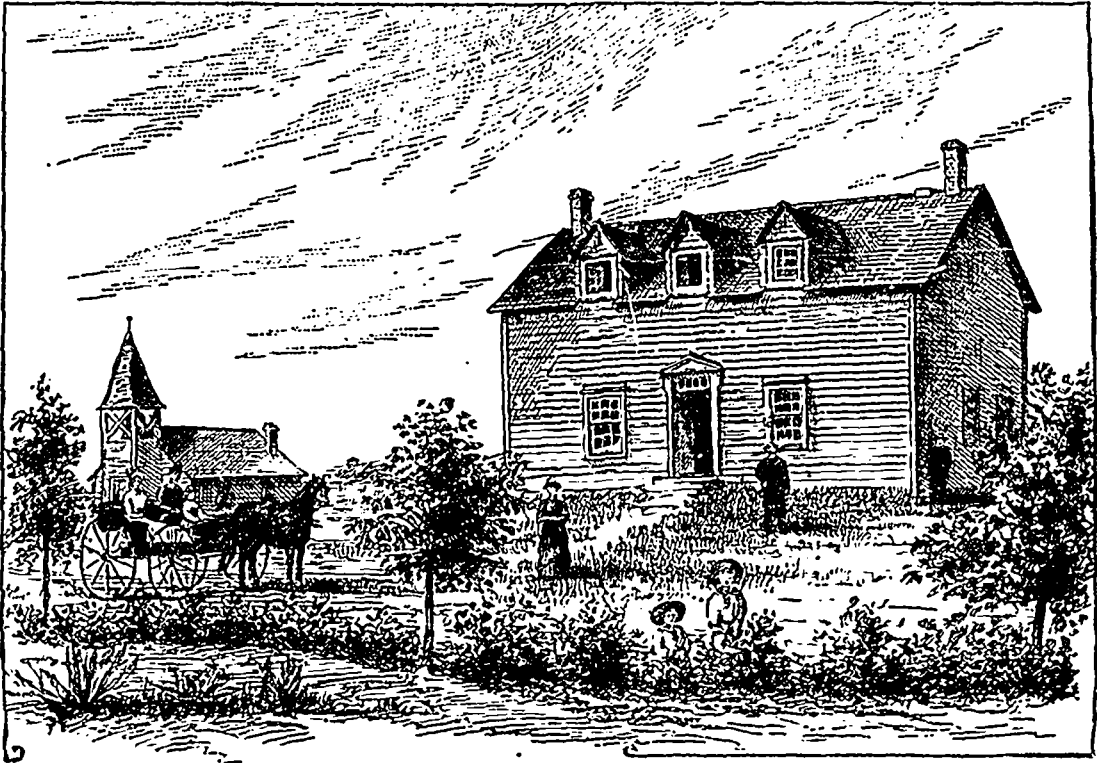




THE SIOUX INSTITUTE.

THE SIOUX MISSION, DIOCESE OF RUPERT'S LAND.

By REV. W. A. BURMAN, FORMERLY SIOUX MISSIONARY.

THE Sioux Mission, near Griswold, Manitoba, of which a view is given herewith, is in the Diocese of Rupert's Land. The view shows the front of the Mission house with the little church to the left. In the rear appears the outline of the western hills which shut in the Oak River Valley, and which form part of the Indian Reserve. Standing at the Mission, the view of the surrounding country is very fine. To the south, almost in a semicircle, flows the Assiniboine River, with high hills sloping gently to the river in front, but both above and below steep and rugged, and clothed with woods and undergrowth, so that they serve as a dark foil for the bright colors of the farms on the central slopes. Below the Mission is the junction of the two rivers just named, and a little to the right of the woods there, the valley is dotted with the conical canvas tents, rude log houses, stacks and cattle of the Indian Reserve. To the north is a ridge of bare and gently rounded hills of sand and gravel, indications of the former existence of a lake through which the Assiniboine flowed, before it cut out its present channel.

The country surrounding the Reserve is very

fertile and is now thickly settled by a good class of settlers, many of them members of our own beloved Church. If the Mission had done nothing more than place the services of the Church within the reach of these settlers as they came in, and hasten on the formation of independent parishes in the surrounding country, it would have well repaid the time and money spent on it. Here, as elsewhere, the Church has realized that the care of the outcast and heathen never fails to bring a blessing to her own children.

The Mission, about 27 miles west of Brandon, Man., was begun in May, 1880, by the writer. At that time the country for many miles around was almost uninhabited, except by Sioux Indians. These lived chiefly by hunting and fishing, with centres at Oak Lake and White Eagle Reserves. At the latter, where the Assiniboine and Oak Rivers unite, the Mission secured some land and erected buildings in 1879, which, as stated above, were occupied in 1880. During that year and the following, heavy floods, caused by the sudden melting of snow on the western hills, seriously hindered the work, and finally in 1881 compelled the writer to remove the buildings back to the hills. This, of course, involved great expense and labor, but the present site is in every respect a very fine one. A garden has been laid out, trees planted, and the formerly bare prairie now looks