

but to me there was something unique in the supper, which preceded the distribution of gifts. The Indians, with whom the Church was well filled, came provided with a bountiful supply of refreshments, in the way of bread, cakes, pies, etc., besides quantities of black tea, a beverage of which they are very fond. It was wonderful to see how quickly the good things disappeared, and I can assure you the boys and girls of Coqualeetza Home performed their part not less vigorously than others.

The children sang some Christmas carols and other selections very nicely. The people take great delight in listening to their singing, which is really very good, some of the children possessing excellent voices.

Christmas morning dawned very wet and stormy, but the state of the elements did not prove sufficient to deter two of the teachers and the older children from attending a ten o'clock service at the church. As soon as this was concluded, long tables, occupying all the available space, were put up and covered with strips of white cotton in lieu of table-cloths. Large pans of beef were then brought in, cut up and laid—a row on each side—the full length of the tables. Besides the beef, pilot and soda biscuits were provided, and these were heaped up between the rows of beef until it seemed as if the tables were capable of holding no more. The guests all seated, the blessing was sung in their native language, and the work of demolition proceeded without interruption until the cravings of appetite were appeased, and then the food that remained immediately in front of each individual was gathered up and tied in a piece of the table-cloth ready to be taken home. Several yards of white cotton and about two boxes of biscuits fell to our share, besides a large piece of the uncooked beef that remained over.

On New Year's eve Mr. Tate gave a magic-lantern exhibition at the church, after which supper was served; and from 10.30 until midnight a very profitable watch-meeting was held. One cannot but notice with what warmth and earnestness these people enter into all these services—evinced such a knowledge of the “deep things of God” as is not always observed in more cultured congregations. Truly it is a blessed sight to see those people enjoying with quiet pleasure their Christian feast and the accompanying services, instead of participating in the orgies of the “potlatch” and “medicine dance” as of yore.