

## LETTER FROM BISHOP YOUNG.

(Received 17th December.)

ATHABASCA LANDING, ALTA., N.W. T.  
November, 1897.*To the Editor of THE CANADIAN CHURCH MAGAZINE  
AND MISSION NEWS, Toronto.*

MY DEAR FRIENDS AND FELLOW-WORKERS, — It is with much pleasure and with earnest prayer for our mutual benefit that I take up my pen to write you a few lines for 1897.

Finding there was no pressing need for my presence at the missions in the diocese outside those I visited during the months of January and February last, I accepted an invitation from the Bishop of Saskatchewan and Calgary to visit the Church Missionary Society's Missions in his diocese during his absence in England.

Letters from Rev. J. R. Lucas, in charge of St. Paul's Mission, Chipewyan, report a steady maintenance of the work there. He has not been in so much contact with the Chipewyans as last year, but hopes to be able to visit them in their camps this winter. Mr. Lucas is busy compiling a vocabulary and grammar of the language and is making good progress in it.

St. Luke's Mission, Vermilion, is being diligently worked by the Rev. M. Scott. Though afflicted with considerable bodily infirmity, rheumatism, sciatica, and at times with great nervous prostration, he continues to prosecute on foot in winter, and by canoe in summer, journeys of two to three hundred miles, visiting the Indians in their camps. He gives the following interesting account of one of these visits: "After travelling over one hundred miles to the Cariboo hills I reached a Cree tent feeling tired out and painfully lame, and dreading the prospect of all the miles of snow which intervened between me and home. After a while I had reading of the Word, singing and prayer. When I had finished an old blind grandmother who was present, immediately began to thank me and to praise God that she had once more heard His word and the voice of the 'man of prayers;' she could thank God that although her body was now blind He had given her light in her soul; and she went on to state her faith in Christ in a marvellous way for one with such few opportunities for instruction. All my pain and fatigue seemed to go and I felt that I could start on another hundred miles for such a reward. From this tent I went about thirty miles in another direction to another Indian tent. The wife was much annoyed about some false reports which had been circulated about her. She felt angry and bitter about the matter. I was sorry for her and felt that she had cause for resentment. I said very little, but opened the New Testament and read what the Lord had done when unjustly accused and how

he had left us an example. The poor woman was melted to tears; she wept much at the thought of her own anger and unforgiving spirit, especially when I reminded her of how much He had forgiven. When I left she followed me outside and with tears asked me to forget her words and that I must not be disturbed on account of them for she had cast them entirely out of her heart; that she would return good for evil to the person who had so injured her." Of this I have since had ample proof.

The Rev. A. I. Warwick combines the work of assistant missionary to Rev. M. Scott with that of Principal of the Irene Training School. During Mr. Scott's frequent absence he carries on the services and the general work of the mission. In his letter he gives a very pleasing account of Matthew Kewatin who is getting an old man. "He (Matthew) spoke of the joy it gives him to think of heaven. He is looking to God and waiting for Him to call Him up to Him."

The Rev. Hy. Robinson last year passed through a heavy trial in the loss of his wife, leaving three little ones and an adopted Indian girl without a mother's care. He writes very thankfully of the care they receive from Miss McKnight, who volunteered for the work and was sent out by the Holy Trinity Branch of the W.A., of Winnipeg. Miss McK. has felt deeply the isolation which this charge entails but remains bravely at her post. Mr. Robinson is still beset with difficulties, arising a good deal from the failure of crops last year through drought. He writes cheerfully about his work, but has not much progress to report. The work may become more colonial in his mission. The discovery of rich gold mines on the Yukon, also reported discoveries of paying deposits on Upper Peace River will hasten the opening out of the north, more especially of the Peace River country. Its fertility and proximity to the further north seem to point it out as a natural source of supplies for these far northern gold fields. Again the increasing desire in Canada for an all Canadian overland route to Klondyke, which must cross the Peace River country: these and other causes will tend this way. Mr. Robinson is a fluent Cree speaker and this, combined with an earnest Christian spirit, makes him a useful missionary. Besides working among the Indians in his immediate neighborhood, he visits them at other points, Dunvegan, Spirit River, etc.

I still long to be able to place a mission among the Beaver Indians more to the west, but so far my attempts in this direction have been frustrated. Straited means and disappointments in those, whom judging well cut out for pioneer work, I had hoped to send out, are the chief causes. I trust, however, that