

which piles between Fort McMurray, on the Athabasca River, crossing Lake Athabasca, and down the Slave River to Smith's Landing. After waiting here for two weeks I took the steamer *Wrigley*, a tiny little propellor which streams right down the Mackenzie River to the Arctic Ocean, leaving me off at Hay River, on the Great Slave Lake, which will probably be my home for some time.

"The country is not particularly beautiful, being rather low and marshy, but the river is winding, with a small island just in front of us. The large lake expansion is within a quarter of a mile from us, being second in size to Lake Superior. The sunsets are often most beautiful, also the aurora, so nature is kind to us even in this lone land.

"When I arrived my poor brother was almost wild with his responsibilities, etc., as in addition to building an addition himself to his house for the school, six children had been sent him from Fort Resolution, where the former school had been, two months before he expected them, and without any provisions, or even extra nets to provide them with fish, so that his supplies were almost exhausted, and they were living from hand to mouth. However, that is all over now, as our year's supplies came in with the boat that brought

me. Fish is the staple article of food for this part of the country. About forty-five or fifty good sized white fish are prepared daily for our own family, the fishermen and the dogs. Fish and potatoes form the chief part of every meal, bread and butter being a luxury, generally forms the second course. There is no large game near here, but we get rabbits occasionally, and am learning to snare them myself. To-morrow being Sunday, we are going to have partridge for dinner, so you see the country provides some luxuries too. My little family consists of nine children, Indians and Half-breeds, and I can assure you I am kept quite busy looking after the household affairs, and superintending the dressmaking, tailoring, knitting and mending. I have two grown-up native girls, so fortunately am not obliged to do any of the hard work. The building and furnishings of the house are all home made, the furniture being made from boxes, lumber being one of the scarce articles. A missionary in this country does, indeed, need to be a maid of all works, a jack of all trades. We are having many applications from Indians and Half-breeds to take their children into our school, but we will have to go carefully, as we are scarce of clothing or material of any kind."

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