

NA-NA-KWA

OR

Dawn on the North-West Coast

9.

KITAMAAT, B. C.

Jan. 1900



The Kitamaat Home

OUR cut for this quarter is from a photograph of the new Home for Indian Children at Kitamaat. Many of our readers already know its origin, but for the sake of those who are not familiar with its history, let me briefly relate a few facts. In the year 1883, when I was first appointed to the Kitamaat mission, the needs of the children immediately aroused my sympathies. Their condition was deplorable. I found it requiring help of a very practical character, in order that they might be saved physically and morally. It seemed this help could not be given in a satisfactory manner without first gathering them into a home, and the General Society at that time was not in a position to give financial aid, a stone wall of difficulty appeared to rise. However, in cases in many similar circumstances, the old adage, "Where there's a will there's a way," proved good, and notwithstanding seemingly insurmountable barriers, with prayer and thoughtful consideration, the thing

was settled, and two weeks after the New Year we had the children under our care in a temporary shelter made of rough boards. The school-house was used for the boys and general dining room, the rough building as girls' dormitory, and the cooking was done in the mission house. Of course, in this I had the hearty co-operation of Mrs. Raley and Miss Shelvey, the teacher, without which I could have done nothing. The furnishings were most meagre and there was neither poetry nor romance about the work. It was all prose and heavy at that.

God strengthened his laborers, who took "JEHOVAH JIREH" as their motto.

In March the Rev. T. Crosby visited us, commended our work, and urged us to go on.

In the fall a new mission house was erected and as soon as at all habitable we moved in, taking the boys and smaller girls. In the meantime, Miss Shelvey had left Kitamaat and Mr. Anderson had been sent as teacher. He and his family occupied the old house and