

ALASKA,

AND

MISSIONS ON THE NORTH PACIFIC COAST.

BY

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steamer and preached for us yesterday morning. We were pleased with him. They have gone on to Sitka and Kadiak. Truly yours,

“ A. R. MCFARLAND.”

“ FORT WRANGELL, ALASKA, May, 1879.

“ DEAR BROTHER : We are all rejoiced at the prospect of seeing your party at an early day. The coming of such dear friends will make it seem almost like the East. I feel quite impatient to see a beginning made on our new home. There is now an additional reason for making haste.

“ The Roman Catholics are invading our ground. Among the passengers on the Olympia a week ago was a Romish bishop and priest. They at once established a mission. The bishop made an attack on Mr. Young the following Sabbath morning. He was trying to get the people to make the sign of the cross, but none would respond save Shus-taks, the wicked chief. This made the bishop angry, and he broke out as follows : ‘ Why don’t you do as I told you ? Are you afraid of Mr. Young ? You are not Mr. Young’s slaves. He is not a true minister anyway. No man can be a true minister and have a wife. Look at me ; I am a true minister ; I am all the same as Jesus Christ, and I don’t have any wife. By and by Mr. Young will want you to pay lots of money for his wife,’ and much more of the same kind.

“ The Indians are so fond of outside display and show that the Romish Church would suit them in that respect. But we can take courage as we remember that the Lord is on our side.

“The Home is prospering. The village is crowded with miners, many of them being of the worst kind. If the friends of the mission were here now they would realize more than ever the necessity of protecting the girls. It makes me very happy to feel that at least those in my family are safe. I see that there has been some fault-finding because I took such young girls into the Home. If they who find fault were only here they would see the wisdom of our course. The last girl I received was only ten years old, yet her mother had already sold her to a man for ten blankets.”

“June 9th, 1879.—Since writing you last month I have taken three girls into the Home. One is a very bright and pretty child from the Hydah tribe. The other two are half-breed Stickeens. One is seventeen years old.

“Hers is a peculiar case. She lived with an aunt, who was living with a white man. Lately the white man conceived a great fancy for the girl, and has importuned her to live with him, saying that he would send the old woman away. The girl utterly refused to consent to any such thing. The man being called away from home on business, the girl fled to me for protection. She is quite intelligent, speaks English well, and is the best educated Indian in the village. She is very fair, and would pass for a white girl. These make twelve girls now under my care.

“Truly yours A. R. MCFARLAND.”

In June, 1879, Rev. W. H. R. Corlies, M.D., wife and child, of Philadelphia, reached Fort Wrangell.