missionaries so as to travel about in distant places and preach the words of Jesus? It is a good work to imitate and a good work to support, and a wide field for it is open in our own country.