

2-8-1923

Minthorn Letters

George Fox University Archives

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.georgefox.edu/alaskan_mission_papers

Recommended Citation

George Fox University Archives, "Minthorn Letters" (1923). *Alaskan Missions Papers*. 28.
https://digitalcommons.georgefox.edu/alaskan_mission_papers/28

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Alaskan Missions Collection at Digital Commons @ George Fox University. It has been accepted for inclusion in Alaskan Missions Papers by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ George Fox University. For more information, please contact arolfe@georgefox.edu.

Ketchikan, Alaska. Jan. 4, 1923

H

Dear Mr. Sheehan:

I am enclosing the article published in the Seattle Star. Over in Metlakatla the natives are being told that Mr. Lopp heard from Washington every day and knows how the case is going. The people have been coming daily to ask me if I have heard from Washington and some of them are wavering in their belief that Mr. Wellcome will win.

Marsden is very busy trying to unsettle them, and has obtained some influence over Andrew Usher, Geo. C. Williams and his son Frank, trying to get them to come to his church. We are doing our best to keep them steady.

The Hudsons are very loyal and very wise in all they say and do. There would not be much left if they were gone. If not too much trouble, kindly acknowledge the receipt of this article so that I can tell those who sent it. It will please them greatly. And add any item of interest that it is safe to repeat so as to checkmate the work of Marsden.

Very respectfully

and sincerely Yours

(Signed) Matilda W. Minthorn.

Send my mail to Ketchikan, please.

Document No. 2

Folder No. 264

23
1-2

1923

Washington, D. C. January 8, 1923.

H

Dear Mrs. Minthorn:

Your letter to Mr. Wellcome was duly forwarded to him, and no doubt you will hear from him soon.

Congressional
Record

The enclosed excerpt from the Congressional record of Dec. 29, 1922, pages 1089 to 1096 inclusive, will no doubt be of interest to you. Don't miss the joke on page 1095.

Asking
Mrs. Minthorn
to write
giving account
of events

If agreeable to you, won't you write about one letter a week, giving account of events. Also have other members of the

COUNCILMEN

Christian Church write weekly letters giving their version of events as they transpire, and thus we will be able to keep in touch with the situation from the native standpoint. Also have any one of the council members favorable to the continuation of the mission write his version of happenings in the council. If for instance, Fred Benson, John Hudson, Benj. Haldane, Harry Lang, Moses Hewson, Solomon Dundas, Thos. Hanbury, and a couple of others would write once a week, taking all the letters together we could tell pretty well what was going on, as what one might forget, the other would mention. Then in addition to this, if we had the version of the council meetings from one or two councilmen, this would help too.

I hope this finds you quite well, and trust that with the coming year, new blessings will come to the Metlakatians.

Document No. 3

Folder No. 264

23

1-12

H

Washington, D. C.

January 12, 1923.

Ketchikan Christian Mission,
c/o Matilda W. Minthorn,
Ketchikan, Alaska.

Greatly appreciate yours January fourth with
*Newspapers newspaper enclosure which contained about fifty slanderous
falsehoods. Proper steps will be taken regarding same and
meanwhile assure all concerned that everything points to
ultimate victory. Have not yet petitioned for hearing. ~~Be~~
~~assured~~ Be assured we shall work until complete
victory is obtained.

Sheehan

copied from a... copy of original.

THE McALISTER HOTEL

Miami — Florida

January 27, 1935.

H

My dear Mrs. Minthorn:

On my arrival at New York from England, I was greatly shocked on receiving the message awaiting me from you and Dr. Moran notifying the grave illness of Dr. Minthorn. At once I telegraphed you expressing my sympathy and offering any aid you might require, but alas, the next morning Dr. Moran's telegram came to me conveying the distressing news that Dr. Minthorn had passed away. Then, I again wired you further expressions of my deep sympathy.

A few days later I received from you and from Dr. Moran letters giving full particulars of Dr. Minthorn's illness and of the operation. I feel fully assured that everything was done for him that surgical science and his own valorous spirit and fortitude could accomplish. Furthermore, that your own unceasing, tender, loving care of him and the skilled professional nursing at the hospital as well as Dr. Moran's whole-hearted devotion to the case, of his friend he so dearly loved and honored, ensured that everything human effort could do to prolong Dr. Minthorn's life, was done. It was God's call! It is not for us to reason why the "call", but we shall find consolation in our firm faith that our Lord in his wondrous wisdom and tender mercy had a good purpose in calling him at that time to his Heavenly Rest, after his long years of true and faithful service in Christ's Vineyard and of great usefulness to his fellowmen. To us who knew him and his works, his name will ever be blessed.

Praises
Dr. Minthorn

Never in my whole life, have I known a finer and more upright and consistent Christian than Dr. Minthorn. During the several months I was closely associated with him at Metlakatla, when he was carrying out his duties under most trying and perplexing conditions, I then learned to love him to the fullness of my heart and to admire his fine, clean-cut character, his extraordinary sagacity, tactfulness and self-command. We, at that time, formed a close friendship and fellowship which to me has been most precious.

Dr. Minthorn having a high sense of right, equity and justice, entered with his whole soul and unflinching courage into the defense of Father Duncan, the venerable missionary when he was wickedly wronged and unjustly treated and defamed during the last few years of his noble life. Having long been associated with Father Duncan and his Metlakatla Mission as medical missionary, Dr. Minthorn had full and intimate knowledge of this wonderful work to which Father Duncan had devoted more than sixty years of his life, with immense sacrifice and in the face of great perils and hardships. Eminent statesmen and others of wide knowledge and experience visited Metlakatla and closely studied the operations of the Mission and had declared that Duncan's unique, practical methods of spiritual, educational and vocational teaching and training had achieved results unparalleled in the history of Missions. Here they found that thousands of ferocious savages had been raised from lowest degradation up to a high state of Christian civilization; transformed into a happy, trustworthy, industrious, self-respecting, self-supporting people, worthy of full citizenship. These once wild barbarians had become so skilled and efficient in various branches of lucrative craftsmanship as to render them of material value in the development of the natural resources of the State.

Dr. Minthorn was eye witness to various acts of despoiling the Mission. The life work of this consecrated servant of God, then in his extreme old age, by men who mocked him, treated his teachings with contempt, and cunningly poisoned the minds of the weaker characters in his community. By intrigues and insidious propaganda and false allegations, some of these weaker ones were turned against their noble benefactor. Dr. Minthorn naturally resented such outrages and strongly protested against them, though invariably with dignified restraint. With considerable personal inconvenience and sacrifice of material interest, Dr. Minthorn remained at Metlakatla during the time of these troubles to assist Father Duncan in his efforts to save the Mission from utter wreck and ruin, as well as to continue to care for the sick and

1/27/25

Mrs. Minthorn

Father Duncan's affection for Dr. Minthorn was wholehearted and unbounded. He regarded him as a true, unfaltering and unflinching brother in the Lord's service. The tie of brotherhood and mutual trust between them could not have been closer or stronger.

During my long stay at Metlakatla, it was my privilege to listen to daily discussions on Bible texts and various religious subjects of a most edifying character by these two godly men. Also discussions on the Mission's work, past and present and on the dark future outlook which the warren invasion and its attendant demoralizing influences had produced in the community. Both were profound students of the scriptures and each had unsurpassed knowledge and understanding of the temperament, inner minds, thoughts, habits and customs of American Indians, also life long experience in Indian Mission work. Both were deeply imbued with the true Christian spirit and lofty aims inspired by Christ's teachings and sacrifice for the salvation of mankind. The lives of both of these Apostles were in the highest sense exemplary and both were unreservedly dedicated to God's service. They held such a high and sublime conception of Christian duty as their guide and exhibited such abiding faith, earnestness, zeal and fearlessness in promoting the holy cause, and in standing against unrighteous menaces as to remind one of the great martyred reformers of the Christian Church in the Middle Ages! Peace be with them!

The influence of such men lives long after they have passed to their reward. It is to our sorrow that they are "called" from us, but to them it means blessed rest in Christ, our Redeemer.

I cannot forget, nor can any of Father Duncan's friends forget that in his last days and in his last hours at the age of 86 years, with heart saddened by harassing troubles, threatening ruin to his life work, you and Dr. Minthorn were constantly at his bedside and that with unremitting devotion you tenderly ministered to his comfort, smoothed his pillow, cooled his fevered brow and finally when he had "crossed the bar", that it was you who gently closed his eyes for his last sleep.

Severe illness ever since Dr. Minthorn's death has, I regret to say, prevented me from writing you until now. Again I offer my warm sympathy to you and through you to Dr. Minthorn's daughters, Dr. Gertrude Minthorn and Mrs. Strench, jointly in your great loss and sorrow, in which I feel that I may claim a share and right to mourn with you. Dr. Minthorn's passing means a grievous loss to the members of the Metlakatla Christian Church and Mission for whose welfare he unsparingly sacrificed himself and even in his advanced age, when in failing health, his first thought and care was still to minister to their spiritual and physical well-being.

As one of the closest friends of Father Duncan and of the Metlakatlians for many years and whose interests I have long and constantly been striving to protect to my utmost, I want to say how deeply gratified I am that God has put it into your heart to comply with the appeals for your return to Metlakatla, to as far as possible take up the work which Dr. Minthorn and you were doing jointly to assist the people spiritually and otherwise at the time of Dr. Minthorn's death. I know that both won the gratitude, confidence and affection of all worthy members of the community by your unselfish devotion in every way. Your own personal counsel and moral influence amongst the women and girls has been extremely beneficial and at a time when such influence was very greatly needed. I pray that God may abundantly bless your efforts in His cause and may He give you comfort in this time of sorrow.

Believe me to be,

Always yours most sincerely,

(Signed) HENRY S. WELLS

Document No. 5
Folder No. 264

23
1-27

copied from carbon copy of original document.

HORACE HALLISTER
INC.
MIAMI — FLORIDA

January 27, 1923.

H

Mrs. Rachilde Minthorn,
Metlakatla,
Alaska.

My dear Mrs. Minthorn:

Ever since the sad news of Mr. Minthorn's death reached me, I have often attempted to write you, but my lack of strength and inability to command words as the result of illness, have compelled this delay. The following lines will explain the situation.

Mr. Wallaces
11/2/22
Immediately upon my arrival at New York, I caught a chill which resulted in a very severe influenza cold with complications and before I could recover, I caught another chill which completely prostrated me. Then after some weeks treatment by leading doctors in New York, with but little improvement, I was advised that a milder climate at Washington would be better for me. Unfortunately this advice was not justified, for, after some weeks stay in Washington, I was still unable to attend to my affairs or to write or dictate correspondence or to do anything, except to deal with very urgent emergency matters by cablegrams and telegrams, and I have been unable throughout this time to attend to my own regular business duties.

In December my medical attendants in Washington ordered me to come to Miami, Florida, where I have been making slow, but steady progress towards recovery. Now, I am greatly improved, though still weak and unable to make any long, sustained effort. The enclosed is my first real letter and it has required considerable effort, but I felt that I must seize the first moment I could to write this for my heart has been very full of deep feeling and I have poured it out to you without reserve.

Check
I was too ill to attend to any Christmas or New Year Greetings or arrangements. When you have an opportunity, kindly explain this to my Metlakatla and Ketchikan friends, to whom I usually send greetings. Herewith is enclosed a check for music for the choir of the Metlakatla Christian Church and for such cases of sick and needy and any other uses according, at your absolute discretion you think desirable in connection with the Mission and church and people.

I will try and write you very soon regarding recent events and matters dealt with in cablegrams.

With my warmest regards to you and to Mr. and Mrs. Strengh, Mr. and Mrs. Strong and others of our friends at Ketchikan and Metlakatla, I remain,

Always, yours very sincerely,

(Signed) HENRY S. WALLACE

Metlakatla, Alaska. Feb. 8th, 1923.

Mr. H. S. Wellcome,
Arlington Hotel,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Wellcome:-

There are two or three things that I feel impressed to tell thee of just as I see them.

While coming over from Ketchikan about two weeks ago, Mr. Witten, the Agent, who was in the pilot house as well as Marsden, asked of Marsden where was the best timber on the island and pointing to the point near Chinatown, asked if it were there. The reply was to the effect that it was not there but farther along the shore. As we neared the small cove before coming to the half way point, Marsden called Witten's attention to the spot and remarked that there was the best timber for logging for lumber or piles.

Mr. Witten then remarked that he had spoken to Sawyer & McKay and told them not to say anything to the Gov't officials about getting logs from the Island. To this Marsden replied that he had also warned them not to get into the red tape business or there would not be any use trying to get anything done. That same evening when Andrew Usher was in, I asked him who Sawyer & McKay were, and he told me that they were a firm in Ketchikan that wanted to log off all the timber on the island and that Marsden had said they could have it.

I asked if he had a right to let it go and he said that if the native Councilmen voted it they could let it go to them. I asked why the mining claim business was stopped and he said that the Sec. of the Interior had to sign any claim for mining leases but not for timber.

Then I remembered that Marsden had said to Witten that if the Gov't. had not interfered with him about the mining claims he would have had a good income and money in the treasury of the Council by this time.

Last week the large gas boats of the Sawyer & McKay logging outfit were in the cove when I returned from Ketchikan and are frequently seen out here in the bay and at the dock this week.

In December it was reported that L---- sent a telegram to the Council saying that as Wellcome was likely to win the case they had better take some measures to fix things so that he could not start any industries here. It was further reported that Marsden accordingly appointed two men, E----- and V----- and Herbert M----- on a committee.

Frank Williams, one of our elders, and also the president of the

Mrs. Minthorn to Mr. Wellcome,
2-8-23.

Strong

Andrew Usher had just been to a meeting of the stock holders of the Commercial Co. and reported the deficit to be \$2000 this year and only a few hundred last year. That L---- had been there long enough to hear the Auditor's report and when asked by the natives what to do about it had said to them, that he did not know. It was up to the stockholders to find a remedy.

There was a meeting appointed for the next day to advise with L---- but he only opened the door long enough to say goodbye, as he was going away on a boat at that hour.

As to the expression "turn cash", in the copy of the telegram enclosed in thy last letter, it should read, "turn church", etc.

Mr. Wellcome's
Telegram

I kept the telegram from thee to the elders, until John Hudson returned from the north and then called them to my home where I delivered it to their Secretary, Fred Benson. It was read and translated by him, discussed by them, and explained by me. They were much more concerned to know how word was sent to thee about their inviting the Bishop over here than to know what was wanted of them.

Toward the close of the session, three men, Joseph Hayward, Henry Reeve, and Harry Lang, advised dropping the matter and going by the telegram. But William Dalton and Edward Benson emphatically declared that it was not to be done. So they decided to go in a body to Ketchikan and wait upon Mr. Strong and show him what they wanted of the Bishop and after getting his consent, they would talk with the Bishop.

X
Baptism

Baptism
Confirmation

They expressed a desire that I should say nothing about the matter to either the Bishop or Mr. Strong. Next morning they went and returning two days after, gave out very joyfully the announcement that the visit of the Bishop would occur on the following Monday. They began visiting houses to secure candidates for baptism and confirmation, and explained to me, at least Edward Benson did privately, that I was to have no more communication with Mr. Strong.

The elders would hereafter attend to all communication with him. I said nothing and he asked me to promise to stay at home and not go to Ketchikan and talk to Mr. Strong. I replied that I was here in the interests of Mr. Wellcome and for their good, as well as for the Trustees, and whatever seemed right to me I would do.

Daniel Reece also informed me to the same intent, and said that it was all understood among them that this was not to be done in the name of any church organization, but just as a friendly visit.

Report

However, John Hudson and I went over on Friday and saw Mr. Strong first and told him of their report. There were many things misrepresented, but he told us that they talked so simply and honestly about their need of encouragement, and that it need not in any way affect the case, for it would not be done as a denominational affair, and he had agreed that it would not be classed as either an

Mrs. Minthorn to Mr. Wellcome,
2-8-23.

-page 3-

Document No. 5-4
Folder No. 264

especial charges. That those who went to B. C. at Easter time about three years ago were received into the church by the Archdeacon there and transferred to him, and that since then many others of these natives have been joining the church in Ketchikan and he thought it but right that he should look after them as his own members.

Church

He remarked that no doubt if he had seen Mr. Duncan before his death it would have been arranged to have this church transferred to him then. This may all have been said by him to thee at a former interview, but it was what I had suspected and therefore asked questions to bring out.

I think, judging from their words and works since a second visit made to him after we returned, they are fully determined to have all things in readiness to turn it all over to him as soon as the news of the decision in Washington is reached, no matter which way it goes.

The Bishop finally under the pressure of the evidences from us all to the effect that it would be a great disadvantage to the case, assured us that he did not need any one to plead with him to keep his agreement with thee, nor would he be moved by anything except his own judgment in the matter, and would withdraw the promise to come to Metlakantla solely on his own decision to help thee all he could.

Report of
Elders

When we told him of the report of the elders to the effect that he had said that Mr. Wellcome would not win the case and it was lost now, he looked incredulous, and later said that he would have to ask those men and hear it from them in order to believe it.

I felt a strong impression to state my own convictions as to the merits of the case and was moved to the point of tears at mention of the good Dr's. wishes and arduous efforts to help to clear the good name of William Duncan, but rallied and went on with the business of the hour.

Meeting
of
Elders

The Bishop sent two letters to Metlakantla by John Hudson, one to the elders and one to Fred Benson. We arrived at about five in the evening Saturday. There was a meeting of the elders in the vestry and I was sent for to appear before them. No word of English was spoken except to interpret questions that some wished to ask of me, such as Why I went to Ketchikan, and what I said to the Bishop and to Mr. Strong.

Blame on
Mrs. Minthorn

I replied briefly and cautiously. The secretary read a portion of the letter to the elders, and in it he gave as his reason for not making the promised visit, that Mrs. Minthorn was greatly disturbed by the arrangement to come now. That seemed to throw the whole blame on me.

Church

Secretary

Moses Hewson read the church constitution which he wrote a year ago and after a long discussion they finally read the verdict of the chairman. Joseph Hayward: For hindering the work of bringing the

Mrs. Minthorn to Mr. Wellcome,
2-8-23.

-page 4-

Document No. 5-²/₈
Folder No. 264

When summoned before them before them I was holding the Teachers' Saturday night meeting at my home, and I requested Mary Hudson and Mrs. Josiah Guthrie to go with me. On our arrival Moses conducted me to a front seat and bade them to remain by the door. It was evidently to keep her from interpreting anything to me.

Alleged
course
about
elders by
Mrs. Hudson

When I asked them afterwards the cause for such violent speeches, they told me it was said by William Dalton that I had cursed the elders to Daniel Reece in my home. That was a thunder bolt out of a clear sky. I recalled later on, of speaking to him about people going about the town speaking false things, and they ought to remember that "All liars shall have their part in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone." I said after that that some of the elders should be more careful of their words.

How they even twisted it into the report that was carried to the meeting, I do not know, but Mary Hudson was in the room when I was speaking to Daniel Reece and interpreted it to him.

Sabbath
Observance

I went to morning service (Sunday); to Sunday school and taught my class in the afternoon, but in the evening was too weary to venture out again. I hear that there was another meeting in the vestry Sunday evening and they were saying that they had gone too far the evening before and must be quiet and more cautious.

Sermons

I attended the Wednesday night service last night, (Feb. 7th). A boat load had arrived from Ketchikan and John Hayward preached and Robert Ridley led the testimony meeting. John took as his text the parable of the tares and the wheat and read with emphasis the statement as to how the tares came to be among the good grain, "An enemy hath done this".

Church Army

He then proceeded to liken me to the enemy. This service is taken up by that organization called Church Army, which they went to B. C. last year in November to have organized. They conduct it as a Salvation Army is conducted. Before we arrived last year, they were very noisy, but after our coming toned down a great deal.

Last night Robert Ridley tried to stir up a noise and Silas Booth used his hands for a tamborine, but when I looked around to see where the noise came from, it subsided somewhat and soon after they were dismissed.

The ringleaders are Edward Benson, William Dalton, and Moses Hewson. John Hayward and Silas Booth are simply tools and have to be guarded by the others lest they overdo the matter. Josiah Guthrie and John Hudson with a few others are as true as steel, which is a great thing for the cause. They are real men. Fred Benson is also a tool for the others, particularly his father, and has tried to appear to be only working as the secretary of the elders.

Catholics

Moses appeared to be willing to be friends with the Hudsons but it

Mrs. Minthorn to Mr. Wellcome,
2-3-24

-page 5- Document No. 5-²
Folder No. 264

Not having employment is a grave menace to the peace of these people in the winter time. No remedy appears to be at hand now, and we can only pray and work with what is at hand. Possibly, if I had another installment of yarn soon to give out it would help smooth down their feelings. I have bought about \$500 worth this past year and much of it is still invested in the baskets. I am unable to get any more at present.

Boarding
School

Mr. Lopp told Andrew Usher that he was going to build a Boarding school here for the students of Alaska, but that the people must agree and work together in one church and with the Gov't before they could have any part in it. So Andrew has decided that he will favor the Gov't agent so as to get a place.

Heathen
Customs

Testimony

Nothing but the real working power of God's Holy Spirit can ever save and keep these poor souls from degenerating into their old heathen ways again. Last night, Feby. 7th, Robert Ridley got the old native yell into some of the noise of his singing. It acts like magic upon their natures. I think more and more of what a man William Duncan was to have done the work of ten men for such a long life time and of the Herculean labors that confronted him and rested upon him at the beginning. He was truly one in a thousand.

I may have omitted some things that would have been very helpful to know, and may also have put in much that is unnecessary, but I had it in mind to show you the situation to some extent. Please be free to instruct or advise me if there is anything undone or overdone.

Without the good Dr's. wise counsel and guidance in affairs with the natives I feel at a great loss how to do, but have done as well as my limited experience would permit. I know that I must not expect as much of them as of the other race, but they talk as if they knew what was right and one rather expects them to live up to their knowledge.

May the dear Lord grant thee renewed strength and vigor and give thee the reward of His gracious presence during these strenuous days, with victory here and a crown of life hereafter.

Very sincerely and prayerfully,

thy friend,

Matilda Atkinson Minthorn

See next page.

(Signed) Mrs. H. J. Minthorn.

Mrs. Minthorn to Mr. Wellcome,
3-8-24.

-page 6-

Document No. 5-²/₇
Folder No. 264

Later, Friday, Feb. 9th.

Mrs. Hudson returned tonight from Ketchikan where she had interviews with some of the natives over there, among them Adolphus Calvert. At the first he told her that they and I must stop troubling the people and let them do their work, but when she had talked a while and told the situation clearly to him, he said she must go back and set them right and show them how wrong they are and tell them to do what is right.

Chargeable with
of Nations
This is a fair sample of the changeableness of their natures. I am quite confident that in a few months none of them will be in the same mind that they now are. They care much more for some personal advantage than for any principle that may be involved. This makes it difficult for them to understand my motives in what I have done to help thee and the case generally. They think that I am like themselves, simply working from some selfish motive.

Propaganda
Spread by
Benson
Until New Year's Day there was not an apparently happier or more contented community to be found. The Gov't was not bothering them and they enjoyed their church services and prayer meetings and were in very good spirits. Even as one watches a cloud arise and spread over the sky, growing darker hour by hour, so was this propaganda spread by Edward Benson with William Dalton to assist. The idea of taking Deacon's orders was very pleasing to Fred.

He was willing to help in order to get the preferment. I speak of what I saw develop under my own observation. The lack of providing any one to take a certain morning service was planned to make it appear that they had no one to help them. They were trying to make out a case of dire need of the Bishop's services to hold them together. Since that particular Sunday they have been very careful to have no one take any part except those who favor their move.

Mellakala
Case
Besides reporting that the case was already lost in Washington, after returning from their visit to Ketchikan, Moses asked those present on the Saturday night of the trial of myself and the Hudsons, which they would choose to have, a visit from the Bishop or for Mr. Wellcome to win the case, and they expressed themselves as desiring the visit. I do not think that I can tell thee anything informing as to their characters, for they are better known to thee, perhaps than to me. So I have been trying to show you some of their actions only.

Already today I have had calls from some of them and they come in smiling, the women to talk and bring baskets, and the men to see how I will receive them. Inasmuch as they did not let me know what they were saying about me last Saturday night, I mean to leave it to them to mention it first. If they choose to ignore it, I shall not force it on their notice.

Mrs. Minthorn
I have not changed my manner toward them at any time. But it is

Mrs. Minthorn to Mr. Wellcome,
2-8-24.

-page 7-

Document No. 5-2
Folder No. 264

Do not be discouraged about us here for we shall weather this storm and be ready for the next one. I can see signs of quietness and a dread of what thee and the Trustees may do coming over them.

Results of being out from under the teaching and guidance of Father Duncan, and the wonder of it is that they had not gone to the wall four years ago instead of holding out so long. Most of them will come back to the friendly relations to me that we have always had. Some may not because of jealousy.

(See page 8)

Mrs. Minthorn to Mr. Wellcome,
2-8-24.

-page 8-

Document No. 5-2
Folder No. 264

Monday, Feb. 12th.

We are still enjoying quiet and good order and there is no visible split or disruption in the church. The services were well attended yesterday, with Daniel Reece preaching in the morning and John Hayward in the evening. Moses Hewson is seldom there except when he has some particular affair on hand to see through. There were 18 in my Sunday school class in the afternoon and nearly ninety in the school.

On Saturday Mrs. Benson called on me. We have always been good friends and she usually opens her heart to me. She did at this time, telling me how she reproved her husband for holding that Saturday night meeting and for calling in "the widow with the sore heart" as she expressed it. It angered him and she told me, with a burst of tears, that he had not spoken to her since. She had to air her old grievances against the Hudsons adding with more tears, that neither of the Hudson girls would marry her son Fred.

I did not speak until she was through and then I sympathized with her heavy heart and prayed with her, feeling my way along carefully and never mentioning the name of any person in my words to her. Yesterday I got a response from every person to whom I spoke except William Dalton. Edward Benson kept far from me so that he would not have to refuse me. Even John Hayward took my offered hand after meeting, and I only smiled without saying anything. I think the dear Lord will answer my request to give me their hearts and let me lead them to His Word and in His way.

Mrs. Benson was quite excited when she told me what a bad man Moses Hewson is, for he had taken a paper and was going about among the people getting names to a petition for the Bishop to ordain him instead of Fred. She said, He is a bad schemer. I smiled inwardly, for it was a good check mate to their move. The Bishop had told Fred that if ten men would sign a paper wanting him to be ordained, he would do it. So Moses tried it too.

He feels that the Hudsons stand in the way of his getting complete control of the church, and has added my name evidently also to the black list. The only charge that they have against me that I feel that any of them believe in their hearts, is that I hindered the Bishop from coming at this time. Already some are leaving for the fishing grounds in Morey's Sound, some are beginning to catch halibut, and we will have some changes soon. It is not so much the people as it is these jealous leaders that are in trouble at any time.

To intrench themselves more firmly in the minds of the people, they are increasing the membership of the Church Army. They offered Walter Jais the office of Major-Sergeant, and won him. Last night a collection was taken at the meeting to help raise a fund for taking them to B. C. Mr. Benson is decided about taking Fred over there and finding him a wife among those people, but the mother and Fred are

Mrs. Minthorn to Mr. Wellcome,
2-8-24.

-page 9-

Document No. 5-2
Folder No. 214

Letter continued. Feb. 13th. Yesterday the Women's Prayer meeting met with me and among them were some of the Hayward's relatives. Joseph Hayward's sister and mother-in-law and sister-in-law were among them. They "repented" as they call it, and with many tears prayed for thee and for me and wanted to be forgiven of God. But it was all in the native language and Mrs. Hudson told me what they were saying.

Agnes Buxton was among them. She told Moses Saturday night in her own home that it was the devil that was working among the elders and he (Moses) said it was the work of the Hudsons. He was very much wrought up and so was Agnes, but she comes to all the services and he does not.

All but one or two have resumed their old attitude of friendliness toward me, these two being Edward Benson and William Dalton. Benjamin Haldane has been won to the church again by one of Mrs. Hudson's convincing talks. His choir work is improving and is a power in the church and community. The attendance Sunday both morning and evening was over sixty.

Thomas Hanbury came today to help his old mother, and called here. I am still living in his house. He had a stormy session with the Bensons, he tells me, because his boat was tied to the dolphin where they usually tie theirs, and in the talk there was quite a bit of reviewing the recent occurrences here, from what he reports to me.

Aside from this things are much as before. The women keep coming to bring their baskets and the neighbors are all unusually kind and polite. They help me about bringing water and any errands that they know that I want done.

Mr. Simonds has been here to see about the cannery and it is reported to me by Harry Lang, one of the Councilmen, that Edward Marsden is going below tomorrow on the Princess, some think he will go on to Washington, to arrange to have the cannery lease fixed to suit them.

Josiah Guthrie is failing fast. He tells me that the Beautiful City is almost in sight. I am furnishing everything that I can get in this place for his needs, but his wants are few. He will be sorely missed.

Since Sunday, the 11th, there has been a strong north east wind that has damaged some boats and wrecked some, a total of five in all. Hudson's boat was saved when within a few feet of the rocks. The piling broke off and pulled out and the anchor dragged. Tonight it is snowing like a blizzard but is not so intensely cold as it was.

I intended going over on the mail boat Tuesday to Ketchikan. but it

Mrs. Minthorn to Mr. Wellcome,
2-8-24.

-page 10-

Document No. 5-²/₈

Folder No. 264

Several houses caught fire in the two days of strong wind, but they are all cautiously watching them and no losses have occurred as yet.

John Hayward has gone to Ketchikan to work and Daniel Reece goes soon, so we will have some rest from them.

Two of the Gov't teachers called on me this evening after school. We had not before exchanged calls this year. They are different from the teachers of former years, being a more efficient and a better behaved lot of young people. The school is doing good work. I notice much improvement in the pupils of every grade.

Sincerely

(Signed)

M.W.M.

P.S.

T. Hanbury says that Benson's talk is that I have no business to be here using up the money belonging to the estate. It ought to go to Fred. "The root of all evil" appears to be troubling them over much.

(Copied from the original, typed letter, signed by Mrs. Minthorn--CRS)

H

Metlakatla, Alaska. Feb. 15th, 1923.

E. L. Sheehan,

Dear friend:-

Thank thee for the letter with its inclosed pages of
the Congressional Records, which I enjoyed.

I have been writing a lengthy epistle to Mr Wellcome and have nothing of importance left to tell any one else until something occurs. We are all thinking that it would be worth while for some of you to mail a copy of some Washington paper to some of the correspondents here, a marked copy when there is something interesting to read. Especially do they desire it after the case is called and some of it gets in the papers. Use your discretion as to what they would be benefitted in knowing about that.

Just now it would be a good thing to mail to Harry Lang any thing that is said about the new Sec. of the Interior. These men are quite intelligent and keen to know what Washington is doing and especially that part of it that pertains to their welfare. Some of them, like John Hudson and Thomas Hanbury, like the general news and are great readers. All want to know who is to succeed Sec. Fall. Harry Lang is one of the Councilmen in the native Council here, and he tells me today that E. Marsden is leaving tomorrow for the south, expecting to go on to Washington to have the cannery lease fixed to suit them.

Sincerely,

M. W. Minthorn
(Sgd.) Mrs. H. J. Minthorn

(Copied from typed original document.--McD.)

(Loughran)

(PAR)

Ketchikan, Alaska, Feb. 19th, 1923.

My dear Mr. Williams:

Many letters have come to me since Oct. 11th, the day the dear good Dr. was released from his sufferings and called home, but none of them have brought such a precious message as thine.

Let me thank thee for it with all my heart. Not many persons knew him or understood him as thee did. And when I came to know his life work in the long hours when he talked unrestrainedly from his heart to me in these few short years that we journeyed together, and when I realized what a wonderful work he had done wherever he lived, I used to wish that others could know him and appreciate him too. So it is a very precious knowledge to me to know how well he was loved and appreciated by thyself and Mr. Hudson. He had so much respect and veneration for that good man, and he had a very strong attachment for thyself. I know that he held thee in very high esteem as well as in a very close place in his heart.

Thy letter was written Jan. 27th, but it only came to my hand on the 18th of Feb. The delay in part was due to the fact that it was in Ketchikan several days as Mrs. Strenck would not entrust it to the mails nor to any person except John Hudson and he made his first trip in several weeks, last Saturday, the 17th. I let him and Mrs. Hudson read a part of thy letter and they were greatly affected by it and blessed. The Dr. enjoyed Mr. Hudson and trusted him, and they are exceedingly kind to me.

I never knew a more humble Christian than the dear Dr. and I can not express my sense of loss, especially when it comes to the hour of our family prayers. One's faith and courage and reverence were enlarged as they listened when he poured out his soul to God. And how many times has he mentioned thy name at the throne of grace! May every petition for thee be granted abundantly.

I am very glad to have the check to use for the choir and the Sunday school. They are very worthy of it, for they are both a power for good with the young people. Then in Josiah Guthrie's home there is need of some of the comforts of life and especially for fire wood. Thank thee for entrusting it to me. By the grace of God I hope to use it to bring blessings to needy ones.

May the dear Lord increase His wisdom and peace and joy in thy heart.

Gratefully and sincerely,

thy friend,

Estilda Atkinson Minthorn.

I am sure that both Dr. Gertrude and Mrs. Strenck will deeply appreciate and enjoy thy letter, which I shall share with them at the earliest opportunity.

copied from original document; longhand.)

McKinstry, Alaska, Feb. 19th, 1926.

My dear Mr. Wellcome:

My letter of Jan. 27th was received by me yesterday. The delay was partly due to its being kept in Ketchikan awaiting an opportunity to send it over by John Hudson. There are so few to whom they felt it safe at present to trust it.

Witness of
Mr. Wellcome

We are very sorry to hear of thy protracted illness and the consequent weakness and inability to attend to the oftentimes urgent and important business that devolves upon thee, and we shall continue to pray that Our Father may send thee needed strength and help to thee.

My dear Mr.

Since being in India Dr. Gertrude Minthorn has suffered from a severe attack of diphtheria and although it was in July or late June she was still feeling the weakness and some troublesome after effects of it, and her last letter, written the latter part of December, asked for our special prayers for the restoration of her strength and endurance. Both Paul's words, "Ye also greatly helping together by prayer," and Tennyson's lines, "There are more things wrought by prayer than this world dreams of," come often to my mind of late, and I long to see others yet accomplished.

Thanks
Mr. Wellcome
for message
of sympathy

I have no words that will adequately express my grateful appreciation of thy words of sympathy and comfort, and especially the beautiful tribute to the dear good Dr's. character and life work. There is one class of people who have failed to see him as thou saw him, while another and larger class did; yet it was an especially comforting thing to know that he was known and loved for what he really was. If I had any even slight misgivings or doubts as to what changes might have come to him in the twenty-five years that had elapsed between the time when I last saw him and the day that I came to live with him, they were all dispelled in a little while after I came to know his fine and noble character. These past five years have been spent by me in learning very precious lessons of life and its greater meaning under a wonderful teacher. I have never met a person of such humble christian character who was so truly noble and strong. He was a strong character and exhibited every manly characteristic that people prize and esteem.

We all appreciate thy letter and feel that we have thee in the inner circle of our dear and intimate friends, and we send to thee the loving gratitude of our thankful, grateful hearts.

Very sincerely,
Matilda Atkinson Minthorn.

H

(From original document; longhand.)

Metlakatla, Feb. 21, 1923.

H

Dear Mr. Roman:

Thy letters are greatly enjoyed by me. As might be supposed, it is a very lonely place here in winter and I see few persons besides the natives.

Mr. Simonds was here last week trying to do something about the cannery, but as the lease has not yet been granted to him he can do nothing - except worry.

Harry Lang came in the morning following the Council meeting and informed me that the Council decided to send E. Marsden to Washington to settle about the cannery lease and voted so, but had no money with which to pay his expenses. Later he told me that Mr. Simonds would lend the money to the Council. It was reported that he would attend the General Assembly meeting while he was gone. Another report was handed in to the effect that his main object in going down was to defeat Mr. Wellcome. He means to lend his august presence and power to the opposition.

There is to be a wedding tomorrow in the Christian Church. Harry Lang's son, Willie Lang, and Charles Brendible's daughter, Cora Brendible, are the parties. In the absence of Marsden, the officiating falls to my lot. It will be my second experience on that line here, the other parties were Harold Hudson and Miriam Dundas, who were married five years ago.

I am sincerely, thy friend,

Matilda Atkinson Minthorn.

Canneries
Leases

Council
Meeting

Disput
the Cannery

Weddings

(Typed) (FAR)

Metlakatla, Alaska, February 26, 1923.

H

Dear Mr. Wellcome:

Doubtless there is wishing to know the status of affairs and the spirit now abroad in this place.

It is outwardly quiet. The services are held as usual, and the Sunday School yesterday numbered 65, although we are having the very heaviest rains of the season for the past forty-eight hours, a steady downpour. Only four women came to the prayer meeting this afternoon at my house, but twenty-three young people and smaller ones were out to the weekly class meeting for bible study. I am delighted with them, they are really seeking to learn.

The morning service was poorly attended, and when it was known that Moses Hewson was to preach some left the house. Others, mostly elders who knew it before, did not come.

There seems to be a (division and) opposition among those who favor turning things over to the bishop at once, to those who desire to keep on with the work of the Mission as it was left by Mr. Duncan. He always conducted a Teachers meeting for the Sunday School Teachers every Saturday night. After his death, Dr. Minthorn kept it up until we went away, then Mary Hudson had it at her home. After our return it was held in our home and I led it. Two of the Teachers still meet with me, Mrs. Hudson and Mrs. Cathrie, but the elders and the other teachers have begun a meeting at the same hour in the church vestry with Fred Benson for their leader.

We have decided that we should keep this one going, as they have many persons present who were not teachers and it could not be called a Teachers meeting.

The Wednesday evening prayer meeting, which was a part of the regular Mission work, they have changed into a Church Workers meeting and conduct it after the Salvation Army style, with much singing and keeping time with their hands, sometimes clapping them, and sometimes with their feet. I try to be present at each of these meetings and keep looking so sharply at the noisy ones that they subside or moderate their manner. The choir, under B. A. Haldane, is loyal to the Mission. That is worth a great deal. Having him faithful means more than having some other men stay with the work.

Andrew Usher still stays away from the church, and I hear that he is attending the Salvation Army meetings. But Mary Hudson says, and she knows them, that as soon as Mr. Wellcome wins the case Andrew and John Hayward will be the first to throw up their hats and shout over it. They do not count for loyalty anywhere.

Mrs. Ralph Smith says that Mr. Marsden did not go to Washington to look after the cannery lease so much as to hinder the case all he could. Her family all went over to the Presbyterians and she hears from them about it.

After the memorable meeting of the elders where they deposed John Hudson and myself, Philip Nelson went to Charles Brendible's home and told the whole affair. And he is one of the elders, but a sort of ignorant man.

Last Friday, the 22nd, Harry Lang's son, Willie Lang, was married to Charles Brendible daughter, Cora Brendible. It was held in the church with a feast at the Hall afterwards. Each father invited all of his friends and that brought all the Christian Church people with all the Presbyterians together.

In the absence of Mr. Marsden, I was called upon to officiate, with I did. Just how this will effect things is hard to determine. It may make no difference. Mrs. Brendible has been strongly determined that the Hudsons shall give their daughter, Lillian, to young Charles Brendible, but Lillian very strenuously objects and they are not at all in favor of it, but the Brendibles are making it hard for the Hudsons. It is not a case where an outsider can interfere, but I do any little things that will encourage them to be true. I keep thinking that when they could not take the church building, they want to get the congregation.

John Hudson with his boys and two other men, Philip Hewson and Wilfred Haldane have

-2-

gone out fishing for halibut. They will be gone about ten days at a time. They seem to like to work, and are ready to take every opportunity that offers itself to make a living.

Moses now says that he had nothing to do with that decision of ruling Mr. Hudson and me out, but that it was the elders and he is not willing to work with them as they are full of the evil spirit. Mrs. Benson tells me that Mr. Benson says that he had nothing to do with it as it was the work of the Outside Committee, which he hates.

The facts are that Benson was very keen to have it done and that all the elders had a voice in it, while Moses as chairman of the Outside Committee and Joseph Hayward the Chairman, finally declared the decision.

Fred Benson also declares that he had nothing to do with the matter, but as secretary of the elders and known by them to be insympathy with the whole transaction, did not use any means to speak or vote against it.

(In longhand)

The storm of three days duration, which prevented the mail boat from coming yesterday, is passed and we have sunshine today.

Very sincerely, thy friend,
Matilda Atkinson Minthorn.

Document No. 10

Folder No. 264

Metlakatla, Alaska. February, 26th, 1923

Dear Mr. Wellcome:-

Doubtless thee is wishing to know the status of affairs and the spirit now abroad in this place

It is outwardly quiet. The services are held as usual, and the Sunday school yesterday numbered 65, although we are having the very heaviest rains of the season for the past forty-eight hours, a steady downpour. Only four women came to the prayer meeting this afternoon at my house, but twenty-three young people and smaller ones were out to the weekly class meeting for bible study. I am delighted with them, they are really seeking to learn.

The morning service was poorly attended, and when it was known that Moses Hewson was to preach some left the house. Others, mostly elders who knew it before, did not come. There seems to be an opposition among those who favor turning things over to the bishop at once, to those who desire to keep on with the work of the Mission as it was left by Mr. Duncan. He always conducted a Teachers meeting for the Sunday School Teachers every Saturday night. After his death, Dr. Winthorn kept it up until we went away, then Mary Hudson had it at her home. After our return it was held in our home and I led it. Two of the Teachers still meet with me, Mrs. Hudson and Mrs. Guthrie, but the elders and the other teachers have begun a meeting at the same hour in the church vestry with Fred Benson for their leader. We have decided that we should keep this one going, as they have many persons present who were not teachers and it could not be called a Teachers meeting. The Wednesday evening prayer meeting, which was a part of the regular Mission work, they have changed into a Church Workers meeting

Document No. 10

II.

Folder No. 264

and conduct it after the Salvation Army style, with much singing and keeping time with their hands, sometimes clapping them, and sometimes with their feet. I try to be present at each of these meetings and keep looking so sharply at the noisy ones that they subside or moderate their manner. The choir, under B.A. Haldane, is loyal to the Mission. That is worth a great deal. Having him faithful means more than having some other men stay with the work. Andrew Usher still stays away from the church, and I hear that he is attending the Salvation Army meetings. But Mary Hudson says, and she knows them, that as soon as Mr. Wellcome wins the case Andrew and John Hayward will be the first to throw up their hats and shout over it. They do not count for loyalty anywhere. Mrs. Ralph Smith says that Mr. Marsden did not go to Washington to look after the cannery lease so much as to hinder the case all he could. Her family all went over to the Presbyterians and she hears from them about it. After the memorable meeting of the elders where they deposed John Hudson and myself, Philip Nelson went to Charles Brendible's home and told the whole affair. And he is one of the elders, but a sort of ignorant man. Last Friday, the 22nd, Harry Lang's son, Willie Lang, was married to Charles Brendible's daughter, Cora Brendible. It was held in the church with a feast at the Hall afterwards. Each father invited all of his friends and that brought all the Christian Church people with all the Presbyterians together. In the absence of Mr. Marsden, I was called upon to officiate, which I did. Just how this will affect things is hard to determine. It may make a difference.

III. strenuously objected. ²⁶⁴ ~~Elders~~ They are not all in favor of it, but the Brendibles are making it hard for the Hudsons. It is not a case where an outsider can interfere, but I do any little things that will encourage them to be true. I keep thinking that when they could not take the church building, they want to get the congregation.

John Hudson with his boys and two other men, Philip Hewson and Wilfred Haldane have gone out fishing for Halibut. They will be gone about ten days at a time. They seem to like to work, and are ready to take every opportunity that offers itself to make a living.

Moses now says that he had nothing to do with that decision of ruling Mr. Hudson and me out, but that it was the elders and he is not willing to work with them as they are full of the evil spirit. Mrs. Benson tells me that Mr. Benson says that he had nothing to do with it as it was the work of the Outside Committee, which he hates. The facts are that Benson was very keen to have it done and that all the elders had a voice in it, while Moses as chairman of the Outside Committee and Joseph Hayward the Chairman, finally declared the decision. Fred Benson also declares that he had nothing to do with the matter, but as secretary of the elders and known by them to be in sympathy with the whole transaction, did not use any means to speak or vote against it.

Wednesday, 28th.

The storm of three days duration, which prevented the mail boat from coming yesterday, is passed and we have sunshine today.

Very sincerely thy friend
Matilda Atkinson Minstern

Ketchikan, Alaska, March 13, 1923.

Mr. E. L. Sheehan,
305 American National Bank Building,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Metlakatla is outwardly very quiet, although there is plenty of material for gossip, both in government and native affairs.

Many of the natives are away fishing for halibut, either with boats or trolling. Next month it will be gardening, and making preparations to spend the next two months in camping and the rest of the summer in canneries. There seems to be a relief from the tension regarding the leasing of the cannery since the announcement came that the same parties, Smiley Cannery Co., have secured it. E. Marsden went to Seattle a few weeks ago to expedite business matters concerning the lease. He has not yet returned. The government agent, Mr. Witten, went to Seattle last Friday to meet the Mr. Boyle who spent a part of the winter here representing the Secretary of the Interior in investigating industries. From the rank propensities of both men, to partake of booze, some of us feel that they need a bit of investigating as well. What the plot is in Seattle, if any, will develop in due time, as such things usually do.

Metlakatla is now doing without nurse, or Doctor, or school superintendent, or magistrate, but is running along fairly well under the impetus given it by Mr. Duncan's training and teaching. Dr. Minthorn very often remarked on this. No credit is due to the Government today for the safety of the community. We see the results of Mr. Duncan's work in many ways for good.

Our mail left Ketchikan for Metlakatla this morning, at the same time that the steamer arrived from the south with mail, but we will have to wait one week for this mail arriving this morning. Such are the disadvantages in Alaska - a few of them.

We are remembering the busy workers in Washington as the case nears the crisis. May the Lord give wisdom and victory.

Most sincerely thy friend,
Matilda W. Minthorn.

(Copied from original document.)
(FAR)

Metlakatla, Alaska, March 23rd, 1923.

Dear Mr. Wellcome:

Quiet Pres-
byls. Many
away at work
in Ketchikan.

all elders
away except
M. Hewson,
who conducted
ed Church
Army meeting.

M. Hewson, lead-
er of Church
Army. He and
Bensons boast
only faithful
follower of
Mr. Duncan.

Danger going
back into
heathen
ways.

Brendible-
Long marriage
and purpose.
Lillian End-
son.
Marsden's
daughter af-
ter Benson's
son.

Alliances
aimed to
break up
Christian
Church.

Elders all
Church Army.
Visits to
Kincolith.

We are having a very quiet time at present. Many are away at work. It is said that the entire force working in the saw mill in Ketchikan are men and boys from here, with the exception of four Filipinos. Others are out fishing for halibut and trolling for King Salmon.

There has not been one elder of the church left here since last Tuesday except that M. Hewson came in Wednesday to conduct the evening meeting which they took out of the regular church services and made it the meeting of the Church Army or Workers. It is the place where they use the Salvation Army methods of singing and testimony and keep time with their hands and feet and do some hand clapping and some near dancing and would like to do more but feel restrained by the presence of those who discountenance it all.

M. Hewson is the leader and the one who first brought it in after his year in the Salvation Army here. He is very much given to boasting that he is the only loyal one that has kept the church from going down and who has always been faithful to Mr. Duncan's work. But he has to divide that boast with the Bensons, who declare that they are the ones and the only ones who ever helped Mr. Duncan and who he always trusted.

They are in danger, these who have taken things into their own hands, of getting entirely away from the real teachings of righteousness, and it seems that my first duty to them is to show them personally as I have opportunity in my home, the false ground on which they stand and the danger of going back so far that the old heathen ways will appeal to them more than the Bible.

Since Brendible's daughter contrived to get married to Lang's son, and it was a scheme that was easily traced by any one who knew them all, we see more of the same scheming among others. Brendibles have been very insistent that Hudsons shall let their daughter Lillian marry their adopted son, but it will not work.

Then Marsden's daughter went after the younger Benson boys and when Henry declared his intention to his mother, she talked him out of it, negotiated an alliance with another family, one of the Christian Church families, and as soon as the wedding was over, Benson's youngest son declared his intention of marrying the daughter of Marsden. The mother came to me to tell me her troubles and felt that she could win out by having it delayed. But the young man is very stubborn and may not be put off.

It is so plainly a scheme to break up the Christian Church organization or to make an alliance between them and the Presbyterians.

The elders of the Christian Church are all members of this Church Army or Church Workers, and are now planning on going to Nass River or Kincolith for Easter.

Two things attract them. One is the excitement of it and the other is the fact that at their first visit they were presented with a collection that gave to each man between five and ten dollars. Of course those people returned the visit and had to be presented with a like sum of money, but this comes in the spring time when they are short of funds, and the visit is repaid in the early winter when they do not feel the pinch of giving.

E. Benson's
trip.

Mr. Edward Benson has made his annual trip after Oolican fish and oil and will doubtless make the arrangements with those natives for a meeting a little later. He went this week.

Diversion
from think-
ing re case.

Sometimes I am glad for any diversion that keeps them from dwelling in their minds upon the fact that there is no news from Washington about the case.

Marsden writes
Murchison.

Herbert Murchison received a telegram from E. Marsden at the time that he left Washington and a letter since arriving in Seattle. He was reading the letter in the post office last Tuesday when I went for my mail.

Rumor Mr. Well-
come loses
out.

As I expected, numerous reports began to be circulated. One was that Mr. Wellcome's case had been thrown out by the Secretary and that Mr. Wellcome had fainted when he heard it and was now very ill.

Rumor Marsden
gets half of
will money.

The other was that Marsden had succeeded in getting half of the money of the will and was bringing it home with him. Walter Jais came to tell me this and to ask if it were true.

Josiah
Guthrie's
severe ill-
ness.

Josiah Guthrie became so ill that we had Dr. Ellis over from Ketchikan Wednesday morning. He reports it a case of chronic cirrhosis of the liver with the gall bladder solid with stones and the liver enlarged greatly which crowds his lungs and produces the shortness of breath which alarmed us. His tenure of life is very frail and evidently the time is short, but Mr. Guthrie has a keen desire to live to see the case won in Washington. We are doing all that can be done for his help and comfort and have been helping the family with wood and food.

Desire to live
to see case
won.

Will be great-
ly missed.

He is a great help by his fine spirit and loyal talk for the church and for Mr. Duncan's influence and teachings. We shall miss him in many ways.

John Hudson.

John Hudson and his crew are making good wages fishing for halibut.

Sunday School
and Bible
Class well
attended.

The Sunday School is large and well attended. So is my Monday night class of young people for Bible study. We still hold the Women's Prayer Meeting and Saturday Night Sunday School Teachers Meeting as Mr. Duncan used to do. With so many gone out the Sunday services are less in attendance.

Natives read-
ing trashy
stories.

Last week I learned from the Gov't school teachers, who are very nice and friendly as well as quiet and capable in their work, that they had to watch their older pupils constantly to keep them from reading cheap, trashy stories in school time.

Need for
character-
building
reading
material.

It occurred to me that I ought to secure some good wholesome character-building books and open a reading room for them in my home and I am now sending letters of inquiry to some places to secure some of the kind that will do them good. One of these letters is in answer to the National Geographic advertisers, Doubleday, Page & Co., who offer six books for eleven dollars. I shall require them to come here to read them so that they can be available for all the children.

Books sug-
gested.

The books mentioned are by Ernest Thompson Seton, whose writings even about the animals show the good qualities that people admire, and will be interesting to the children.

-3-

Close of
school.

The school closes the last week in April and while some of these children will be away for a time in the spring camps, there will be enough to keep all the books busy that I can get.

Yarn and
baskets.

There is another consignment of yarn coming here next week and the women are busy preparing the baskets and are making numerous friends.

Conversations.

I call at my home, so I get to hold more conversations with them.

Mission char-
ity work.

I distributed some food to those who are sick and confined to the house this month again. This keeps the Christian Church Mission fresh in their minds and makes them long for the time when it can be worked as it was in other days.

(The following is written by pen and ink.)

Mar. 26.

This goes out on tomorrow's mail. All is quiet at present. We held our regular Women's Prayer Meeting today and I heard thy name mentioned in some of the prayers. We are believing that God hears and answers prayer. May He bless thee and keep thee.

Mr. Wellcome's
name mention-
ed in prayers.

Very sincerely,

Matilda Atkinson Minthorn.

(COPY)

Metlakatla, Alaska. May 8th, 1925.

Dear Mr. Wellcome:

Some of the people of the Christian Church have spoken to me about writing to thee for them to tell thee that the other side, Presbyterians, are talking of asking the Secretary of the Interior to appoint Mr. Purvance again as Agent here when Mr. Witten's time expires. June 30th. No one has any use for the present agent and the people who were favored by him, Purvance, in his former term of service, naturally wish to have him again. And likewise those who suffered at his hands do not want him.

We are much disappointed in the manner in which the cannery affairs are working out. C. Brendible is appointed native foreman and is making the whole affair just as it has been the past five years, a time of favoring the other party and slighting the Christian church folks. The people talk among themselves, but it mostly comes to my hearing through some one soon after. Even if a man is hired by Purvance in the cannery, Brendible will come to P. in a day or so and say that the man is not fit for that work. He will be laid off and Brendible's choice will be hired in his place. I hear a report that the man at the head of the Pacific America Fisheries is a man who has no interest in any of the employees and says that in all the years that he has had the canneries of Alaska under him, he has never been in Alaska. It seems that his superintendents are left to manage the work so as to get the profits that he requires and the people are only an asset to bring it to pass. Mr. Simonds is working night and day and Sundays as though he were in danger of losing his chance of getting his seven traps around the island into working order by the last day of June. He is away part of the time and so is not noticing much what Brendible does. One of the ways of Brendible is to say to a Christian Church man when he comes for work that there is none, no place vacant, and the next day he employs one of the other side.

When John Hudson went to the cook house last Friday night to ask to see the captain of the boat, New York, he found the white men sitting around the table playing cards with the piles of money put up for the game on the table in plain sight. When they saw him they said that they had to do something for pastime as there was nothing in the town to interest or amuse them. These men have come from around San Francisco and do not appear to be very choice characters. A week ago Saturday night they wanted a dance and George Scott, son of Jacob Scott, went to the M. R. S. Hall and with a steel saw filed the padlock loose and had the crowd in there. The key was in the possession of Joseph Varney's son, and I have heard nothing about why he did not get it from him. This was told me by Edward Benson who said that the members of the M. R. Society were to have a meeting and talk to George.

H

Re
Reappointment
of Purvance

Canneries

Fisheries

Fish Traps

Gambling

Dancing

I have not heard anything from them since that meeting. The man who has been employed as cook in summer and watchman of the cannery in winter for the past few years, is an unbeliever. He is nice and friendly with the natives and they do not know any better than to believe what he says. David Leask has been associated with him as watchman for a year, and one of the school children said to me recently, "Ronald Leask makes fun of God". He is David's oldest son. Then the child said, "David Leask makes fun of God, too." This George Scott is spoken of as a rank infidel with no use for the Bible or God.

So the work of God under William Duncan appears to be disintegrating. Having a native for magistrate is like having none at all when it comes to enforcing the law against wrong doers. Any wrong doer has too many relatives to back him against a native magistrate to make it safe for that officer to try to administer justice. It is the same in the churches. If any one is doing wrong and is spoken to by the elders, they threaten to join the other church, and are let alone to live as they please. Consequently, the choir leader and organist of the Presbyterian church are both living in open sin, and still hold their positions and go about with bold faces. They are both employed by the Gov't school. This is virtually saying to the young people that they need not be good or clean or decent to get on in the church or Gov't. But it is not confined to the Presbyterians. For the head of the Outside Committee and a prominent elder in the Christian church can match either of these other men in every detail of their lives of profligacy, which is by all of them confined to the mothers and wives of other men in the community. I wish that I knew of the wisest and most effective course to take to get at the root of this evil. I am ready to do any thing that can be done to denounce or combat it. The young people of the Christian church are staying away from its services on account of the poor preaching that is given them on Sundays by some of these elders. Fred Benson is acceptable and could do them good, but these others do not permit him to speak very often. His own father is the most in the way. He preaches more frequently than Fred, and always about how they must be careful not to offend the Bishop, which he does not name, but calls "the great man."

Some times I have a fear that if the case does not soon reach a decision in Washington, there will be little or nothing left to save up here. Perhaps I am too close to the powers of evil to keep my faith strong as it might be. The Hudsons frequently come in after Sunday night service, and it takes some encouraging to help them keep up in the face of so much opposition from the members of the Christian church as well as the opposition.

Many of these elders are away. We notice that soon after that meeting in February they began to stay away from the service, and now all but one or two of them are away working. Some of them have seen that they have not done right. Both George C. and Frank Williams, his son, were very anxious to have the Bishop come over and were angry with the others at me. In March they went on their regular monthly trip to the west coast

of Prince of Wales Island after fish eggs. On the way they encountered such bad storms and their engine refused to work when they were in the most dangerous place, and when they finally reached land, the father said, "We must go straight home and not get away on the sea any more for the waters are angry at us." Frank's boat had been lost a few weeks previously. Neither of them have taken a boat out since and it has been about two months. Frank told me, himself, of their experience.

Prayer Meeting
Being Indians, these people work according to their nature, but the main trend of their course is away from the teachings of William Duncan. We had a good Women's prayer meeting yesterday with ten present. I tried to lay upon them the burden of keeping up the teachings of Mr. Duncan and to show them how much mothers were responsible for the lives of the children and that they must keep these teachings constantly before them lest they forget. The women seemed much more fervent in prayer than usual. And I feel that prayer is the mightiest weapon that can be used in this place. I have need to be most discreet and to walk carefully on account of the feeling of some of the Christian church elders, being on the watch for any excuse for sending me away. And the Presbyterians being the main body of the Council, they would not tolerate any thing that looked like an accusation of any of their members. But I am sure that God knows just how to bring it to pass, and I am watching and praying earnestly to work with Him in whatever He does to save this work and this people.

Canneries
I have a feeling, however, that the cannery management will bear watching and can be apprehended in some flagrant violations of their contract. Josiah Guthrie continues as usual.

Very sincerely thy friend.

(Sgd) Matilda Atkinson Minthorn.

(Copied from original typewritten letter.) (P.H.)
(Rec'd. - May 13, A.M.)

Ketchikan, Alaska, May 8th, 1925.

H

Dear Mr. Roman:

Thine of April 4th was received. It was very gratifying to hear again from time and from the case.

These natives feel aggrieved because Mr. Wellcome does not write each one of to some of them personally about every week. I mean such persons as Harry Lang and Andrew Usher and Moses Howson. It is their lack of comprehension of the man and the situation, but their nature is inclined to the extreme of jealousy.

Alfred Atkinson, the mayor, died this morning. They wish to keep him until Sunday.

The people of B.C. have been sent for, and they will no doubt demand the use of the old church and try to make his funeral a more pretentious affair than that of Mr. Duncan. They will take charge of the church for the day, I presume, and report it as their victory over the Christian Church. But I am presuming here, and will wait and write facts next week.

Mr. Meriden is away now holding meetings, on his trip to the General Assembly in Indianapolis. He will collect what funds he can and leave such impressions as suit his case.

The girls Marietta Marsden and Sadie Gowan, which were called the adopted daughters of Marsden, were the children of his wife's sister. The father of Marietta was Marsden's wife's first husband, and Marietta's mother was Mrs. Marsden's sister. Mrs. Liah Young of Ketchikan gave me the information. The one who died was Sadie Gowan. Her mother was Mrs. Marsden's sister. Marietta is his wife's niece. Among these people the sisters of the mother are called mother instead of aunt according to their tribal customs.

Mr. Strench's initials are W.G. They are as well as usual and often speak of you and your family and are interested in all your letters.

I have heard through the Hudsons that there is a dear little boy now in your family. I wish to send my congratulations to thee and my love to the mother. May the Lord bless the little ones.

The marriage of Willie Lang and Cora Brendible might have had more effect in cementing relations than it has, but there was a very unfortunate sequel to the affair. In ten days after the wedding an infant was born, belonging to a white man in Seattle. The girl had been there for a year the summer before. All winter she endeavored to get some one to marry her to cover up her shame. It came near being too late. The parents and young man were much hurt and dismayed, but have decided to go on as if all were right. The parents moved to Ketchikan soon after. Willie works on the pile driver and is away most of the time.

The news concerning Mr. Wellcome's health is very gratifying, I am sure. He is doing a great work. We are earnestly praying up here that the end of the case may be reached speedily in order to save the church and community.

(Infidelity and loose morals are invading the homes and the church and there is sad need of some authority to right things or the young people and most of the older ones will all be sunk in the pit.)

Every communication is like a ray of light, and we look for the weekly mail with great anticipation for news. We are looking "unto the hills," also, "from whence cometh our help." "Our help cometh from the Lord."

Please remember me to Mrs. Roman and Betty with kind wishes.

Very sincerely yours,

(Signed) Matilda Atkinson Minthorn.

Metlakatla, Alaska. May 31st, 1923.

H

Dear Mr. Roman:

Tonight Andrew Usher came to my house voluntarily to bring to me a certain paper which he had described to me last summer, but which he was then unable to find. Last Sunday while looking over his papers, he discovered it and decided to inquire of me if it were too late to send it in now. Accordingly, he brought it in for me to read over, and then he would send it on.

I thought best to have him write the explanation on the back of it, and he was willing to do that, but felt that it was not as good English as it ought to be, and requested me to address the envelope and to mail it, which I promised to do.

He says that this was read at a mass meeting held for the purpose of getting signatures to it in order to send Mr. Duncan away, and that no one knew what was in it until Marsden read it in the meeting. It evidently precipitated a storm of indignation for he says that Marsden had those signatures cut off that night from this and other copies of the same thing, and gathered them all up except this one. Mr. Usher was the chairman of that meeting, and John Davis, seeing this copy asked Mr. Usher to take it and preserve it for future reference. He thought it might be valuable, he said, on

Ushers
PaperPaper to
send Mr. Duncan
away

and that his work was accepted by the people.

The particular grievance in the mind of Larsden at that time was on account of Mr. Duncan's disapproval of the selection of councilmen and elders, which had always before been chosen with reference to their integrity and fitness for the positions that they held, but which were now chosen for political ends, and as he disapproved of some of them, he refused to swear them in.

Yesterday we were in the grip of a real winter's storm of wind and rain, which shook the houses and spoiled the fruit buds on some cherry, plum and apple trees. It was difficult walking to the church, but a few went.

Very sincerely they friend,

(Signed) Matilda W. Minthorn.

Selection
of
Councilmen
Elders

Document No. 15

(Typed on Mr. Edward Maraden's typewriter)
(FAR) (6/2/1923)

Folder No. 264

Metlakatla, Alaska.

January 15, 1915.

Handwritten: 7/11/1913

Mr. William Duncan,
Metlakatla, Alaska.

Dear Sir:

When the Church Missionary Society of London, England, dismissed you from its service at Metlakatla, B.C., in the fall of 1882, we voluntarily left the association and supervision of the same society, took you into our midst, started an independent mission, and made you our preacher of the gospel.

Under your leadership as a preacher and political adviser we several times collided with the British authorities, and made ourselves insubordinate to the laws of the Province of British Columbia, for which we received severe punishment many times. All through these painful experiences we remained true to you and your interests, whether or not you were right or wrong in the course you were pursuing.

It was upon our request together with your own hearty consent, for the sake of religious freedom, an advanced education and the peaceful pursuits of a Christian civilization, that we sent you to Washington, D.C., during the winter of 1886; and the occurrences that followed are matters of record and history.

When we were fully established here in Alaska through the kindness, protection and generosity of the American Government and people, we again repeated to you in public as we did in British Columbia our confidence in you, and through the presentation of the Bible to you in church by one of our elders, made you our preacher. Although we received financial help from the American churches, we held aloof from them; and we ourselves started a new denomination in America. Hence our act in making you our preacher has been and is your authority, and so you have acknowledged it time and time again.

The intermingling of industrial, political and religious duties in your hands have has always given us grave concern as a Christian people ever since we came into Alaska, and in spite of the brotherly advices that we have offered you now and then, you could not be persuaded as to your dangerous course. If you had been true to your sacred calling the events in our midst today would have only made you glad instead of cherishing an indignant and abhorrent feeling toward us, for these events are the fruits of an enlightened Christian life.

We had hoped all these years that you would realize, under the Providence of God, the advanced age that you have attained; and even today when you have passed the Biblical mark of human usefulness, you are still blind to that natural realization. And we believe today that this is the cause of your undoing the good religious work in our midst that you have started many years ago. If you continue in the way that you are trying to lead us, and in the religious and political errors that you have adopted and enunciated, we will soon be a people that delight in infidelity, anarchy and lawlessness.

In spite of your tyrannical acts as a religious leader in our midst we have been very patient with you. To continually acknowledge you now as our preacher, even though you have fully outgrown your earthly usefulness, only lengthens the blind oppression that you exercise over us and the hardships that we experience under you.

So, therefore, after a very careful and prayerful consideration of the whole matter, and this consideration has occupied a long period of time, we, as an independent religious community of Metlakatla, Alaska, on whose call and authority you have held the position of preacher here at Metlakatla, Alaska, during the past twenty-seven years, declare your retirement from the pulpit of the Metlakatla Church, and this retirement on your part takes place immediately.

Handwritten: ENCLOSURE

Document No. 15

Folder No. 264

We wish further to notify you that you will be wise and not attempt any forcible entrance or possession of the Metlakahla Church building now and at any other time hereafter. The Board of Elders whom the people elected last year and whose term of office is continued during this year has now taken full charge of the religious welfare of the community and of the Metlakahla Church building.

Very respectfully yours,

FOR THE PEOPLE OF METLAKAHLA,

Church Elders.

Metlakahla Town Council.

(The above copied as written. The last page is torn off at the bottom under "Metlakahla Town Council". The upper part of a penned signature is shown, but the bottom of the page has been torn off in such a way that this signature ~~is~~ cannot be made out. On the back of the page is the following penned note:)

Mr. Roman.

This is the paper, that I has been mentioned it to you, that Edward Marsden has been try to force the people to signed (signed).

Yours truly,

Andrew Usher.

ENCLOSURE TO

_____ To _____

DATE _____

Document No. 15-21

Folder No. 264

Metlakatla. Alaska. May 21st. 1923.

Mr. E. L. Sheehan,
4217, 4th St. N.W.
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Sheehan,

Thy letter dated the 8th, inst.
was brought to me this evening.

I am complying with the request to return it and also the one
of the date thee mentioned.

No copies were made of it and only two other persons ever saw
it except myself, and those were John Hudson and Mr. H. C. Strong.

We are endeavoring to keep as quiet and be as discreet as
we can in order that the opposition may not have any thing to
work upon in combating the case in Washington.

Perhaps I was remiss in acknowledging the receipt of the papers,
and for this remissness I beg thy pardon.

I offered some of them to the natives and they asked me if there
were any news relating to the case in them. When I replied that
I did not know, not having read them yet myself, they simply
said, read them for us and if there is any news tell it to us,

Harry Lang and John, both took quite a few copies home to look
over. At present almost all the people are either away or at work.
As for myself, I enjoyed getting in touch with the affairs of
the capital, and wish to thank thee for the privilege of reading
them.

The natives are quite excited over the prospect of a visit from
the President and some of his cabinet to Alaska. They are wonder-
ing if he will come to Metlakatla, and it is reported that both
Mr. Lopp and Mr. Hawkesworth will visit Metlakatla about that
time, coming before the visit of the President's party and re-
maining until after they have departed for some other point.

Very sincerely thy friend,

(Mrs.) Matilda W. Minthorn.

4217 - 4th St., N.W.
Washington, D. C.

Document No. 15-21
Folder No. 264

May 8, 1923.

Dear Mrs. Minthorn:

Some time ago I noticed in one of your letters that you were desirous of my sending you Washington newspapers on account of the fact you found things rather dull on the island because of the limited range of subjects which the natives were able to discuss intelligently with you. Since that time I have forwarded you several bundles of papers and although up to the present writing I have not received any acknowledgment of same, I assume that they have been duly received by you. All of these were sent to Ketchikan.

A few days ago I had occasion to discuss certain features of this case with the general counsel in charge of same and in the course of my conversation I informed him for the first time that I had written you my letter of March 23d. General counsel states that he has no objection to my carrying on a strictly personal correspondence or writing you asking for information upon points as they develop. However, he has made it very plain to me that any other correspondence in any way bearing on the case must first be submitted to him for approval, and has further stated that he feels the best interests of the case require that my letter of March 23d be returned to me, for his file. Naturally I wish to comply with his instructions and I know you will return this letter to me promptly in order that I may not be embarrassed with him for failure to comply with his wishes.

In the unlikely event that you have let anybody have copies of the letter, please also obtain them again, if possible, and return to me.

In returning to me my letter of March 23d, please also return this letter.

Yours very truly,

E. L. Sheehan

Enclosed is envelope for reply.

To Mrs Matilda Minthorn,
c/o H.C. Strong, Ketchikan, Ala.
Personal & confidential.

Washington, D. C.
March 23, 1923.

Dear Mrs. Minthorn:

Your very welcome letter of the 13th received today, and we have heard from Marsden down here. In fact we met him at a conference before Hon. Francis M. Goodwin, Assistant Secretary of the Interior, just one week ago today, and then and there we administered to him a most crushing and overwhelming defeat in his attempt to defend the so-called "co-operative store" at Metlakatla, which as you know is in fact controlled by the Brendible and Marsden families.

We scored a 100% win in advancing fourteen suggestions, and the government thanked us for our suggestions, and re-drafted the lease so as to incorporate them. We necessarily had to attack the Metlakatla Commercial Co. and this we did on the grounds enumerated:

- (1) It is privately owned.
- (2) It is privately controlled.
- (3) Although the government has in the past subsidized the store, it does not, and can not, control its administration or policies.
- (4) It is a detriment to the community.
- (5) The minority have no voice in it.
- (6) The organization is in fact a common law partnership and the minority stockholders will have to respond with their private resources in the event of liquidation.
- (7) It is hopelessly insolvent.
- (8) It is controlled by Brendible and Marsden.
- (9) It is only a matter of a short time until it will be forced out of business.
- (10) It has been doing an unauthorized banking business.
- (11) It sweated the women and children under the so-called labor contract to the tune of \$29,000 in three years.
- (12) It contributed to demoralization of the community by
 - (a) monopolistically controlling labor during 1918, 1919, and 1920.
 - (b) importing japs, chinks, and other undesirables.
 - (c) discriminating in distributing employment.
 - (d) having "orders to pay" drawn on it by the