

take our lives, ourselves, all that was ours to give, made acceptable and beautiful through the blood of His dear Son, and will pronounce "thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

INDIAN PECULIARITIES.

BY REV. JOHN MCLEAN, B.A.

AN Indian chief, desirous of utilizing the snow that had fallen, called at the mission-house for the loan of a sleigh. A promise being given that he should have it, he remained for a short time seeking counsel about certain matters that affected his camp. A few kind words and a cup of tea sent him on his way rejoicing.

A young man brought a beautiful blanket ornament that I might buy it, but though I desired much to secure it for my Indian museum, the price was so high that regretfully I had to tell him that he must seek a purchaser elsewhere. Some of these blanket ornaments are nicely worked with beads of various colors, and several years ago they sold for one and two horses each, and the Indians think it is strange that now they cannot get eight and ten dollars for them.

Strange indeed do the ways of the red men seem to the white men; but not more so than the civilized manners and customs of the pale-face to the dwellers in the camps.

MARRIAGE.

I was amused some time ago conversing with some of my Blood Indian friends about the customs of the savage white men. They asked how many horses I had given for my wife, and when I told them that I did not buy her, they desired me to tell them how the white men secured their wives. I explained to them all about the customs of courtship and marriage, and as I proceeded in the narration they would look at each other and laugh about the strange ways of the white people. They were told about the marriage ceremony, and how the mothers'-in-law give the brides many necessary articles for starting housekeeping. With a hearty laugh they shouted, "The mothers pay the men to get rid of their daughters."

NAMES.

A messenger called for medicine, and upon enquiring the name of the sick person, I could not recall the face of the patient. The messenger told me where he formerly lived, and gave some other particulars, when at once I said, "That is the young man named 'Hard Bread.'" "Yes" said he, "that is what we called him last year, but now he has another name, so he has lost his first one." This singular custom is common among the Indian tribes. Some of the

people have two names, a good one and an ugly one. An Indian does not tell his name when asked, unless he has adopted the customs of his white friends, and he may then give it, when requested to do so.

A man may have several names during his lifetime, and these are given by the people because of some physical characteristic, notable deed, or immoral act. If his name describes his goodness or bravery, modesty prevents him giving it, and if it points to his wickedness or meanness, shame keeps him from answering. Thus it is, when we ask an Indian his name, another replies for him, and if he is tardy in doing so, he will ask of his friends to give it.

BLUE BEADS.

Busily performing missionary duty, going here and there among the lodges, ministering to the wants of the sick, and praying with them, I entered a house and found the women and children preparing the leaves which they use in mixing with their tobacco. One man wanted me to lend him, for a few months, one of my stoves, as he said there were two or three at the mission house, and he wished to have one to keep himself warm. Sometimes I have met poor old men on a cold day, blind and decrepit, and they have begged so hard for assistance, that I have returned home with less clothing than when I set out on my journey. But in all these matters I have to use my own judgment well, else oftentimes I would be imposed upon.

An Indian named Blue Beads came one day to cut some firewood, and, as it is always best to arrange matters beforehand, it was proposed that he cut two loads for a specified sum. He said that the work was too great, and he preferred cutting one load and receiving half the pay. Having finished his contract, and received his wages, he wished me to give him some meat, which was about to be cooked; but knowing that he had a good supply at home, as he had just received his rations, he was conscientiously refused. Some old meat unfit for use had been thrown out for the chickens, and as Blue Beads was going away, he examined it thoroughly, placed it in his sack, and took it home to eat.

The holy influences of the Gospel of truth will lead to a nobler civilization, and physical benefits will accompany moral and spiritual blessings.

It is sometimes said that missionaries ought to adopt the customs and modes of life prevalent among the people to whom they go. In certain matters a very close conformity to the habits of the natives may be both proper and expedient, while in other points such conformity would be most unwise. A candidate for missionary service puts the case well when he says: "It is not necessary to live like the heathen to teach them to live like Christians."