

ALASKA,

AND

MISSIONS ON THE NORTH PACIFIC COAST.

BY

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FULLY ILLUSTRATED.

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which have been raised must be credited to your zeal. I wish that you had wings like an eagle, that you might soar over the whole of Alaska, and then tell in the *Rocky Mountain Presbyterian* what you saw. Your appeals, I perceive, have come down with trip-hammer force."

These letters were followed by a unanimous vote of thanks from the Presbytery of Puget Sound, the nearest * presbytery to Alaska.

We now return to Mrs. McFarland's letter-history of the mission :

"FORT WRANGELL, ALASKA, Jan. 8, 1879.

"DR. JACKSON.

"DEAR BROTHER : After I had written you last month, a white man killed another in a billiard-saloon. The mob took possession of the murderer, and would have hung him on the spot, but the more thoughtful ones prevented them. They organized a court and gave him a regular trial. He was convicted and sentenced to death. They proceeded at once to erect a gallows in the main street in the village. Hearing that he was to be hung, I felt that, as Mr. Young was away, I must go and see him. He professed great indifference to the future, although I could

* By an oversight of the General Assembly of 1876 in constituting the Synod of the Columbia (see pages 75 and 76, Vol. 4, New Series, of Minutes of the Assembly), and defining the boundaries of the several presbyteries thereof, Alaska was left within the bounds of the Synod of the Pacific, where it was placed by the General Assembly of 1870. (See Minutes of Assembly, page 87, Vol. I, New Series.)

see that it was forced. Twice in the night, however, he sent for me. He was then in great distress of mind, but got no peace. He told me that he had Christian parents (Presbyterian), but that he had not heard a prayer for twenty years until I prayed with him. It was a terrible scene, and completely unnerved me.

“Since the holidays commenced the Indians have had a gay time. We had a Christmas-tree, and it was a perfect success. We numbered the Indians by hundreds, and yet there was something for each one. The fruit of this tree was furnished by Mrs. Young, from things sent by her friends in the East.

“At midnight the Indians came and sang in front of our houses, and gave us their Christmas salutation. At ten o'clock A.M. they had a procession and hand-shaking. At half-past eleven A.M. we had a Christmas sermon at the close of which Mr. Young married one of my pupils to Matthew, our good Indian. Immediately after came the wedding-feast, which was a grand affair for this section.

“During the week there was another wedding and feast, besides several feasts without weddings. Now two white men are soon to wed Indian girls. Thus a very different state of things is springing up here.

“The Home is getting along nicely—that is, if you can call it nice to be getting deeper and deeper in debt every day. I believe it is God's work and that he will raise up the means. And while I feel that faith is an excellent thing to have, yet I am greatly pressed to find anything to eat for these hungry girls. I am very anxious to know the result of your

appeal. The year for the lease of this building is rapidly passing away, and if we are to get up another building in time, we must soon be at work. If we fail to do this, I do not like to think of the consequences."

"FORT WRANGELL, ALASKA, Feb. 11, 1879.

"DEAR BROTHER: The school is very full, and the attendance of the Indians upon church is increasing.

"The Home is prospering beyond my expectations. I now have seven young girls. This week two more applied for admission, but I have to put them off. I could fill the house before sunset, but have to move slowly. We can only enlarge as the Church furnishes the money. The missionary-boxes have been a great help. The girls look so pretty and comfortable in their new dresses. They are so thankful.

"Our organ has arrived in good condition, and is a very great help to us. I am exceedingly anxious to hear about the building fund. Surely such appeals cannot go unheeded."

"March, 1879.—One of my girls has been very sick the past month. It is too bad not to have a physician here. I feel it more than ever now that I have these children to take care of. I hope a teacher may come soon, as Mr. Young is burdened with the school in addition to all his other labors. It was a good providence that sent him to this mission.

"I hope some time this summer to be able to visit Fort Simpson and Metlahkatlah and learn how they carry on their schools. Their experience and methods might assist me. It is after midnight, and I must rest. My correspondence has become a serious