

But these semi-civilized, stupefied half-breeds are a veritable psychological study, with their old ideas, expressed in pigeon-English—yet the mission has done much with them, has taught them to be clean and tidy, and to maintain a certain standard of morality, as high as is possible, when four large families live crowded into one small building for economy of fuel and for warmth.

In winter when the thermometer ranges downward and the mercury goes out of sight, even with a big fire in the stove, it is impossible to keep the school-room warm. The ink all freezes if taken off the stove—so writing cannot be done—even if fingers could hold pens upon the icy paper.

At such times the classes are ranged round the stove, in the middle of the room, and warming drill and exercises are the order of the day, with singing.

The children are very fond indeed of their school, and would count it a punishment to be kept away, and only once in a while are absent through want of breakfast, and perhaps another meal or two. The want being occasioned partly by the improvidence of their parents, or through the temporary lack of "county food." Also through their own all-absorbing appetites—an Indian is always hungry and wanting to eat, and is not content to stop until everything is consumed. (One learns to respect these, their innermost and unfathomable feelings of hunger, when living in the north country oneself).

Through the summer the Chipweyan Indians come into the fort, and some of them camp round and stay and help at the whale fishery, &c., for the Company, and so these are taken into school for that short season, and the children of the fort have holidays. The Eskimo, too, who come and stay at the same time, are given instruction. This is of course more entirely of a religious nature, and probably almost every Chipweyan or Eskimo who has known the Missionary, even for a short period of time, can read the translation into his own language of portions of Scripture, or hymns, &c., and all have learned to sing. A great deal of this teaching though is naturally carried on in their own tents and encampments.

To be continued.

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