

In connection with the marriage of the missionaries it is also frequent to have recourse to the Lot. One of the missionaries will send a request to the Home Church that a wife may come out to him on the next trip of the *Harmony*. Thereupon the pastor of each congregation seeks out those of his flock who are suitable persons, of a marriageable age and willing to go. At a gathering of the ministers the names, perhaps as many as ten or twelve in number, are handed in. After prayer the lot is drawn, and the fortunate lady is sent out.

It would be difficult to imagine the feelings of both parties interested in the transaction when the ship is furling her sails in the harbour. Neither has ever seen or known the other, and yet in a few hours they are to be in the indissoluble relations of man and wife. Strange as it may seem, these marriages are extremely felicitous, though freedom of choice has been permitted to the missionaries only to this extent, that they can mention the names of any of their acquaintances whom they would wish to come, or request that certain others should not be chosen.

A short time ago one of the unmarried missionaries sent home for a wife without mentioning any names. After the *Harmony* had left, he thought of a person with whom a more intimate acquaintance would not in his opinion result in their mutual happiness. The fear that the ady might be sent troubled him all winter. He prayed earnestly that his apprehensions might not be realised, but when the *Harmony* arrived whom did he find on board but that very person. He candidly informed her of the whole affair, and she expressed her surprise and disappointment thereat, but was willing to return immediately. The other missionaries invited her to remain at the station till the ship should leave, and in this way the acquaintance of the two increased to intimacy, till the young man found that his former antipathy had yielded to an affectionate regard. They were married, and the writer can vouch that there can be no happier couple on the coast.

The Esquimaux count in German as they had nothing in their language to express numeration. Their names also have been given them by the missionaries and are usually Biblical. In order to distinguish those who have the same appellation the wife's name is used, *e. g.* Peter Mary, Peter Martha. Their dress during the winter and even for the greater part of the summer consists of seal skin, and possesses this advantage, that they can recline on the snow without being wet. The following incident illustrates a further purpose which this clothing serves: Last winter an Esquimaux went about 80 miles inland to hunt for deer, and, expecting to have an abundance of venison, took only