

it was necessary to address the Indians. It will be observed that in replying to the letter of the 27th we dealt with questions which seriously affected Mr. Duncan, which we should much rather have done in his presence. When we met him in London we pressed upon him the great importance of his presence when we were at Metlakatla. He promised to be there before the 1st May, if he could. He was doubtful, but proposed to consult his friends, engaging to let us know the result, and he took our addresses. We did not hear from him before we left London, and we were altogether uninformed of his plans. We had been at Metlakatla for three weeks before he arrived, and he was under the impression that we might be leaving by the steamer which brought him, and proposed to call on us the same evening. We, however, informed him that we should remain till the following steamer arrived. We were six weeks at Metlakatla. He remarked that he thought it better that he should be absent while our inquiry proceeded, which, as he was aware, did not accord with our opinion or wishes, and, moreover, did not accord with the understanding with himself.

14. After our address had been read, and the Indians did not avail themselves of our offer to answer any questions, we proposed to close the meeting, when Mr. Tomlinson, addressing us, but turning to the Indians, said, in a very excited manner and loud tone of voice, that we had slandered his friend Mr. Duncan behind his back, and called him "a liar and a thief." We pointed out to him quietly the groundlessness of his accusation, but without avail. His efforts to rouse the Indians, to whom we heard him vociferating after we left, did not apparently succeed, as they were afterwards as cordial as before.

15. He subsequently stated to us, that the Indians as well as he, considered that we imputed fraud to Mr. Duncan, an imputation which, as will be observed, is not to be found in our address; but to give the Indians no grounds for supposing that we meant more than we said we addressed to them our letter of 3rd May (Appendix D), and to Mr. Tomlinson our note of the same date (Appendix E).

16. The Indians replied to our address in their letter of 4th May (Appendix F), which was accompanied by Mr. Tomlinson's note (Appendix G), and covered by Mr. Tomlinson's letter of the same date (Appendix H), justifying a statement in the letter from the Indians "that they had never been asked to join the Church of England." It had not been alleged by us that they had.

17. Hoping that Mr. Duncan would himself arrive by the first steamer, we deferred further communication with the Indians and Mr. Tomlinson. Mr. Duncan having arrived, and not being desirous of meeting us with the Indians, we replied to both

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