

ways he once so much loved. He says, too, he has resolved to join God's people at Metlahkatlah, and remain faithful till death, looking up to heaven as his home.

"All the other letters express to me the great joy that spread over the village when the steamer arrived, and the sore disappointment when they learnt I was not on board.

"They thank God for my safe arrival at Victoria in answer to their prayers, and pray constantly for my return amongst them.

"With their furs I have had a good deal of trouble, as the fur market has fallen lately; but I am happy to say that, by inaugurating a new mode of disposing of them, I have realised (and thus saved to the village nearly one thousand dollars above the offer made to the agent in the usual way. Their requisition for goods I am yet busy procuring."

Mr. Duncan's chief object in delaying at Victoria was to procure from the Government power to allot to individual Indians of the settlement a portion not exceeding ten acres of the native reserves round Metlahkatlah, with the right to clear, enclose, cultivate, and personally own such portion.

Not only did the Governor readily grant this request, but gave himself personally a donation of 500 dollars to be spent upon the constables and council of the village. Whilst the negotiations with the Government were pending Mr. Duncan occupied himself in taking lessons and practising on a band of brass instruments given him in England, and also in compiling new Indian services in Tsimshéan. Before he left he also purchased a steam boiler and pipes, &c., to carry out a new system of making the celebrated Oolachan oil so much used by the Indians, and the process of manufacturing which (mainly owing to their superstitions) is destructive to health and degrading to the females.*

Whilst still at Victoria, Mr. Duncan had the pleasure of hearing that suggestion which he had some time before made to the President of the United States was likely to be carried into effect. "Great changes," he writes, "have lately taken place in the Indian Agency of the United States. Fancy my joy on hearing at San Francisco of the two former Tongas and Wrangell, both being abandoned now, and that the President had determined to remit the Indian Agencies into the hands of the various Missionary Societies."

Since his return to Metlahkatlah no letters have been received in England direct from Mr. Duncan. From intelligence coming indirectly, it appears that he found that everything had gone on in his absence most satisfactorily. With the conduct of the Indian Council and constables he was especially gratified. Not only had they proved themselves

* With regard to the Indians at Victoria, Mr. Duncan writes: "Nothing at all at present being done for them. They have thoroughly relapsed into their old heathenism and customs—eating dogs, &c., on the beach right in front of Victoria—a proof how powerless civilisation is to elevate the poor savage without the Gospel."