

ALASKA,

AND

MISSIONS ON THE NORTH PACIFIC COAST.

BY

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FULLY ILLUSTRATED.

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“Last week I had a prominent chief of the Takou tribe to see me. He seemed to be a very sensible man, and expressed great anxiety to have a school for his people.

“Our school-room has been rented for a dance-house, and will be taken from us by the 15th of the month. I went to see the house that belonged to Matthew, but it would not answer. I have since secured an old log house, which the owner has agreed to repair and rent us for \$20 per month. I have rented the little house back of Mr. Lear’s store to live in. It was the very best I could do.

“I am exceedingly anxious to have a room furnished as soon as possible, where I can take any young girls that may have a disposition to do right. Such an one recently came and wanted to stay with me. She was bright and smart, and talked English well, but I was not so situated that I could take her. When I next heard of her she was living with a white man. I hope I will have sufficient aid to offer a home to such cases when they present themselves. I believe I could have saved that girl if I could have offered her a home. Yours truly,

“A. R. MCFARLAND.”

“FORT WRANGELL, ALASKA, Oct. 11th, 1877.

“DEAR BROTHER: I rejoice to write that I am now moved and in my own house. I find this little house very comfortable—much more so than seemed possible, with so little to fix it with. The people have been very kind in helping me move.

“Clah has moved into Matthew’s house. His wife

comes to school now. I was surprised to find that she does not know her A B C's. I asked Clah how long they had been married. He replied, ' My father gave me Annie when I was a little boy, for a present, and I have lived with her ever since.' Matthew comes to school, and is very anxious to learn. He says, ' Me want to learn quick, so me can read the Bible all the time.' I had a funny experience with him last week. He and his wife had quarrelled, and had not lived together for almost a year. She is one of my best scholars, and I saw that she was in great trouble. I found she wanted to go back to her husband. So I brought Matthew home with me one day and had a long talk with him. He said that he and his wife had lived together very happily for ten years. But last fall some people told him that she was a bad woman, and that if he was a Christian he ought not to live with her. I answered him, that although his wife may have done some wrong things, yet if he was a Christian he ought to forgive her—that he had no right to ask God to forgive him if he could not forgive his wife. He went away very thoughtful. The next day he came back in great trouble, saying he had not been able to sleep all night. He wanted me to see his wife. So I appointed a meeting for the next day, when we would all be present ; also another man and wife who had come to me with their troubles. The two couples came at the appointed time. I had Clah and Mrs. Dickinson present. I made it a religious meeting, and as solemn as possible. After each one had told their grievances, I summed up with the necessity of mutual

forbearance—that they should forgive one another, try to be happy together, and live as Christians should. This they agreed to, and went away satisfied, and are seemingly doing well since. This is new work for me.

“I do hope that we shall get a minister soon to attend to such cases as this. I do not know that I am very wise about some things, but I try to do the best I can, seeking help from above. There is a very aggravated case here of one of our school-girls. If I can get her away I will bring her to my house. Pray for me that I may have wisdom to do what is right about all these things. I hope there may be money furnished me from some source to offer a home in such cases, where it may seem wise to do so.

“We now hold the school in the old log house, but it is too small and cold. I had to purchase the lumber for the seats.

“The Roman Catholics had sent to Europe for a priest for this place, so that if I had not come when I did they would have had the field. They expected to have commenced this fall. There has a little leaven of Catholicism already crept in. I have had to remonstrate with some of them about the confessional.”

“October 15th, 1877.

“I have very sad news to write. Our dear Clah is very sick—nigh unto death. Night before last an Indian came after me, saying that Clah was dying and wanted to see me right away. I dressed and went as quickly as I could, and found that he had

been suddenly taken with a severe hemorrhage. I feared that he would not live until morning. To-day he seems better, but has bad symptoms. I asked him that first night whether he was willing to go if it should be the Lord's will. He replied that he would like to have seen a minister here first, but that it was all right. The Indians are very much distressed about his being sick."

"October 19.

"Clah has had no return of the bleeding, but is very feeble, and to-day I find his hands and feet swollen very much. I also found Mrs. Dickinson very sick in bed with a severe cold. So you see how full my hands are.

"There have been three young men here from Fort Simpson attending school. One of them is a preacher, but he can only preach in his own language, and now that Mrs. Dickinson is sick and there is no one to interpret for him, I do not know how we shall get along.

"The Indians came flocking in yesterday upon the arrival of the steamer to know whether there was 'any word about a white man preacher coming.'

"The women and girls come to my house three afternoons in the week for a sewing-school. This, with being in day-school, visiting the sick, and attending to my household duties, keeps me very busy.

"Yours truly, A. R. MCFARLAND."

"FORT WRANGELL, ALASKA, NOV. 10th, 1877.

"DEAR BROTHER: My hands are so full, and I feel so exhausted when evening comes, that it is an