

ALASKA,

AND

MISSIONS ON THE NORTH PACIFIC COAST.

BY

Rev. SHELDON JACKSON, D.D.

FULLY ILLUSTRATED.

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on the hospital building for one year, as a contribution from his wife. Truly yours,

“A. R. MCFARLAND.”

In August, 1878, the Rev. S. Hall Young, of Parkersburg, West Virginia, who had been commissioned by the Board of Home Missions the previous spring, reached Fort Wrangell.

Graduating with high honors at Allegheny Theological Seminary, he entered upon his work with great zeal and earnestness, and was very gladly welcomed by Mrs. McFarland. At the very outset of his work Mr. Young was confronted with demonstrations of witchcraft. Consequently he held a convention of the people to put it down. This convention lasted five days. Mrs. McFarland writes :

“FORT WRANGELL, ALASKA, Nov. 9th, 1878.

“DEAR BROTHER : The witchcraft excitement has again broken out and given Mr. Young much trouble. He has shown great wisdom and courage in quelling it without the loss of life. Kootlan, the oldest of the Stickeen chiefs, died this week after a long illness. Although he belonged to the heathen Indians, yet they sent for Mr. Young to attend the funeral. Shustaks lost his wife this week, and is making great preparations to burn the body next Sabbath. Mr. Young and I both visited her during her illness. Her friends firmly believe that she was bewitched.

“The more fully we become acquainted with Mr. Young, the more we are impressed that the Lord has sent us just the right man. He makes a splendid missionary.

"I am very much pleased with the proposition to ask a Christmas offering for my Home. We are living on faith now.

"December 5th, 1878.

"Mr. Young has recently held a five days' council with the chiefs and principal men of the Stickeen nation. The different bands of the nation were not good friends. Each of the chiefs had his following, and they would not attend church together. Since the council many more have been attending church. If the council result in breaking down their jealousies, an important point will have been gained. Mr. Young has also taken hold of the witchcraft operations with great vigor, and, I think, will be able to break them up.

"Our school is doing nicely. We greatly need another teacher.

"The council has opened up the way for much more visiting among the people. But with the school and Home on my hands it is impossible for me to do more.

Yours truly,

"A. R. McFARLAND."

Rev. Mr. Young writes :

"FORT WRANGELL, ALASKA, Dec. 5, 1878.

"DEAR DR. JACKSON : We have gained a victory over witchcraft. Shus-taks and his wife were both sick, and of course they must blame some one with having worked 'bad medicine' against them. Young Shaaks, successor of the head chief and nephew to Shus-taks, gathered up his friends and caught an old man, one of our church attendants, and accused