

For three days before her death she lay most of the time in a semi-unconscious state. We told her parents that we would go to them at any hour, and for this they seemed very grateful. Before her death, for three nights in succession, Miss Cameror and I had scarcely retired when we were aroused by the firing off of a gun, and the father rushing over to our house, howling and crying and wanting us to come quickly. We both made all possible haste, and imagine upon entering the house finding Anna in a swoon and her mother busy dressing her, putting on her all the dresses, etc., that she owned, the mother so afraid her child would breathe her last before she got them all on. The father kept a close watch and his gun loaded, and every time that he thought the last breath was being drawn would rush out and run around the house firing off his gun. We stayed till morning. For three nights we had a repetition of this scene. On the morning of the fourth day, 26th May, she died. With the aid of an Indian a coffin was made and covered with some of the white cotton sent out. In the evening the simple funeral took place. We walked to the grave and saw the remains laid quietly at rest beside her sister.

And now Katie was the only child left. She was a very clever child and had made very great progress, considering the time she had been in school. In April the doctor found her lungs very weak. We knew she was in a decline, but fondly hoped, with good care, she might live for some time. As the warm weather came on she gradually grew weaker and on the 17th July she died. That was a Sabbath day not soon to be forgotten. All the Dakotas in the vicinity, and all the Cree Indians from Sturgeon Lake Reserve, who are still pagans, and live about twelve miles north of us, were assembled about half a mile from the mission-house holding a sundance. About 9 a.m. the father came to tell us Katie was dead. We concluded the only thing we could do was to have the remains brought over to the school-room and then make preparations for burial. To this arrangement the parents gladly assented. Fortunately, Miss Cameron's parents were spending a few days with us, so we were not entirely alone. We went over with two waggons, wending our way through the crowd, which was at that time in the height of excitement over the dance which had commenced the previous evening at sundown. We reached Katie's tent, which was pitched a short distance from the others. We found the mother all alone with her dead child. Several of our Indians left the crowd and came and looked on and helped to carry the remains to the waggon. One of them promised to come and dig the grave, which he did, and remained for the funeral. We thought it useless to say much at the time. We then drove slowly back, taking the father and mother with us. We found it would be necessary to have the burial that evening. A coffin, the same as Anna's, was made, and as soon as all arrangements were completed the funeral took place. The parents listened quietly and attentively, while we had singing, reading of Scripture and prayer. When we were ready to walk over to the grave, we asked the mother if she wished to come. To our great surprise