

out. We get moose and deer meat from the Indians when they are successful in hunting. At times the animals are scarce and then we are glad to have a supply of dried fish and occasionally rabbits. Now that so many miners have come into the country there is a large demand for provisions of every kind and as they give very high prices for both fish and meat, we are often over-looked by our Indians and have to fall back on salt meat which we have to order from San Francisco. Only for having a small supply of this last year we would have fared badly. In the summer we had a good supply of dried meat but the Indians were in such need (some indeed nearly starving) that we were able to help them from our store, which left us very short. We had no fish either for ourselves or dogs and it looked, at times, as if we should suffer want; but, when at the last extremity, some one always turned up with a little meat or a few rabbits which we felt were sent by a kind Providence. If we could only teach the Indians to lay by a little store for future use there would not be so many cases of starvation but they never look beyond to-day and consequently suffer. The last two years we have spent at Rampart House on the Porcupine River and within the Arctic Circle. It is 200 miles from the Yukon and took us fourteen days to get there, eight Indians hauling our boat nearly the whole way. We camped at night, pitching our tent either on sandbars or in the pine woods. The mosquitos, at times, tried us very much. Until my health broke down, three years ago, I enjoyed the winters greatly. Altho' the cold was severe, very much so indeed at times. The thermometer has been as low as 78° below zero and everything became frozen altho' fires are kept up the greater part of the night. The mornings are the most trying time. It requires a good deal of moral courage to venture out of bed and it takes a little time to heat up the rooms and get breakfast, for the water is a solid block of ice and has, of course, to be thawed out before anything can be cooked. The Indians bear the cold wonderfully. You would be surprised to see how little the children wear, yet they rarely want to go to the fire and I never recollect hearing a child cry from the cold. Poor little things they have a hard life, often travelling miles on snowshoes, having sole charge of a sled and dogs and perhaps very little to eat. The women and girls do all the hard work, haul the meat, pitch and take down the camps, cut up and dry the fish and meat, tan the moose and deer skins and make all the winter clothing besides other duties. The men hunt, fish, and trap, very little else beside. On the Yukon the women are beginning to discard the native costume of fur and in summer dress like white women. We spent two years on the Upper Yukon at Fort Selkirk and put up a good Mission house and School house. There had not been any resident Missionary before we went there and the Indians were in a very dark ignorant state, exceedingly superstitious and entirely influenced by their medicine men. As