

that two little girls were sent to us last year—their father was trader at this post when we came here—and not liking to send his children to the Roman Catholic Mission, he asked if we would take two of his daughters (Olivia and Dora, aged about eleven and nine years), that they might have the advantages of school, etc. They could only speak Russian when they first joined us, now they can converse pretty freely in English, and are making fair progress with their lessons. We expect an addition of two or more children this summer, and as the scholars promise to be more numerous, we have the prospect of a busy time before us, and shall be very glad of a school room.

"I like the winters much better than the summers in this country. The heat and mosquitoes just now are most trying; the latter are so numerous, that I find it very hard to write. They rest on my face and hands, causing me to drop my pen and, what is worse, think! We have to keep a smoke constantly burning in our rooms, in order to exist with any degree of comfort, if you can call that comfort! Towards the close of next month they will drop off, and then, please God, we shall have an enjoyable time before the real cold weather sets in. We had a great deal of snow last year. There being a scarcity of provisions, and the salmon fishery a failure, the Indians were obliged to go off in search of moose; they were successful in capturing a good number, as the deep snow prevented the animals from getting away. Now the fishing season is at its height, and the people are very busy—men setting nets and wicker traps, women washing and cutting up the fish, and hanging them in the sun to dry; they seem to be catching a good many.

"It seems late to speak of Christmas now, but I know you will wish to hear how it passed with us—very quietly indeed; and because of the limited supply of provisions, little could be done in the way of giving a feast. Mr. Canham gave to the Indians a bag of flour, tea, sugar, and a piece of bacon; and we had the school children one evening, regaling them with tea, currant-bread, and a plum-pudding. The latter I had to make with the damaged flour, which would have tasted rather mouldy, only I flavoured it highly with nutmeg, and made it as sweet as I could. The entertainment closed with a magic lantern exhibition, which the juveniles enjoyed very much, with the exception of a few very young children, who screamed with fright, and had to be removed. We are hoping to hear of some new slides being sent to us. Mr. Canham thinks he could instruct the Indians by means of pictures more simply than any other way. I must not forget to add that the children got a present each from the bale of goods. We have received invoices of bales sent *last year*, and hope they will reach us this season, not in time, I fear, to allow of our examining the contents

before writing to you, but I shall try and remember to send you all particulars by the first opportunity. I gave the last warm petticoat away lately to a very old Indian wife, who is sadly neglected, and but for the clothing which she gets in the winter from our bale would be in a pitiable state. The Indians are not, as a rule, kind to their aged relations. A wife thinks nothing of leaving her husband when he becomes old and infirm, and a husband will treat his wife in the same manner. The wants of the old and sick are always looked after first by us; and the articles sent are so varied, that there is always something suitable for all ages and sexes.

"The only death that occurred here during the year was that of a little girl about seven or eight years of age. She was one of our best scholars, and attended school regularly. Her illness seemed to be rheumatic fever, and her heart became affected. I saw her every day, and gave her the usual medicines and what nourishment she could take, telling her mother how necessary it was to keep her warm. You can imagine my feelings when I went in one night to attend her as usual, to find the whole family gone, the foolish mother having taken the poor little invalid to the house of a 'Medicine Woman,' who lived at a little distance. It was a most severe night; windy, bitterly cold, and the snow so deep that no track was visible. Mr. Canham was busy teaching at the time, but I felt I must go and seek for the child, so I asked the trader's wife, who can speak a little English, to accompany me. With very great difficulty, and after repeated falls, we reached the place just after the medicine-making commenced. I opened the door and walked straight into the room. A strange scene presented itself. The room was very dimly lighted, and all around were seated men, women, and children; in the centre was a figure, covered over with a long cloth, and making most hideous noises. She stopped at once when she heard my voice, and I looked round for the sick child. She was in one corner of the room, propped up on a pillow, with her large eyes wide open and flushed. I told her mother how wrongly she had acted, and how she endangered her child's life taking her out such a night and for such a purpose (Mrs. Walker trying to interpret for me), and urged her to take the child home. We then left the house, and they finished their performance. The poor child was taken back the next morning very much worse, and died the next day. I felt very grieved and sad about the whole affair. These 'medicine men' and 'women' are a great obstacle to our work; they have an influence over these people, using it to their own advantage, and can lead them to do or believe anything. Of course they know when the Indians' eyes are open through Gospel teaching their craft will come to nothing, so