

MISSIONS TO THE INDIANS.

A REVIEW OF INDIAN SCHOOLS.

Several circumstances of late have combined to direct attention to the relation which the Presbyterian Indian mission schools in the Northwest hold to similar schools under the care of other denominations. One of these circumstances is the fact that attempts of the most aggressive and unjustifiable character have been made by Roman Catholic priests to remove children from our schools. To this frequent reference has been made by the Rev. Hugh McKay in his speeches in the east. Another is, the charges against our missionaries which have been made by the Rev. Father Hugonard, of the Qu'Appelle Industrial School. A third is the general attention now being directed to the peculiar tactics of the Catholic Bureau of Missions in Washington—tactics which caused Commissioner Morgan to decide to have no further dealings with it, but to negotiate henceforward with the schools themselves. These circumstances are our warrant for deeming it advisable to direct attention to the relation of the schools now in operation in the Northwest to the Government.

The most conspicuous classification of Indian schools is that which distinguishes them as boarding schools and day schools. Subdividing each of these divisions once more, it will be convenient to speak of four classes of schools.

1. Government Industrial Schools.-- In these the whole expense of building, tuition and maintenance is borne by the Government, and they are accordingly very expensive. They are only four in number—those at Qu'Appelle and High River, under the care of the Roman Catholic Church; that at Battleford, Church of England; and that at Regina, Presbyterian. The three former have been in operation for some six or seven years, the Regina school was opened in April last.

2. The second class includes those Industrial Boarding Schools which are maintained jointly by the Government and a missionary society. In the United States they are called "contract schools," the missionary society "contracting" to maintain the school in consideration of a certain amount of assistance from the Government. In our schools now under consideration the basis of assistance varies very considerably in different schools. In the highest division the buildings are erected by the Government and \$100 paid for the maintenance and teaching of each pupil per annum. The buildings are usually substantial and commodious structures, costing in the neighborhood of \$10,000 each, and it is expected that tuition will be provided for the pupils in one or more trades. Of this class are the Church of England schools at Elkhorn and St. Paul's and the Roman Catholic school at St. Boniface—all in Manitoba.

In the next division are schools erected by the churches, although in some cases grants in aid have been received from the