

HOME MISSION

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Woman's Executive

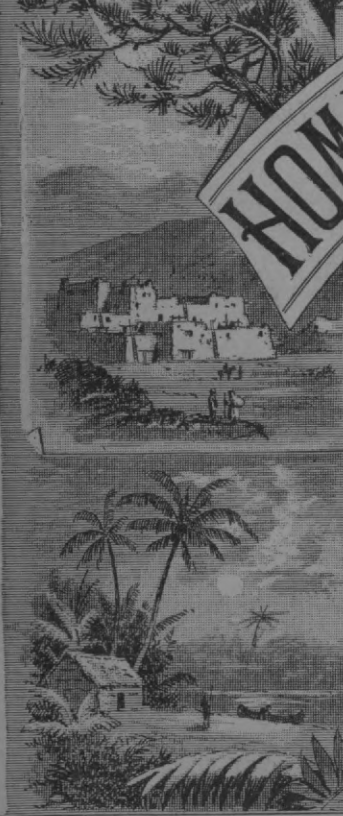
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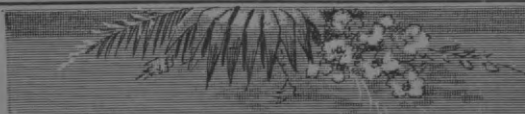
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Tappan Press Co.
3-17-37

HOME MISSION MONTHLY.

VOL. VII.

NOVEMBER, 1892.

No. 1.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

TO THE NORTHLAND.



LASKAN settlements have an individuality all their own. We found that Fort Wrangel was no exception. The situation of the town, as has been already stated in these notes, is beautiful; the town itself is devoid of every element of the kind; but Fort Wrangel is a landmark of no inconsiderable importance and interest in Alaskan history. Tradition tells us that fierce feuds and perpetual conflicts were here waged between Baron Wrangel, the Russian governor, and the Hudson Bay Company of olden times. They were certainly free to wage their warfare without interference from outside parties, for the scene of conflict was too remote from civilization to make any impression on the rest of the world, however deeply it may have affected those most concerned.

Later in its history the region assumed importance from the discovery of gold in the interior, but with the failure of the mines there came a lull, followed by stagnation, in the growth and development of the place.

Hastening through our breakfast we sallied forth on an extended tour of investigation. Where did we go? What did we see? We went everywhere and we saw everything, for surely there was not much in the little town that we did not investigate during that day of unique experiences.

We visited the natives, talked with them, saw their totems, their sacred burial places, their curios. We went into their houses, saw them prepare their meals and lay out their dead; visited the mission and the

church, and stood on the spot where the McFarland Home was erected, which was afterwards destroyed by fire. Nothing interested us so much as the people themselves, their condition, and the study of the problem how best to elevate them to true manhood and womanhood.

As one looks out over the town, perhaps the objects which first arrest the eye are the totem poles. While our boat lay at the wharf at Victoria, B. C., much interest was awakened by a pole of this kind, on its way to the World's Fair, which occupied the whole length of the deck of a steamer anchored by our side. It was fashioned from a tree of great height, and bore the quaint carving which distinguishes the totem.

At Fort Wrangel one may see these poles standing before a number of the houses whose occupants are supposed to be entitled, thereby, to unusual respect and deference; for tribal rank counts for little compared with the dignity which any native may attain who is possessed of enough means to erect one of these poles, and sustain the expense of the succession of feasts or potlaches which are the unfailing accompaniments of such an event. He who gives most away on such an occasion is considered greatest and most powerful. It is said that the proud and happy possessor of a totem pole is not infrequently reduced to poverty thereby.

The carving on some of these poles is not only interesting but really noteworthy. In front of some of the houses are two poles, as shown in the illustration, in which case one is to celebrate the wife's genealogy, while the other sets forth the record of the husband's

leaven of the gospel has begun to work among this people, and by the grace of God it will work until all know the truth as it is revealed in the word of God. 'Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free.' The outlook is full of hope and encouragement. We have been laying the foundation of a great work among this people."

FAITHFUL UNTO DEATH.

THE Romanists often tell us our converts *live* Protestants but *die* in the old faith. Experience has proven it to be just the reverse. I have known several instances where people did not have the courage to profess our religion while all was well, but when dying became avowed Christians.

One poor woman had been very ill for months. Her relatives, neighbors and old friends would not visit or assist her because she would not confess. One neighbor loaned her a clock by which to take her medicine, but soon requested its return, informing her she would not assist her in any manner whatever until she would confess. A day or two previous to her death she sent for our minister, and was received into the church and baptized.

One of the best characteristics of the Mexicans is their hospitality, charity and affection for each other. I have never known an instance where they were otherwise, except with the Protestants; but it is remarkable how the latter stand by each other. The mother of the deceased woman, at the time of her conversion, had never lost a member of her family; since then death has claimed

four in rapid succession. The Romanists, of course, endeavored to make her think it a judgment sent on her because of her religion, but she bears up patiently under her affliction. Her trials only cause her to cling closer to her faith. Her daughter having previously been bereft of her husband, left two orphan babes. The godfather of one of them, unwilling to have him raised by his Protestant grandmother, endeavored by force of law to take him from her, but we defended her cause, and the child was left in her care.

A TEACHER.

PRIESTLY INTERFERENCE.

A RECENT letter from one of our teachers in New Mexico, speaks of the troublesome opposition of the priests. She writes:

"I am having a great deal of trouble with the priest. He follows in my footsteps, as I go among my people. He has never been so determined in his persecutions as now. He sees our work growing and strengthening, and his members attending regularly the Protestant Church, their children being taught about God and the Bible in the Protestant school. He threatens them with all sorts of punishments, but while I have lost some of the brightest of my last year's pupils, I have gained others whom I did not expect, so he has really done us no harm, only I miss some of the dear, sweet faces that I loved so much last year, but I feel *sure* that they will come back again. I feel much encouraged in spite of opposition, though I am sometimes unkindly called 'la deablo' (the devil)."

WORDS FROM WORKERS.

MEXICAN.

ONE of our teachers writes: A wealthy Mexican died some time ago, leaving considerable property to his heirs. Some time afterward his daughter's husband died, and they made a great funeral for him. In a little while her child also died, and they made another great funeral. They began paying the priest their sheep and cattle, but were notable to cancel the debt. At last he seized their house and lands, turning them out into the street. Now the daughter and mother, a few years ago considered as belonging to one of the wealthiest families, are living in Las Vegas in an old tumble down abode that fortunately was left to them, but entirely without means. Verily, "My house

shall be called a house of prayer, but ye have made it a den of thieves."

SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO.—A teacher says: "I have learned by experience that these children are of a most affectionate disposition—always treating others with courtesy, even though they be much poorer than themselves. They are kind and tender hearted, as a rule. Some are bright and quick to learn, while it takes others a year to wake up from their dullness.

In my class of girls, one was very thoughtful and wanted to become a Christian, and I have no doubt but that she accepted Christ as far as she had light. Two others, staunch Catholics, were impressed with the truth, and I trust their return to the school will

help them to see clearly what their duty and privilege is. One of the two said she wished to follow Christ, and I noticed that she was trying to do better, and even came to see if she could do anything to help me in play hours; it was the only way she knew to show her love. One day another girl asked me to find the place in the Bible where it speaks of idols having no ears or mouths. It was found, and she took it where three others were sitting and showed it to them; they seemed surprised, and we found several other passages in regard to idol worship.

MISS IDA L. BOONE, LOS ANGELES, CAL.—Early in June two of my girls, both of whom have been in the school a long time, joined a Presbyterian Church in the city. It made me more thankful than words can tell, and I am hoping that through their influence others will be set free from the old bonds of superstition, and fear of man. One of the girls wrote me: "I have found out that one cannot be a secret Christian; I tried to be one and I believe that I was a stumbling block to many. Now that I have confessed Christ three others have come to Him."

MISS MATILDA L. ALLISON, SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO:—If rest is freedom from everything which wearies and disturbs, if it is quiet and repose, then I have not found it this summer; if it is found in change and variety of work, then I can say that I have had a good rest this vacation. I have entertained several of our mission teachers from other parts of the territory. I have spent a good deal of time in yard and garden, and succeeded in getting vegetables, grass, and flowers; I have gone over every part of our house, reducing things to order, and making such little repairs as I found necessary. I have canned, and preserved, and jellied, and so stored our larder with jars of fruit, which, I am sure, will bring enjoyment to the mission this winter; I camped out five days, and picniced two. I have had the help and care of two girls who remained through vacation. The outlook, as far as the pupils are concerned, is promising. As usual, many applicants have been turned away.

MORMON.

MISS MATTIE WHITE, PARIS, IDAHO.—I opened with the best attendance I have ever had at the beginning of school. There is certainly less prejudice in the minds of those with whom we come in contact, and priestly authority has lost much of its power.

One of my pupils, an earnest Christian girl, has just gone to teach in a strong Mormon town. If I can provide good, earnest Christian teachers for the public schools, which are now virtually Mormon schools, though drawing public money, I know of no better way to accomplish the object of mission work throughout Mormondom. It means

something when a pupil from a Presbyterian mission school is chosen by a Mormon Board of school trustees to teach in a strong Mormon settlement. Another one of my pupils hopes to become a mission teacher, also one of my former pupils.

MRS. ALICE L. BURNET, Mt. PLEASANT, UTAH.—There is a great deal of promise in most of the girls who have come this year, and we expect much from them, both intellectually and spiritually. The Home was never in better condition than now. The new carpets sent by the ladies last fall brighten up many rooms, and the girls are much delighted with the improvements. I have never entered a year with brighter hopes for its being a profitable one. The days of Bible study in connection with the recent session of Presbytery here were blessed days to me, and to all. I began a course of Bible study with the girls yesterday. I am more and more convinced that the word of God is what these girls need to be rooted and grounded in, and that we may then expect a goodly harvest.

INDIAN.

MISS PATTERSON, SISSETON AGENCY, SOUTH DAKOTA—The last day of August two of the teachers went to Mountain Head, a distance of thirty-five miles from the Mission, camped a few rods from the home of an Indian family who though the twilight was deepening saw us, came to us and gave us a cordial invitation to spend the night with them. The mosquitos were so numerous—the smutch made immediately after stopping having failed to drive them away—that we gladly accepted, and were soon seated in their neat, comfortable house. A beautiful morning greeted our awakening, and soon with nine interesting Indian children we journeyed homeward.

MR. E. H. DOYLE, MCALESTER, IND. TER.—During the past vacation, although our thoughts have been relieved from the duties and routine of the school room, nevertheless, we have not been idle.

We have kept up our little Sabbath school with surprising interest during this long, hot, dry summer. It is customary in this part of the country to suspend all work during the months of July and August, but this season we made the experiment of holding regular services, and it has proved a success. School opens Monday, Sept. 5th, and from the present indication the school bids fair to be full.

MRS. M. S. HOTCHKINS, WYNNEWOOD.—Our work this summer has been very encouraging. Sabbath school very well attended, an average of two prayer meetings a week, attended only by the young, but full of interest. We have opened school with 110 pupils, and, at the least 25 are waiting ad-