

The congregations have been good, and still some have been kept away by the very cold weather and the want of a warm house to worship in. The class and prayer meetings still keep up their numbers and interest, but we have had to weep over the weakness of some who ran well for a season.

The Christmas time was celebrated very much as last year—the singing on Christmas eve was very good, led by Mrs. Morrison and her brother. The people were very desirous to have one Sabbath in the church, so temporary seats were arranged, and Christmas Sunday was spent in the church. We found it very cold, still the house was well filled, and the people were very much pleased. We also had our watch-meeting in the church, when about four hundred attended. Oh, may God bless His word to the salvation of the people who heard it! On the first Sabbath of the New Year, in the old Indian house, we received seven by the rite of Christian baptism in the presence of a very large congregation. Among the rest was a chieftess of great influence and some intelligence; she seems very humbly “seeking for Jesus.” These person had met for some time previous to be instructed on the subject, besides their attending class. May God keep these faithful until the day of His coming, and make them useful among their people!

We are very much troubled here on account of the land question not being settled, and there are persons, who should know better, constantly telling these poor people that they will be driven away from their homes by and by. I do hope this vexed question will be settled, for the people, many of them, are very desirous to build better houses. We have been much tried by many with a desire to settle up their old debts, &c., contracted while in their heathen state; of course the giving up the old way, as they call it, left the property very unequally divided; some are now very poor, while others are better off; but it is in such a state of confusion that it can never be settled.

We have constantly strangers coming in to see us from other places. Oh, that the Church could enter all the doors which are open among these poor people! The thousands just north of us, in Alaska, are perishing—they have been taught to distil liquor out of molasses, &c., and now they have all the fire water they can drink of their own making. Word has just reached us from a place twenty-five miles from here, that four men have been shot and others wounded. I suppose liquor is the chief cause. Some of these men were at the mission house here about three months ago, and I preached to them Jesus, and they told me how much they wished to have a missionary, as most men who go to them teach them only what is bad. I understood from Gen. Howard when he called here that they would try and send some missionary. I do hope our Church or some other in the State may send, at the urgent call of this poor people.

We have not had very much sickness among the people; but many of the old people have suffered—indeed it is very difficult to get this people into the way of properly caring for the aged; it is religion alone that will teach them to do this.

Perhaps there is no part of our work here that is more trying and yet more important than that connected with the young women of the place; they are exposed to peculiar temptations, and up to this time there has been no restraint to their course of sin. Now we feel they must be cared for, and in some cases the only way to save them is to take them to the mission house. We are doing all our room and means will allow. I wish we could do more.

God has given us many tokens of His favour, and though we have often to sow in tears, yet we have confidence in the truth: and that God will yet have here a people to serve Him. We have much reason to be thankful for the many blessings, and for the measure of grace we have had, that makes us feel happy in our work, although so far away from the rest of the brethren and friends in this