

Latest Tidings from Our Mission Fields

October, 1916

Our Watchword—"Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit saith the Lord of Hosts."

"This is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith."

Subject for Prayer—For an awakening of the women of our Church to their responsibility as Christians to the Christless.

Subject for Study—Introduction and "Early Days," Chapters I and II. "The Story of the Years."

Indian Work

Miss Isabel Clarke writes from Kitamaat, B.C.:

Time does not lag with us, though we are in an out-of-the-way spot. Since February we have been a staff of only three and about thirty-one children. School has been open almost every school day since the beginning of the year. Our girls are progressing slowly. We have some very bright, attractive little ones whom it is a real pleasure to teach. We hope they will always maintain their brightness, and as they increase in years also increase in wisdom—especially the kind that develops character. We have some children whose parents are ex-pupils of the Home or of Coqualeetza, and they are certainly more intelligent than those whose parents had no training.

We have five girls from Kitlope who have been here almost a year. Three have done fairly well, but two have made little perceptible progress. We are quite confident that the Home life and influence will bear fruit some time in the future. Most of the children understand the principle that punishment sooner or later always follows wrong, but they often forget or, perhaps, don't realize until afterwards.

Our Mission Band had a very successful ice-cream social on May 24th. Our village friends and some white friends turned out to it. The band favored us with a few selections, and the children sang patriotic songs. It will be one of the bright days to look back to during the year. The Mission Band is quite proud of the fact that they won the banner for the British Columbia Branch this year.

Our Auxiliary had a public meeting a few weeks ago, at which Miss Alton gave an interesting account of the Branch Meeting in Victoria.

Our Senior girls have finished eight pairs of socks towards our sale of work in the fall. Miss Alton has had the village women knit a number of pairs of soldiers' socks.

Mr. and Mrs. Swann left us some two weeks ago, and as yet we have no missionary in their place. We certainly miss their society very much and trust that soon the vacant places will be filled.

We hope to go camping soon. Our camp ground is on Mr. Moore's place. We will have about twenty children and are looking forward to good, airy times.

I hope to go to Vancouver for a holiday. We shall be camping then, and I don't know how I shall ever leave camp. Cannot some clever person invent some way of hitting two good things at the same time? However, I shall get the beginning of the camping season and perhaps the end, too, if I return in time.

Miss Clarke, Miss Scouter and Miss Alton are well and working away as usual.

Miss Georgie E. Armstrong tells of a week at the Crosby Girls' Home, Port Simpson:

Monday, August 7th.—This morning was rainy, so the smaller children could not play out of doors as they usually do while the older ones were getting dinner, washing and sewing. All are enjoying the holiday from class-room work this month.

In the afternoon we took the girls for a walk around the island and then to the Hospital, where Martha had been invited to Elvina's birthday party. She came home at seven charmed with everything, particularly the pink tea.

Between seven and eight o'clock the older girls held their Mission Band meeting and clapped energetically when the birthday money was put in the mite box.

Tuesday, August 8th.—We welcomed sunshine and the ground soon became dry enough for some of the girls to go to their homes and pick raspberries. When Margaret Sankey came back to-night she brought the teacher a beautiful bunch of honeysuckle and a pitcher of berries.

Wednesday, August 9th.—Was a glorious day and we made the very best use of it. In the morning while the work was going on a few of the girls were allowed to pick raspberries and black currants at a garden in the village.

After dinner we all went to the little island back of Mrs. Dudoward's house and had a delightful picnic. The tide was well out, so the older girls had a fine game of baseball on the sandy beach, while the younger ones sailed their boats, made wreaths or served afternoon tea, using shells for dishes and stones and berries for food. These children have splendid taste in arranging trays and tables in their play and show a good train of thought generally. To-day, while playing with some of the little ones, I asked them how many fifteen cents and fifteen cents would be. They were puzzled at first, but I soon noticed wee Annie Sampson counting some of the other girls' fingers until she got two fifteens, then she counted them all up and soon gave me the correct result.

When the older girls finished their game they gathered a variety of fish and made an aquarium among the rocks. After seven o'clock we started for home, everyone convinced that this was the best picnic yet and all cheered good and loud when Miss Myles told us we could have another next week if we would be as good as we were to-day. (Miss Myles is acting superintendent during Miss Deacon's absence on her holiday.)

Thursday, August 10th.—Nothing special to-day. I took the little ones to the beach for an hour in the morning and Miss Powell and I took them all for a while in the afternoon. In the evening, while the older ones were at prayer meeting, the little ones had a service at home and sang very nicely.

Friday, August 11.—This was a busy morning with bathing and cleaning the girls' dining-room and sewing. There are the summer dresses for the girls to finish before their holidays. Since there is no school Nellie, Bertha and Margaret can sew an hour longer in the morning.

In the afternoon I took them all down to the baseball field and had a nice time on the grass. The older ones played ball while the younger ones amused themselves in various ways. Soon after we came back Miss Myles took ten big girls to pick berries in Mrs. Dennis' and Mrs. Moodie's gardens, which were adjoining. After tea they made jam of the raspberries.

This evening Miss Powell and I took the study hour girls to the little island where we had the picnic, so that we might find one of the children's hats that had been lost. While there we visited our aquarium and found the fish all gone except the Indian prunes.

Saturday, August 12th.—Has been as busy as the ordinary Saturday with cleaning the different parts of the house. A number of the Indians came back from the canneries to-day, so the girls had calls from parents and friends.

Sunday, August 13th.—The girls all went to church this morning as usual. We had a good Sunday school in the afternoon, the lesson being "The Spirit of giving." It rained after Sunday school, so the girls read their papers instead of going for their usual walk. In the evening the older ones went to church while the younger ones had a song service at home.

Thus ends another week among our girls, and like all of them, it has had many bright spots and many things for which we are thankful.

NELSON HOUSE, MAN.

Extract from a private letter:

"Treaty is just over, the hardest two weeks of all the year, for they all gather and camp near the Mission. You can fancy what it means, nearly 500 Indians camping within a radius of one-quarter of a mile. The many demands on time and energy almost exhausts one. The great compensation is the opportunities of service. In addition to the people there are nearly as many half-starved dogs. Oh! the howls and cries; one must live in touch with it to truly comprehend."

Extract from a letter from Nelson House:

I started with my dogs to make the line as I had planned, but a few warm days had spoiled the trails for a cariole, the snow on either side of the trail had become soft and settled, leaving the trail much higher, which made it impossible to keep the cariole on the trail and it would slip off first one side then the other and flounder in the soft snow. After four miles of that kind of travel I saw I could go no farther; so turned back, and waited to come out by canoe.

The ice was slow leaving this year, so I did not get away from Nelson House until June 1st. We were only four days making the trip, and with the exception of one very wet portage found the journey pleasant and restful; except feeling tired I am better than when I left. Had I not felt the need of a change and rest from my work for a while so badly I think I would not have ventured down when I had to make the trip both ways by canoe. However, I will have my own canoe and motor to return, so that will not take so long.

A very sad accident happened just the week before I left, which gave me such a shock. Being tired I was quite upset after and glad to get away for a while.

A white man, married to one of our girls, took his wife and little two-months-old baby, with a young boy and girl about fourteen, about a day's canoe trip from the Mission, to hunt duck and musk, etc. They stopped at the Mission when on their way. We had a nice chat with them and all were in good spirits and jolly. A few days after Dinah returned with the children, said her husband was dead and that she had to leave his body lying on the bank of the river just rolled in a blanket.

He with the boy had gone out to shoot ducks; he ate some lily roots which made him very sick. While attempting to get in the canoe to go home where they were camping he fell into the water face downwards. The boy could not get him out alone, so went for Dinah. When they got back and pulled him out of the water he had passed away, and the poor girl had to go back to camp to get a blanket and a pillow, come back and roll her husband in it. By this time it was dark, so they could not start for home until next day.

In the morning she packed up and started, having to leave her husband behind, for they could not carry him over the portage they had to make. After travelling from early morning she reached the mission about four. Mr. Hutty got some men to start back as quickly as possible for the body, which they found as she had left it, which was one comfort, for there were wolves around and we feared the worst.

I seemed to just live over what the poor girl had passed through. They had been married nearly two years and were very fond of each other. He was a very nice young man, not usually the kind that marries Indian girls, and he had been very kind to me, sending ducks or venison when he killed it, and gave me a lovely young dog at Christmas. Just the day he went away, knowing I was in need of a new leader for my team, my other one being too old, he said he would give me his and train another for himself. He, being a white man, was more company and his death meant more to me than an Indian. Dinah feels it keenly and she looks broken-hearted.

In an appeal for the translation of the Bible into every tongue, Rev. E. W. Smith, for many years a missionary to Africa, says: "O my friends, give to the people in every land this Book! Many years ago, before I went to Central Africa, I was in Basutoland traveling with a party of missionaries. As we were anxious to get home, we rushed through one village without stopping; and as we cantered away on our horses an old woman came out of the village and shouted to us, and what she said was this: 'You missionaries, why do you pass us by in this manner? Return and give us a little crumb of Jesus.' My friends, you have the whole loaf. Do not grudge to these benighted children of God 'a little crumb of Jesus.'"

Suggestive Programme

November, 1916.

Subject for Prayer.

That our missionaries to the Indians may this year have encouraging results and that the girls going out from the Homes and Schools may be made strong to exert a marked influence for Christ upon their own race.

Subject for Study.

Indian work. Chapters III-VII, "The Story of the Years."

I. Opening Exercises.

Hymn—"Come Ye Disconsolate." No. 79, Canadian Hymnal.

II. Minutes and Business.

III. Watch Tower.

IV. Hymn—"O Thou Who Camest from Above." No. 208, Canadian Hymnal.

V. Rest Fund Collection.

VI. Scripture Lesson—James 2: 14-26.

VII. (a) Brief sketches of each of our Indian Missions up to 1906 by five members. See "The Story of the Years," and

* (b) Progress of Indian Missions from 1906-16.

VIII. Sentence prayers for our Missions and Missionaries among the Canadian Indians.

IX. Closing Hymn—"When Immortal Souls are Dying." No. 177, Canadian Hymnal.

*See Suggestive Programme Leaflet. Price, 5 cts.

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