

impelled to the belief that the major part of the performers now are actuated by a desire to be jolly at the expense of others, at a season when labor is unpleasant, and hunting precarious. In addition to this, those chiefs who are most inveterate in their hostility to Christianity, use these practices to distract the attention of their people, and maintain their hold upon them. The effect upon the school children is unhappy. They are unable to attend with regularity; and, when present, exhibit too plainly the result of sleepless nights and nervous excitement.

During the last year we have succeeded in inducing several of the young people to erect small houses, where they can live apart from pagan association. A street is beginning to present itself, in a line with the Mission Church and School. Small enclosures are being cleared for family gardens, and planted with fruit trees. Mr. Crosby has labored hard; encouraging, instructing, and assisting in this department, and I have aided a little in it. I look upon it as a long step in the right direction to get the young people, whether married or single, away from the demoralization inseparable from the mixed mode of living in the old lodges; and doubt not that the best results will follow persevering effort, accompanied by prayer for the blessing of God.

Announcement of the tea meeting having been made, the Indians friendly to it went to work, and very tastefully decorated the room with flags and evergreens. The tables being put up, they were plentifully spread with bread and butter, and a variety of buns and cakes, the nomenclature of which my scholarship has not yet reached, but which were evidently not regarded by the guests as mere ornaments to please the eye. Their adaptation to another of the senses was practically proven after the many judges assumed their functions.

At half-past four the seats were occupied by about seventy Indians, adult and children, including several of the chiefs, some of whom had kept aloof so far this season from the dancers. There were also about eighteen or twenty white people, who partook with the rest. The children were at one table, at the head of which sat our interpreter and class-leader, A. Cushman. At the

head and foot of the other table were two of the chiefs, *Squineston* and *Tsil-kah'-mut*. Sundry other seats and chairs accommodated a number of women.

After some introductory words of welcome and explanation by the Chairman of the District, the blessing of God was invoked in song, and all present spent a cheerful hour of physical and mental refreshment. I can imagine the embodiment of amusement and gratification which your benevolent countenance would have exhibited could you have seen the zeal and perseverance with which the young aborigines applied themselves to the right use of the culinary productions of their white benefactresses. At the close of the meal the melodeon led the way in hearty hymnology, both in English and Nanaimo languages, when opportunity was given to all who wished to give utterance to what was in their hearts. I cannot give you even an outline of the remarks of several of the white brethren present; but believe you will read with pleasure those of some of the Indians, of which I took stenographic notes, as they were interpreted by Mr. Crosby in an under tone as he sat by me.

*Squineston*, (an aged chief). "I am very glad to be here to-day. This is the way to be happy—to hear God's word in his house. I hope you young men will attend to what the Missionary says. See! it is very kind in these friends to meet us. While I sat here I thought I would like to speak to the young men and children. It is good that you come to school and become like the good white man. I am very old, and shall soon have done here. All you, my children, listen to God's servants. This is all I speak now."

*Amos Cushman*, (Indian class-leader), said:—"Very happy to meet you. Glad to hear many friends speak to so many here. While sitting with the children my heart was joyful. I remember God cares for us, and gives us all these good things. I want to say to all these young men, 'Listen to your chiefs.' They say, 'very good, you turn from your foolish ways, and feast like this.' Yes, I wish all our young men would feast this way. I will speak from my heart about our old practices. They are very bad, and make the people very bad and sick. Look at this room