

# NA-NA-KWA;

OR,

*Dawn on the Northwest Coast.*

No. 1.

KITAMAAT. B. C.

January, 1898.

Dear Friend:-

A Missionary's correspondence is necessarily large; the last two mails brought me such a budget, that now I have about fifty letters from friends, Epworth Leagues, Sunday-schools, in all parts of Canada, asking for information respecting our work here. It will give me great pleasure to reply to these letters at the earliest opportunity. It will however take time as only a long letter by way of answer, will satisfactorily meet any case.

The thought has occurred to me, that I might bring into play the little press I use in connection with the Kitamaat language, and send a small sheet bearing on the work here, if possible quarterly, to those interested. Please accept this copy as a message addressed to you personally. If you have a friend to whom you would like to send one, kindly drop me a line, I shall be happy to forward.

Sincerely yours,

Geo. H. Raley.

## DAWN AT KITAMAAT.

"HE DIRECTETH HIS LIGHT TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH."

A bright old man, Apsileahkus, related the following to me about three years ago:-

"In my father's days the Sukine Indians came across the country to trade with us for the oil of the oolichan fish. They told my father that the Great Spirit had sent 'Beni' with a strange and wonderful message to

this effect, that the 'Chief of the Above' is our father; He wishes us to be good, if we do good and live at peace he will reward us, if we do evil he will punish us."

This ray of the true light was but imperfectly reflected by the Stikine Indians, and did not shine brightly enough to produce the dawn of gospel day at Kitamaat.

About the year 1869 one of the Hudson Bay Company's ships came into the inlet to trade with the Indians for their furs. There was on board a Roman Catholic priest who remained at Kitamaat a few days teaching the people prayers, hymns, and chants, also preaching in Chinook, which was interpreted into the vernacular by a native. He led the people to understand that Christianity was admirably adapted to their needs while it permitted the indulgence of their heathen practices, they could by offering the prayers he taught them merit the protection and obtain forgiveness from the Great Father. He left with them gown and crucifix.

This gleam of light, as reflected by the Church of Rome, was so overshadowed by error, that it could not penetrate the darkness of heathenism at Kitamaat. The heathens preferring paganism pure and simple to such an admixture.

About 20 years ago a young Kitamaat chief Wahukgunalayu went to Victoria, and heard the "Story of the Cross" from the lips of Rev. Wm. Pollard. His heart was moved by the Holy Spirit as he listened, he became convinced of sin, and sought the mercy of God. Following the strong impulse to repeat the "good news" to his fellow-traders, he determined to make the return journey to Kitamaat without delay. Before he left Victoria, Mr. Geo. Robinson who took a kindly interest in the Indian Church presented him with a bible. THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD as it was reflected by Wahukgunalayu was the beginning of Dawn at Kitamaat.

SHORT FOR VENIAMINOFF. THE NEAREST APPROACH TO THE NAME CONTRACTED, AS PRO- NOUNCED BY THE COAST INDIANS.