



PEACE RIVER, NEAR DUNVEGAN.

proceeded to Athabasca, taking with him the Rev. M. and Mrs. Scott, both of whom had been his helpers in former days in St. Andrew's. After visiting Dunvegan, the bishop went down stream to Vermilion, where he wintered. The winter brought its own toil and troubles, amongst the latter an epidemic of measles, a much more deadly disease there than with us. The bishop thankfully records that seemingly through God's blessing on his attempts at medical treatment they escaped the mortality elsewhere so great. Some progress was made in the study of Cree and in preparation for future work. During the past summer the bishop came in to Manitoba to attend the Provincial Synod, and to meet Mrs. Young and the children, from whom he had been so long separated. They left for their lonely distant home in August last, followed by the prayers of many friends. Few who read this article realize the nature of the country and the work to which they have gone. Possibly their isolation from civilized regions is one of their greatest trials. The friends they left in August cannot hope to receive the letter announcing their safe arrival until next March, when one of the two mails of the year will arrive by dog-train. Let us see that they have our prayers and sympathy and help in their work and labor of love for Christ's sake.

A MERRY CHRISTMAS.



HE history of the observance of Christmas day is almost the history of England itself. It was, till Puritan days, a day of festivity and mirth, which was not affected, to any great extent, even by the Reformation. Queen Elizabeth kept Christmas with much the same solemnities as her grandfather. In the days of Cromwell, however, and Puritan rule, the festivities and even the observance of Christmas day were forbidden. It is on the statute book of Great Britain in 1652, that "no observation shall be had of the five and twentieth day of December, commonly called Christmas day, nor any solemnity used or exercised in churches upon that day in respect thereof."

And that proved the death blow to the ancient festivities of Christmas, for although the Restoration of Monarchy brought back the ancient liberty of the people, their habits and tastes had changed to a great extent, so that uproarious amusements and merriment in connection with the nativity of Christ could not be revived. This was deplored by many who loved the day more for its festivity than its religion, and popular ballads were written on what was called the good, old fashioned Christmas time. One of those ballads has it:—