

way down that a man from each of them, who could speak a little Eskimos volunteered to accompany me, without fee or reward, and invaluable did I find their services. Poor fellows! they will never see this; but I cannot refrain from paying them here my tribute of gratitude and thanks.

At Peel's river I met with a large number of Loucheux Indians, all of whom received me most kindly, and listened attentively to the glad tidings of salvation I brought unto them. As these are a part of the great family who reach to the Youcan and beyond, I need not dwell upon them here, as their habits will be included in a general description that I shall give of the whole by-and-by. I may, however, remark that from their longer association with the whites many of the darker traits that belong to their brethren on the Youcan apply, if at all, in a much milder form to the Indians there and at Lapiene's House.

I left my canoe and Indians, as well as those who accompanied me, at the fort, and taking two others who knew the way, walked over the Rocky mountains to Lapiene's House. This part of the journey fatigued me exceedingly—not so much from the distance (which was only from 75 to 100 miles) as from the badness of the walking, intense heat of the sun, and myriads of the most voracious mosquitos that I have met with in the country. The former, I think, would justly defy competition. There were several rivers to ford, which from the melting snows and recent rains were just at their height. Fortunately they were neither very deep nor wide, or my size and strength would have been serious impediments to my getting over them.

At Lapiene's House I was delighted to meet Mr. Jones, who was my companion on travel from Red river to Fort Simpson. He had come up in charge of the Youcan boat, and at once kindly granted me a passage down with him. I had fortunately a bundle of Canadian newspapers in my carpet-bag, some of them containing some speeches on educational subjects by his venerable grandfather, the bishop of Toronto. Five days of drifting and rowing down the rapid current of the Porcupine river brought us to its confluence with the Youcan, on the banks of which, about three miles above the junction, the fort is placed. My friend Mr. Lockhart was in charge, and all who know the kindness of his heart need not to be told of the cordial reception that I met with from him. Another hearty grasp was from the energetic naturalist Mr. R. Kennicott, who, under the auspices of the Smithsonian Institution, came into the district with me, and passed the greater part of his first winter at Fort Simpson. He delighted me with the assurance that he had met with a vast field, and that his efforts had been crowned with much success, especially in the collection of eggs, many rare and some hitherto unknown ones having been obtained by him; so that the cause of science, in that department, will be greatly benefited by his labors. Among many others I noticed the eggs and parent birds of the American widgeon, the black duck, canvas-back duck, spirit duck, (*Bucephala albeola*,) small black-head duck, (*Fulix affinis*,) the waxwing, (*Ampelis garrulus*,) the Kentucky warbler, the trumpeter swan, the duck-hawk, (*Falco anatum*,) and two species of juncos. With the exception of the waxwing, however, there were few that have not been obtained in other parts of the district by the persevering zeal of Mr. Ross, the gentleman in charge, and it, I have since learned, nested numerously in the vicinity of my out-station at Bear lake.

On my arrival at the Youcan there were about 500 Indians present, all of whom were astonished, but appeared glad, to see a missionary among them. They are naturally a fierce, turbulent, and cruel race, approximating more nearly to the Plain tribes than to the quiet Chipewyans of the McKenzie valley. They commence somewhere about the 65th degree of north latitude, and stretch westward from the McKenzie to Behring's straits. They were formerly very numerous, but wars among themselves and with the Esquimaux have sadly diminished them. They are, however, still a strong and powerful people. They are divided into many petty tribes, each having its own chief, as the Ta-tlit-Kutchin. (Peel's