

## KITAMAAT DAY-SCHOOL.

I know that the readers of Nanakwa will regret not seeing another of Mrs. Raley's bright cheery letters in this autumn number. But owing to the illness of little Emsley, she cannot find time to write. You will have one of her sparkling newsy ones in the Christmas issue, (we always have the best things at X-mas time in the natural order of events).

In this number I am to write on the subject in which I am most interested, my little school-room just a few yards down the path from here. It is a low small, white, cottage-roofed building, with three windows facing the sea, and three to the mountain side which rises almost abruptly.

When I first entered Kitamaat school, my heart sank at the dingy cheerless appearance that met my expectant eyes. But the outcome of a brave resolve to make it better, and through the liberal contributions of many kind friends, it has been quite transformed into a very pleasant room. Thanks to assistance from Mr. Raley and Jasper the ceiling is now painted a pretty blue, the walls pink, the base a dark red; this with a new table for myself, and pictures to break the dreary monotony of the walls has made it an exceptionally bright cheerful school-room—at least I try to make it so throughout, for these children like all others are more easily ruled by kindness than will-power, though either is indispensable in facilitating their moral training and in developing a sense of right and duty.

The attendance at present is the largest had here, the roll numbering seventy, with an average daily attendance of about fifty, twenty of whom knew not a word of English upon entering in September. I thoroughly enjoy these little ones and find them exceedingly interesting and bright. I conduct this my kindergarten class, in the native

language substituting English equivalents, this is of mutual benefit as it never let opportunity pass of correcting my jumbled Kitamaat, repeating after me with a merry laugh to show how much better they know it than I. It is only those attempting to teach this language that can understand how difficult it is. In fact they have peculiar 'k' and 'h' sounds that I despair my tongue and throat ever utter properly, if it were not evident that Raley has done so, I would deem it impossible for English tongues, and be trying.

One thing of note being so strikingly uncommon, is, that the boys advance much more rapidly than the girls. Exactly with reference to their English for in it their advantages are not equal, the girls having the strong influence of the Home, where they are allowed to talk only in our language. They write neatly and in a far more rapid and distinct hand than the boys but work requiring reason and thought power the boys are noticeably more advanced.

Their especial talent is imitating. In drawing and writing is exemplified their power of close imitation. Some instances specially praise-worthy as yet they are under the disadvantage of having no desks except the rare cedar benches that they use as substitutes by sitting or kneeling on the floor beside them. But in the near future it is sincerely hoped that our Kitamaat school room may be better equipped for the more earnest work, I can assure you the effort put forth to do so is not sown on unfruitful ground.

N. Marklat

The first team of horses was imported to the Kitamaat valley early in 1870 by Mr. Anderson for logging purposes. It is needless to say they were curious in the sight of the people especially the children many of whom had never seen horses before.