

ALASKA,

AND

MISSIONS ON THE NORTH PACIFIC COAST.

BY

Rev. SHELDON JACKSON, D.D.

FULLY ILLUSTRATED.

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keep up the meetings three times on Sabbath, and Tuesdays and Fridays. Our members are doing very well. No doubt Mrs. McFarland will write you all the particulars. My wife has come up from Fort Simpson, and I shall need a house to live in. I do not know what I shall do, as I shall not have money enough to live with and expend any on a house. Neither can I pay rent with my salary, and keep even. I had only \$28 or \$30 on which to live from the time you left to the 1st of October, and if this has to be taken from my pay after the 1st of October, it will make me awful short. If I could start even on the 1st of October I could get along splendid, if I had a small room to live in. We expected to hear from you by return steamer, but were disappointed. We want your prayers to God for our success in converting these Indians. It is my constant prayer to God that these Indians may all be made to know Christ, and we earnestly ask that all the churches will pray for us, as we need all your prayers to God. Yours very respectfully,

“ PHILIP MCKAY.”

Soon after Clah's death, Mrs. McFarland wrote :

' FORT WRANGELL, ALASKA, Jan. 16th, 1878.

“ DR. JACKSON.

“ DEAR BROTHER : Although we have commenced a new year, we feel sadly broken up and discouraged, for God has taken away our beloved Philip. He passed away very peacefully, on Friday, December 28th, 1877.

“ I went up to see him on Thursday. He talked very cheerfully. Said he thought he had only a few hours to live. I asked him how death seemed to him. He replied, ‘ As earth fades away, heaven grows brighter.’ His wife was crouched down by his bed weeping. He turned to her and said, ‘ Annie, you must not cry ; Jesus knows what is best.’

“ His friends took his body to Fort Simpson to bury it beside his mother and three brothers, who were drowned last summer.

“ The natives raised sufficient money among themselves to pay for the coffin and build a fence around his grave. I think it was very thoughtful in them. Philip’s dying request was that the Christian friends in the East should do something for his wife. He said, ‘ My wife and little boy will be left without anything to buy food with, and it troubles me.’ I told him he must not worry about it, that the Lord would raise up friends for them ; and asked him if he could not leave them in the Lord’s hands ? He replied that he would try and trust all to Jesus.

“ My school is very full, and I am about as busy as it is possible for a person to be. Oh ! I do pray that the Lord will soon send us help.

“ There is a good deal of alarm among the Christian natives about the Catholics. Word has come from Victoria that two priests are coming here to build a church. Shus-taks, the rich chief you went to see, is very anxious to have them come, and has promised them much help in building a church.

“ I am rejoiced to report that we are moved back with the school and church into the dance-house.

The dance business did not seem to be profitable, so they closed the house, and Messrs. Lear and Vanderbilt, who had the leasing of it, very kindly allowed me to make the change. It is much more comfortable than the old log house.

“Mrs. Dickinson has just sent her little girls down to me to write you her kind regards.

“I must describe to you how the natives observed Christmas. Between twelve and one o'clock Christmas morning I was awakened by hearing persons coming up to my house. I arose, and from my window saw about sixty of my Indians standing in a double row in front of my house, with their lanterns and umbrellas, for it was raining heavily. Just as I looked out they commenced singing, ‘While shepherds watched their flocks by night.’ They sung that and another hymn, and then went quietly away. It seemed to me that nothing ever aroused my gratitude as that did. I did not know that there was anything more to come. But about nine o'clock in the morning I saw a large procession filing into my yard. First came the son of one of our prominent men, a boy about thirteen, carrying a large British flag. Perhaps some Sabbath-school class of boys would be willing to present our mission with an American flag, the Stars and Stripes. Next came the Christian chief, Toy-a-att. Then came all the leading men; then their wives, then my school. They walked in single file. I stood in my door, and as they walked past each one shook hands with me and wished me ‘A Merry Christmas.’ The old chief took my hand and said, ‘A Merry Christmas,’ and

'God bless you, dear teacher,' and, much to my surprise, leaned forward and kissed me on the cheek. He had evidently learned his speech for the occasion, as he does not speak English. I wish I could describe their costumes. But as I have not time I will only say that the boy who carried the flag was dressed in light blue cashmere, covered over with gilt stars. He had also on a head-dress made of flowers and stars. There were about two hundred in the procession.

"During the holidays the natives got into many troubles, through the great quantities of whiskey that have been made here. It became so bad that Mr. Dennis gathered a *posse* of men last Thursday and made a raid on suspected parties. Eight distilleries were found and broken up. There have been eighteen in all destroyed. Yours truly,

"A. R. McFARLAND."



ALASKA FOX.