

and like fire against all those who had been so wicked. For several weeks after my meeting with them, they did nothing but discuss my strong language, or "gushoua kladska." All the old people here call us their papa and mamma; so you see we have our hands full of children, some of whom are three times older than ourselves. May God give us grace to lead them and teach them concerning Christ and His Word, that they may gain the city of eternal bliss when they depart from this sinful world!

This brings me to my first Christmas and New Year's Day amongst the Hydahs, which I will now describe. Mrs. Harrison, during her singing-class time, taught the young people the following well-known Christmas hymns: "Hark! the herald angels," "O come, all ye faithful," "Christians, awake!" "While shepherds watched their flocks by night," and the anthem, "How beautiful upon the mountains!" On Christmas Eve, at twelve, thirty of the singers came and gave us the full benefit of our tuition. We pretended we had gone to bed, and so kept the front part of the house in darkness. When, however, they had finished, we opened the door, and invited them in, and gave them coffee, turnovers, and cake, which greatly surprised them. When the feast was over, I asked them to sing the hymn again, which they were delighted to do.

On Christmas Day I held service in the church, which we had tastefully decorated on the Monday preceding Christmas. Trees of evergreens were placed near the windows, and their branches were arranged so as to form arches above the windows. Then Mrs. Harrison cut out of calico the words, "Glory to God in the highest," and fixed the letters on turkey-red cotton. We placed this long text above the communion-table, so that it could be plainly seen by all who entered the church. Christmas-cards we also had, and large texts of Scripture arranged between the windows (surrounded by evergreens), which were suitable for the occasion. The soldiers, sailors, and firemen attended, dressed in their best uniforms, and also looking very clean. When the men had taken their seats, the women, dressed as neatly as possible, came and too.