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A STATEMENT OF FACTS

CONCERNING THE

DIFFICULTIES AT SITKA, ALASKA,

IN 1885,

BY

*From*

SHELDON JACKSON, D. D.,

*U. S. General Agent of Education in Alaska.*



WASHINGTON, D. C. :

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**A STATEMENT OF FACTS**  
concerning the  
**DIFFICULTIES AT SITKA, ALASKA, IN 1885.**

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In 1880 the Presbyterian Board of Home Missions established an Industrial school for native boys at Sitka, Alaska. In 1882 a girls' department was added. In 1884 it was made a contract school with United States Government, and the facilities for industrial training increased. It continued to grow in numbers and usefulness until March, 1885, when there were 61 girls and 42 boys in attendance. During the first years of the school it had the efficient support of Captains Glass, Lull, and Beardslee, Lieutenants Simonds, Bolles, and other officers of the Navy stationed in Alaska waters. In the fall of 1884 the first civil officers arrived and the law was extended over Alaska.

As the securing of the civil government was largely due to the friends of the school, (see Appendix; Report of Commissioner of Education for 1882-'83,) they had a right to expect the friendly co-operation of the new officials. Further, the native races compose fifteen-sixteenths of the population to be cared for, and have a claim upon the attention of the officers. Still further, Congress had voted an appropriation for the education of these people, and the most important services the officers could render the Government and the country was to throw their whole official influence in favor of the education of the native races up to American citizenship. Had they done this—had they followed the example of the naval commanders that had preceded them, and made the natives feel that the officers really desired the regular attendance of the children at school—all of the native schools would have continued to make progress and produce results satisfactory to the Government.

But, very strangely and unexpectedly, Governor Kinkead, (the few weeks he spent in Alaska of the year he was governor,) United States Judge Ward McAllister, Jr., United States Marshal Hillyer, and Deputy Marshal Sullivan directly or indirectly threw their influence against the schools, and the native parents soon learned that the officers did not care whether they sent their children to school or not. The most open opposition, however, came from United States District Attorney E. W. Haskett.

Mr. Haskett was an intemperate man and spent much of his time at the saloons. Incited by the misrepresentation and cursing of the missionaries which he daily heard, he evidently conceived the idea that it would be a popular thing to join the hue and cry against them. His first effort was to revive and fan the old race prejudice between the Russian Creoles and the natives, which he did until there was danger of bloodshed.

Secretly pushed forward by others, as it is believed, he sought to disturb the school in the occupancy of the land upon which are situated the school buildings and improvements.

Following the precedent made in the organization of the Territory of

Oregon, and afterwards that of Washington, Congress in the organic act providing a civil government for Alaska enacted as follows:

*And provided also,* That the land, not exceeding 640, acres at any station now occupied as missionary stations among the Indian tribes in said section, with the improvements thereon erected by or for such societies, shall be continued in the occupancy of the several religious societies to which said missionary stations respectively belong until action by Congress.

Mr. Haskett, working upon the race prejudice of the Russian Creoles, made them believe that the Government was giving to the Indians land that their children would some day need. This resulted in two or three so-called "citizens' meetings," mainly composed of Creoles, at which resolutions were adopted and sent to Washington protesting against the industrial school being allowed the use of the land reserved by Congress for it. At these meetings the United States District Attorney was the chief speaker, and in his incendiary harangues assured them that the school had no right to the land where its buildings are, and that if any Russian wanted any of the land claimed by the school all he had to do was to go and occupy it. As a consequence one of the simple-minded Creoles went into the front yard of the school, staked out the corners of a house, and commenced getting out the foundations. Several others were preparing to do the same thing.

This necessitated the immediate construction of a fence in front of the school grounds. Upon the setting of the posts, Mr. Haskett encouraged the Creoles to make a complaint that the school was obstructing a public highway, because the fence was not 30 feet from the center of a road used as a public highway, but which has no legal status as such. The fence was the same distance from the road as every other fence on it, and was built in uniformity with them. Through misrepresentations to the court an injunction was secured against all the officers and *employés* of the school, forbidding the completion of the fence, the clearing out of underbrush and grading of the land, construction of walks, or even any work upon the school buildings themselves.

The plan as outlined by Mr. Haskett was in substance as follows: That, at the May term of court, the temporary injunction should be made perpetual, and an order be procured from the court directing the removal of the school buildings within a given time. Upon the non-removal of the buildings, they were to be taken down by the officers, and the expense of the destruction of their own property charged against the Board of Home Missions in New York City.

The following is a copy of the temporary injunction:

COMPLAINT OF CERTAIN RUSSIAN CREOLES AGAINST THE PRESBYTERIAN MISSION, SITKA, ALASKA, AND THE INJUNCTION OF JUDGE WARD McALLISTER, MARCH 26TH, 1885.

In the United States District Court in and for the District of Alaska.—May term 1885.

NICHOLAS SCHUMAKOFF, ELIAS BOLSHANAN, PETER CHERNOFF, )  
ALEXANDER BOURDOORKOFSKY, OLYMPY MELOSKIN, and )  
DIMITRIUS SIPIAGAN )

against

SHELDON JACKSON, ALONZO E. AUSTIN, JOHN G. BRADY, AND )  
THE PRESBYTERIAN HOME MISSION SOCIETY OF NEW YORK )  
CITY, a Corporation, Defendants. )

To the Honorable Court aforesaid, and to the

Honorable Judge McAllister, sole Judge thereof:

PART 1. The above-named Nicholas Shumakoff, Alexander Bourdoorkofsky, Elias Bolshanan, Olymphy Meloskin, Peter Chernoff, and Dimitrius Sepiagan, peti-

tioners and complainants in the above entitled action, represent that they are residents of Sitka, Alaska, and by virtue of the treaty made between the United States and the Russian Government, dated the 20th day of June, 1867, they are citizens of the United States of America.

**PART 2.** That the above-named defendants, Sheldon Jackson, Alonzo E. Austin, and John G. Brady, pretend to be missionaries and agents employed by the other defendant, the Presbyterian Home Mission Society of the city of New York, a corporation incorporated, as plaintiffs are informed and believe, under the laws of the State of New York, for the purpose of receiving donations from the people throughout the United States, and distributing the same among the so-called missionaries wherever they may be within the borders of the said United States; the true style and name of such corporation plaintiffs do not know.

**PART 3.** That said defendants have located upon and are now exercising control of a part of the original town site of New Archangel, or Sitka, Alaska, and are attempting to locate Indians thereon, unlawfully, wrongfully, and for the purpose of securing from the United States Government a grant for 640 acres of land for the sole use and benefit of defendants, and, without any authority whatsoever, have surveyed and laid off and staked and set apart boundary lines for town lots, and have had and procured Indians to clear off and cut away the timber located thereon for the purpose of claiming said lots as the property of said Indians or defendants, and thereby, by fraud, false and fraudulent representations made to said Indians, and without authority from the United States or in conformity with the laws thereof, have publicly declared and threatened to establish an Indian village at a place in said town site never at no time heretofore occupied by Indians as a village within the memory of plaintiffs; that said acts are not at the instance or request of the Indians located at Sitka, or New Archangel, aforesaid.

That the Indian village is now situate at the west part of the town site of Sitka, or New Archangel, and the Indians have during the winter of 1884 and 1885 erected within their said village last above named from thirty to fifty new, good, substantial frame buildings for their own use and benefit, and are occupying and living in the same, and are preparing and erecting more buildings with their own money and labor without the aid of the United States Government, or legacies, donations or contributions from missionary or other societies, or any other persons or corporations whatsoever; and said defendants are now attempting by fraud, false and fraudulent representations and false promises, tokens, and devices with intent to cheat, wrong and defraud said Indians, the plaintiffs and the residents of said Sitka, or New Archangel, to erect and establish said Indian village at the east and central part of said town site aforesaid, and in this manner placing said Indian dwelling on each side of petitioners and the Russian-American and other white residents and the business part of said town site, wherein are situate the stores, shops, Government buildings, barracks, offices both civil and military, and the Russian Greek church's parsonage, common school house, and private dwelling houses of the inhabitants thereof.

**PART 4.** That the said town site has been designated by the Congress of the United States the capital and seat of Government for the Territory of Alaska, and the defendants as above plead are taking control of and converting to their own use all of the outlying space or commons which are suitable for the erection of proper public buildings or residences or business sites for the citizens or residents of said town aforesaid, at such seat of Government as aforesaid, and that the said acts, doings, pretenses, and representations are frauds with or on said Indians, as well as the impositions upon petitioners and other residents of Sitka. If defendants are permitted to continue in their unlawful course, as herein set forth, the petitioners and residents of said town aforesaid would suffer irreparable loss and be greatly damaged in the value of their own property, real and personal, now situate within said town site aforesaid.

#### *Road.*

**PART 5.** That there are situate on said town site a road made of rock and gravel, recognized as McAdam, erected in the first instance by the Russians, the ancestors and predecessors of complainants, about eighty years ago, and latterly improved by the United States soldiers and sailors as members of the United States army and navy.

That from the Russian road heretofore plead to Indian River are three other roads and two bridges across Indian River, erected by United States military and naval authorities, all of which roads, trails, and bridges are in continual use for wood roads, a public walk, park, and places of public resort by the resident and the United States officers stationed at Sitka, Alaska, as well as the tourist and visitor to our town and territory.

*Cranberry Patch.*

That there is located on said town site a cranberry marsh which is of great value to the natives and Indians, and defendants are attempting to appropriate the same to their own use and benefit for the profit they may realize from the sale or use of the fruit grown on said town site.

*Cemetery.*

And that there is situated on said town site a cemetery wherein are buried soldiers and sailors formerly in the service of the United States, as well as other citizens of the said United States and civil officers of the same.

That defendants have erected buildings on the road leading to said cemetery, and are now attempting to use said cemetery as a mission station by closing all access thereto.

That on the town site heretofore plead, the United States naval and military authorities have cleared, cut off, and removed therefrom the timber, and improved the same at great trouble and expense for the use and benefit of the United States Government and the people resident within the said town site of New Archangel, or Sitka, and for the use of said cemetery heretofore plead in the aggregate about 200 acres of land, all of which improvements, generally and severally, the defendants are appropriating to their own use and benefit by force of arms wrongfully and without right in law or equity.

That said defendants are unlawfully and wrongfully, and with unlawful, illegal, malicious, and wicked intent, in violation of law, erecting other grades or strips of ground and gravel and planks for their own use and benefit inside of said town site.

**PART 6.** That defendants are by themselves and a large number of Indians under their control maliciously and wickedly and with intent to injure, deface, destroy, cut down, and consume the timber and ornamental trees in said town site aforesaid, unlawfully and without cause of any kind, and in violation of the laws of the United States.

That defendants have procured Indians to go upon said town site and commit acts of unlawful waste and trespass.

That said defendants have wickedly and maliciously obstructed the ancient trail on road-walk, highway, or passage-way made by the Russians and Americans, and used by said Russians and their descendants from 80 years ago to the present time by erecting a long line of posts set in the ground, to which are nailed planks and timbers of various sizes and lengths along and in said road, and the ditch or drains for the use of the said trail, road, or highway, and a part thereof is thereby and therewith obstructed by such erections, builded and made in an unworkmanlike manner, such as to destroy the beauty of said walk, street, or highway, or convenience of the same.

That the said street, road, highway, or thoroughfare is the only highway or passage-way from the main business portion of the town of Sitka to Indian River, the eastern boundary line of said town plat regularly surveyed and recorded in the office of the town recorder of the town of Sitka, Alaska, in accordance with an ancient municipal organization.

That said stream has its source or head in the mountains at some point in the interior of Baranoff Island unknown to plaintiffs, and the water therein is fresh and pure, and suitable for use for the citizens and residents of Sitka, and the only stream of water from which such water can be procured at said town aforesaid, and that the obstructions so erected by defendants are of such character as to prevent the free use of said roads for teams to haul water from said river to persons desiring the same in said town aforesaid.

That the only means of bringing or conveying said water from said river to said town is by animal labor in wagons or carts with barrels or casks therein or thereon.

That in said Indian River heretofore mentioned are large amounts of salmon, trout and other fishes of various kinds used by the residents of Sitka for food, and should defendants be permitted to control the lands and river in controversy herein, the residents and people aforesaid would be deprived of the free use of the same.

**PART 7.** That defendants Sheldon Jackson and Alonzo E. Austin as missionaries, and John G. Brady as an interested person and party, as well as a regular United States Commissioner, an office created by Congress in an act approved May 17, 1884, entitled an act providing a civil government for Alaska, and the said John G. Brady having been appointed by the President of the United States and confirmed by the Senate of the United States, and duly commissioned as provided by law, entered into a wicked, unlawful, unholy, wrongful and unwarrantable conspiracy to perform the acts, matters and charges set out in this complaint for the writ of injunction.

That defendants herein are at this time still engaged in carrying out their wicked and unlawful conspiracy, to the detriment and injury of complainants and other residents of said town interested in this cause of action.

Said John G. Brady, United States Commissioner, as a magistrate, *ex officio* justice of the peace, and probate judge, &c., &c., has absolutely refused to issue writs upon complainants presented to him in behalf of persons, citizens, residents and officers of the United States, when said complaints were against his co-defendants.

That all of said defendants have made threats against the parties interested in the ultimate result and judgment of this honorable court.

That unless defendants are restrained from establishing and maintaining an Indian village at the east part of said town there will be Indians on all sides of the citizens and residents of said town of Sitka, and in case of Indian trouble would endanger the lives of our entire population.

That said defendants herein within the last thirty days caused serious trouble with the Indians to such an extent that defendants were compelled to apply to the United States Marshal and Indian police in the District of Alaska for protection from said Indians, and are liable, and plaintiffs verily believe will cause more trouble to such an extent as to endanger the lives of our entire people unless restrained.

That the shed and buildings erected on the road extending to the cemetery heretofore referred to, as well as to the posts now planted in the old Russian road, known and designated as Lincoln street, in the records of said town of Sitka, Alaska, are public nuisances, and without the abatement of the same will be a great damage and inconvenience to plaintiffs and residents of said town aforesaid.

That unless said defendants are restrained and stopped from proceeding further in the erection of their obstructions to roads, and destroying, defacing and injuring the property situate within said town site of Sitka, that defendants will erect still more and other dangerous and obnoxious nuisances, to the great damage and annoyance of said town and the citizens thereof.

That plaintiffs are not prejudiced or at enmity with the missionary cause when exercised within the scope of missionary, religious, Christian or educational purpose in Alaska, but make this application in good faith and for the purposes set out in this our complaint in the furtherance of justice and good conscience.

Plaintiffs further aver that this application is made in their own behalf and in behalf of all the residents of said town of Sitka, Alaska, and the resident citizens of the entire Territory of Alaska who severally and collectively have an interest in the welfare of Alaska and the capital of said Territory.

Plaintiffs further aver that a reasonable attorney fee for them in the procurement of a final judgment and decree herein for their attorney would be \$500, which should be recovered from defendants.

That petitioners are without adequate remedy at law, and make this application in equity.

That application for the writ of injunction has not heretofore been made and refused by any court or judge in reference to the allegations herein plead, to the best knowledge and belief of petitioners.

That plaintiffs served a notice in legal form on the Presbyterian Home Missionary Society of New York that application would be made for the writ of injunction.

Wherefore your petitioners, complainants and plaintiffs in this action, would humbly pray the court for the issuance of a writ of injunction against the above-named defendants, Sheldon Jackson, Alonzo E. Austin, John G. Brady and the Presbyterian Home Missionary Society of New York city, of the State of New York, and all the persons interested therein or employed by, with, or for the same directly or indirectly, including all their teachers, employees, servants, laborers, Indians and all persons with whom they are now or may hereafter become associated with, both male and female, old and young, from performing in any manner, or from directly or indirectly any or either of the following acts or offenses, to wit: Exercising control on any part of the town site of New Archangel, or Sitka, District and Territory of Alaska, claimed by defendants for a mission, from locating Indians thereon or establishing an Indian village thereon.

From interfering with or obstructing either or all roads or trails thereon, or the cranberry marsh thereon, or the cemetery thereon and the road thereto, or erecting, continuing or maintaining any building or fence or nuisance thereon.

From erecting, digging, or continuing other grades or things thereon.

From cutting, defacing, injuring, disfiguring or mutilating in any manner anything whatever growing thereon, or by obstructing or continuing posts planted on Lincoln street, or Russian road thereon, or continuing the conspiracy now being enforced, or either of defendants entering into other conspiracies of the same similar characters.

From endangering the lives of the residents of Sitka or exciting the Indians to acts of violence or lawlessness, and that your petitioners, complainants and plaintiffs herein, may have final judgment decreeing said injunction perpetual and for everlasting, and that they have judgment against said defendants for the costs, attorneys' fees, disbursements and expenses, and for such other and further relief as may be decreed by your honorable court just and equitable in the premises.

(Signed)

M. P. BERRY,  
*Attorney for Plaintiffs.*

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, }  
*District of Alaska,* } *ss.*

We, Nicholas Shumakoff, Alexander Bourdoorkofsy, Elias Bolshanan, Olimpy Meloskin, Peter Chernoff, and Dimitrius Sipiagan, being each duly sworn, say I am one of the plaintiffs in the foregoing cause of action; that I have had the foregoing complaint read and interpreted to me, and I know the contents thereof, and the statements therein contained are true, as I am informed and verily believe.

(Signed)

NICHOLAS SHUMAKOFF,  
*And others mentioned as Plaintiffs.*

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 21st day of March, 1885.

ANDREW T. LEWIS,  
*Clerk.*

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA to Sheldon Jackson, Alonzo E. Austin, John G. Brady, and the Presbyterian Home Mission Society of New York City, and their clerks, attorneys, agents, superintendents, servants, workmen, and all other others in their employ or in any way under their authority or order, Greeting:

Whereas it has been represented to me in the District Court of Alaska that defendants Sheldon Jackson, Alonzo E. Austin, John G. Brady, and the Presbyterian Home Mission Society of New York City have located upon and exercise control over certain lands situate in said district within the town site of Sitka, and described without legal survey as follows, viz.:

Commencing at the east corner or thereabout of the lot or lots claimed by N. M. Haley within the said town of Sitka, Alaska, commencing on tide bank on the Russian road in Lincoln street, taking the beach bordering Sitka Bay at the point first mentioned; thence running in an easterly direction to the mouth or debouch of Indian River into Sitka Bay; thence taking the center of Indian River at ebb-tide mark in the channel of said river, following the meanders of said river up its stream towards its head or source in the mountains to a point generally known as the Jeff. C. Davis road with said river; thence taking on the north side of said road the center of a small creek that empties its waters into the said Indian River; thence following the center and meanders of said creek up and to the top of the divide and over the same until the said line intersects the ditch erected, dug, and formerly used by the Russian American Company as a waterway; thence along the banks of said ditch until intersected by the northeasterly corner of certain lands claimed as reserved by treaty of the Russian Greek Catholic Church; thence back to the place of beginning, compass of the said lands unknown, the title of which is now in dispute, have cut down the timber of said lands, have created obstructions, to wit, buildings on said land, have obstructed a road crossing said lands and leading to Indian River, have cut down, destroyed, defaced, and mutilated ornamental trees standing on said road:

Now, therefore, I do strictly command and enjoin you, the said Sheldon Jackson, Alonzo E. Austin, John G. Brady, and the Presbyterian Home Mission Society of New York City, and your clerks, attorneys, agents, superintendents, servants, workmen, and all others either in your employ or in any way under your authority or orders, under the pains and penalties which may fall upon you and each of you in case of disobedience, that you forthwith and until further order, judgment, and decree of this court, desist from exercising control over those certain lands the title of which is now in dispute, cutting down the timber on said lands, erecting obstructions, to wit, buildings on said lands, obstructing the road crossing said lands and leading to the National Cemetery, obstructing the road crossing said lands and leading to Indian River, cutting or destroying or mutilating the ornamental trees bordering on said road substantially as prayed for in said bill of complaint.

Witness the Honorable Ward McAllister, Jr., Judge of the District Court of

Alaska, and the seal of said court at the town of Sitka, Territory of Alaska, the 26th day of March, 1885.

ANDREW T. LEWIS,  
*Clerk.*

M. P. BERRY,  
*Comp. Solicitor.*

At the May term of court the injunction was dissolved, on a demurrer to the petition, on the ground that the complainants were not adjoining property holders and had no legal right to complain.

The same result would have been reached if the case had been tried on its merits, as all the allegations in the complaint were untrue.

On the 18th of October, 1867, Alaska was formally turned over to the United States.

In anticipation of its rapid development hundreds of men flocked there, particularly from California and the Pacific Coast, and attempted to lay out a town site. In anticipation of a great city, they included in the town site many square miles of forests and swamps, and which remain forest and swamp to the present day.

Major-General Rousseau, U. S. A., in command at Sitka, foreseeing this effort to lay out a town site, wrote to Washington for instructions.

The matter was referred by the Secretary of War to the Secretary of State, and by him transmitted to the Secretary of the Interior, leading to the following correspondence :

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
WASHINGTON, D. C., *October 26th, 1867.*

SIR : In reply to your communication of the 24th instant in relation to attempts of American citizens to acquire preemption rights to lands at Sitka, in the newly acquired Territory of Alaska, I have the honor to enclose for your information a copy of a report this day made to me by the Commissioner of the General Land Office upon the subject of your inquiries.

Such claims and settlements are not only without the sanction of law, but are in direct violation of the provisions of the laws of Congress applicable to the public domain secured to the United States by any treaty made with a foreign nation ; and if deemed necessary and advisable, military force may be used to remove the intruders.

This Department has no officers at Sitka, nor in any other part of the " Russian purchase," and must rely on the State Department to cause the necessary orders in the premises to be communicated to our authorities there.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

O. H. BROWNING, *Secretary.*

Hon. WM. H. SEWARD,  
*Secretary of State.*

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
GENERAL LAND OFFICE, *October 26th, 1867.*

SIR : I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Department letter of yesterday, enclosing a communication of the 24th from the Honorable Secretary of State, by which the Department is advised that citizens of the United States are attempting to make claims and settlements at Sitka within the " Russian purchase " under the town site and preemption laws, and I have the honor to state that such settlements are illegal and contrary to law. (See Act of March 3d, 1807, vol. 2, p. 445, U. S. Statutes.)

In the absence of specific legislation by Congress providing for the organization of land districts within the " Russian purchase " and the extension of our system of surveys over the same, settlement and claims under the town site and preemption laws are unlawful and cannot be recognized under existing laws.

I am, sir, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

JOSEPH S. WILSON, *Commissioner.*

Hon. O. H. BROWNING,  
*Secretary of the Interior.*

DEPARTMENT OF STATE.  
WASHINGTON, *October 28th, 1867.*

**GENERAL:** In the absence of specific legislation by Congress for the organization of land districts in Alaska, claims of preemption and settlements are not only without the sanction of law, but are in direct violation of laws applicable to the public domain.

Military force may be used to remove intruders if necessary.

Will you have the goodness to instruct Major General Halleck to this effect by telegraph, and request him to communicate the instruction to Major General Rousseau at Sitka?

I have the honor to be, General,

Your obedient servant,

WM. H. SEWARD.

Gen. U. S. GRANT,

*Secretary of War ad interim.*

Before the above decision reached Sitka, the people had commenced a city government, with a mayor and common council, &c., &c. They had laid out (on paper—no attempt even was made to grade and improve their streets) streets and alleys through the woods and swamps, trackless then and ever since.

As their town site claim was illegal, their city government soon fell into disrepute, and was at length abandoned.

For over twelve years past there has been no vestige of it, or any evidence, except on paper, that it ever existed or was needed. The United States census of 1880, thirteen years after the purchase of Alaska, gives the total white population of Sitka at 157. At present time the number is still smaller, independent of the Creole Russians.

As the Department of the Interior decided in 1867 that Sitka town site claim was illegal, of course there is no legal town site, and we could not have erected our buildings on "the original town site."

When we were looking around for a location for the Native Industrial School, we were urged by the best citizens of the place, the Collector of Customs and the commanding officer of the United States man-of-war stationed there at the time, (the collector and captain being the only representatives of the Government,) to locate where we are.

In selecting the location we went outside of the existing village and beyond all the existing fences and improvements, on ground that was unclaimed and unimproved woods and swamps, and expended over one thousand dollars in removing stumps, ditching the swamp, and grading, in order to prepare a sufficient area of land for the school buildings.

The site occupied is beyond and outside of the village, as laid down on the "United States Coast and Geodetic Survey" Map of Sitka Harbor and Approaches, printed by the Government as late as April, 1881.

Upon the acquisition of Alaska in 1867, a company of United States troops was stationed at Sitka. In procuring their fuel they first cut the trees accessible from the beach. When those nearest to the beach were gone, they naturally cut those adjoining, all the time penetrating farther into the woods and farther from the beach. After the first rise of ground at the beach the land is swampy, and in order to get out the fire-wood the troops made a temporary corduroy road. The farther they penetrated the forest for wood the longer the road grew, until when the troops were withdrawn in 1877 it was nearly half a mile long. After the departure of the soldiers the road was practically abandoned. It commences on the beach and abruptly terminates in the woods. Its commencement, ending, and whole course is on the land reserved by Congress for the school.

In order to inclose the school buildings and secure better discipline, the superintendent of the schools needed to fence across this former wood

road. This he had a legal right to do, but he refrained from doing so until the school constructed a better road at the side of the school grounds to take the place of the former wood road through them. The new road is better and more convenient to the village than the old one, and when extended will make a straight street from the beach to the cemetery. (See the record of the court on the change of roads, page 14.) The cemetery has no road to it, but is reached by a trail through a swamp from the wood road.

Previous to the American occupation, the Russians had a trail along the beach from the village to Indian River. During the administration of General Davis, Military Commander, this trail was widened out into a road, and no effort has been made at any time by any of the missionaries to obstruct it. On the contrary, they, more than any one else, are interested in its preservation, because they have the only four-wheeled wagon in Sitka. It may be said, in passing, that there is not a single horse or ox in Sitka, and but one mule.

Along this road, in front of the school property, has been constructed a neat rustic fence.

As to monopolizing the cranberry marshes, that would be impossible, for they are found everywhere in that region.

Further, the missionaries have no desire to build an "Indian village;" but they do feel it incumbent on them to encourage the educated and trained young men that leave the industrial school to erect small and cheap but neat cottages for themselves. Being educated out of and away from the barbarous customs of their fathers, they are naturally unwilling when they leave school to settle down in the old way in the native village. They are ambitious to have their own home, live in a civilized way, and earn their own living, like other energetic young men.

Many of these young men are consistent church members, and will make valuable citizens.

The District Attorney, learning that we expected to go east on the March steamer, had Mr. W. B. Styles,<sup>1</sup> Rev. A. E. Austin and me, subpoenaed as witnesses before the grand jury to be held in May, in order to annoy us.

As I expected to return in May, I was proceeding to carry out my plan of departure, when the District Attorney attempted to get an order from the court restraining my leaving the country. Failing in that he attempted to raise a mob and take me from the steamer by force. This was prevented by the firmness of Secretary Lewis, acting governor. About the time and after my departure the difficulties of the school culminated.

Upon the 11th of March, the United States monthly mail steamer arrived, bringing an Indian woman of questionable character, who claimed possession of one of the girls in the school. The girl is a half-breed, about 12 to 14 years of age, and an orphan. She is a good English scholar and quite attractive in her personal appearance. The woman claimed to be a relative, (I believe a cousin.) She had no papers of guardianship or any proof to support her claim; nor was she the guardian of the girl even according to Indian customs. The white father had left his illegitimate child and her mother. The mother died. On her dying bed, as I was informed and believe, she gave the child to Mrs. A. R. McFarland, superintendent of the Girls' School and Home at Fort Wrangel, to bring up in that school. And after the death of the mother the child was taken from her mother's house to Mrs. McFarland's. If any one was entitled to be considered the legal guardian of the child, in a country where, at the time, there was no law applicable to such a case, it was Mrs. McFarland. The

1. A former teacher of the mission.

officers of the school very properly refused to let the child go. The woman then, at the instigation and with the assistance of some evil-disposed white men, took out a writ of *habeas corpus*. A special term of court was held at 8 o'clock in the evening. The officers of the school were refused a hearing,<sup>2</sup> and the girl was given into the custody of the woman.

Last winter an Indian sorcerer and his wife brought their daughter, about twelve years of age, and placed her in the school for five years. A short time afterwards, having an opportunity of selling her to some visiting Indians, they came and asked to take her out of the school. This was refused by the superintendent. They then offered to send her brother in her place. The superintendent replied that he would take the boy if they wished, but would retain the girl. They then offered him \$10 in money if he would let the girl go. Failing to procure her, they hired two Indians to steal her. These men were concealed in the woods, near by, a week before they were discovered and captured. While these events were transpiring the first girl had been taken from the school on a writ of *habeas corpus*. Encouraged by this, the same white men as in the first case, assisted the sorcerer in securing a writ, and the girl was produced in court. Upon this occasion the judge ruled—

- (1) That the verbal contract of the Indian parents in placing their child in school was not binding.
- (2) That as a white man cannot make a contract with an Indian, a written contract would be illegal.
- (3) That if the officers of the school attempted to restrain the children from running away or leaving whenever they wished, they would be liable to fine and imprisonment.

Judge Dawne, who succeeded Mr. McAllister as U. S. Judge of Alaska, upon opening his court took an early opportunity of reversing these decisions, and decided that the natives of Southeast Alaska were not Indians; that they could make contracts; sue and be sued, and do whatever any one else could do before the law.

The decisions of Judge McAllister left the officers powerless to maintain discipline. If a child failed in his lessons, quarreled with his schoolmates, neglected his work, or transgressed the rules of the school, and any attempt was made to correct him, in a fit of anger or sulkiness he could leave the school. The court had thrown the doors wide open, and evil-disposed men took special pains to inform the natives and encourage them to remove their children from the school.

To add to the difficulties of the situation, about that time one of the school girls died of pneumonia. She had careful nursing and every needed attention, even to the medical attendance of the surgeon on the United States man-of-war, the *Pinta*. After the burial some one started the story that the matron had bewitched the girl and caused her death. Soon there was an excited mob at the school clamoring to take their children home for fear the matron would kill them also. If the civil officers had then used their influence with the Indians to quiet the excitement and keep the children in school, they would have succeeded, and both parents and children would have been thankful after it was all over. On the contrary, the Marshal, the Interpreter, and especially the United States District Attorney, helped the matter along, so that, through their influence and the superstitious fear of the Indians, in a few days forty-seven children were taken out of school and remanded back to the filth, superstition, degradation, and vice of their native condition.

Among those removed from the school was a girl seventeen years of

2. See testimony of A. J. Davis. Appendix.

age who had been sold into prostitution by her own mother. In some way she had escaped and found both an asylum and a home in the school, but now she was turned loose to destruction.

Another girl, of fifteen, and her sister ten years of age had been picked up on the beach at a mining camp. They were without friends or home, almost without clothing, and in a starving condition. Through neglect and cruel treatment, the younger one was almost blind. These orphan sisters were taken into the school, fed, clothed, and kindly cared for. Medical attendance was provided and the blind one restored to sight. The sisters were making fair progress when the break came and they were taken in charge by an aunt. The elder one was sent into prostitution, and the aunt is living off the wages of the child's shame. The younger one, in a few days, escaped from her relatives and returned to the school. When her aunt came for her she clung to one of the lady teachers and had to be taken away by force. Again she returned to the school and again was torn away. She returned the third time. It seemed so inhuman and outrageous to force the poor child into a life that she was making such desperate efforts to escape, that the officers of the school refused to let her relatives have her, preferring that, if she must be taken away, the responsibility should rest upon the court.

Another girl, of fourteen, when about to be sold into prostitution for the benefit of a distant relative, escaped from her grandmother, who was guarding her, and came to the school. As a result of the decision of the court, she, too, was remanded back to the care of her heathen relatives, and has been lost to a virtuous life.

Another, a girl of about seventeen, was being sold into prostitution by her stepmother and aunt. The two women, quarreling over the division of the blood money, came to settle the dispute before Mr. A. T. Lewis, clerk of the court. Mr. Lewis, whose influence is on the side of humanity and the schools, took the girl from her unnatural protectors, and placed her in the school. She, too, has gone back to her former abode of cruelty.

Some three years ago, a little girl was accused of witchcraft. The tribe bound her with a rope. A stalwart chief, holding one end of the rope, walked in advance, dragging the child after him, while another came behind holding the other end of the rope. These men were the admiration of the tribe for their bravery in holding between them a puny, starved girl of ten. She was rescued by Professor Austin, who was in charge of the school, and given a home. During the troubles she was returned to the tribe, and may yet be tortured to death as a witch.

Another was the slave of a prominent chief. After his death his two widows treated her so cruelly that she ran away, and was found hid under the church. She was taken into the school and furnished protection and a home. A man that married one of the widows claimed her as his property, and tried to get possession of her, but in vain. But now that the school is powerless to protect the orphan, the escaped slave and the helpless child, she has gone out from under its care, and her future remains to be seen.

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“ \* \* \* This very week one of the girls, who ran away last summer, came to us sobbing as if her heart would break, *begging* us to take her back into the Home again, but she has led such a wicked life since she left us, we were compelled to refuse her, although our hearts ached for her. Florine, a beautiful child, is in her grave, and *all the older ones, so far as we know, have gone to destruction.* I am glad that the guilt of this crime does not rest on my soul.” \* \* \*

From March to May was a series of petty annoyances by the officials. Children were encouraged to run away from school, and parents incited to remove their children.

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Rev. A. E. Austin, upon one occasion, preaching to the natives upon the rebellion of Absalom, quoted his words: “Oh that I were made judge in the land,” &c., II Samuel 15: 4.

This was reported to the Judge. Having sent for the District Attorney they, together, searched the Statutes for authority to arrest Mr. Austin for “contempt of court.”

In May was opened the first regular term of court ever held in Alaska.

On the grand jury were placed Russian Creoles who did not understand the English language. When the attention of the court was called to it, District Attorney Haskett replied that he could make them understand sufficient for his purpose. He also nominated a foreman he could use, and it was currently reported that he and the foreman were overheard entering into a combination to “go for Dr. Jackson.”

As soon as the case could be reached in court the temporary injunction against the Mission property was dissolved.

The District Attorney then bent all his engeries to procure indictments against me. The grand jury were plied with false statements and misinterpretation of law, until after being in session 19 days, it is not strange that they were worried into finding 13 indictments, five of which were against me. On the five, it is said, that the jury stood 12 to 11. The U. S. District Attorney knew so little law that, it is said, not one of the 13 indictments was drawn up in a legal manner, and that consequently all of them could have been thrown out of court on a demurrer.

One of those against myself was for writing a letter to the foreman of the grand jury, which I had a right to do. The other four were for building fences, walks, and other improvements for the school upon Government lands reserved by Congress for the purpose.

Congress forbade the “importation, manufacture, and sale of intoxicating liquors” in Alaska. And yet there are at least thirty saloons in South-eastern Alaska where intoxicating liquor was openly sold, and the District

Attorney was a daily customer. The lowest kind of dance houses were in full blast without a license, native girls from twelve to fifteen years of age were frequently outraged, slaves were bought and sold by the natives; but the U. S. District Attorney had no time to bring these trivial offenses before the grand jury. It was more important for the public welfare "to go for the missionaries."

The letter written to the foreman of the grand jury was as follows:

SITKA, ALASKA, *May 20, 1885.*

Mr. FULLER, *Foreman of the Grand Jury.*

DEAR SIR: Learning that the grand jury have matters before them pertaining to myself, I ask to be heard before they come to a decision.

Believing that your jury are honorable men desiring to hear all sides before acting, I remain,

Yours truly,

SHELDON JACKSON,  
*U. S. General Agent of Education.*

I am advised that, under the following section of the laws of Oregon (which, as far as applicable, are extended over Alaska), I had a clear legal right to be heard before the grand jury, and that was all that the letter asked.

Laws of Oregon as amended in 1880, Section 166, page 28 provides:

In the trial of or examination upon all indictments, complaints, information, and other proceedings before any court, magistrate, jury, Grand Jury or other tribunal against persons accused or charged with the commission of crimes or offenses, the person so charged or accused shall, at his own request, but not otherwise, be deemed a competent witness, the credit to be given to his testimony being left solely to the jury under the instructions of the court, or to the discrimination of the magistrate, grand jury, or other tribunal before which such testimony may be given.

The grand jury received my letter, and by a vote invited me to testify before them, which I did; and then they turned around, and under the instructions of Judge McAllister, indicted me for writing the letter.

When it reached the court, however, the indictment was set aside.

The four indictments for obstructing the public highways were set for trial at the November term of court, and I was placed under \$2000 bonds to appear for trial.

On the 19th of August, under instructions from Washington to establish certain schools to commence in September, I went aboard the mail steamer with school desks and furniture for the Government school at Wrangell, and with charts, maps, &c., for the schools at Hoonah, Haines, Juneau, Wrangell and Jackson; also with the papers and instructions necessary to set them in operation early in September. I was also expecting to visit Killisnoo and see what arrangements could be made for a school there. Just as the gang-plank was to be drawn in and the steamer leave, I was arrested by Deputy Marshal Sullivan, and with unnecessary rudeness hustled off the steamer, locked up in a cell, and denied even an empty box to sit upon. After the steamer was out of reach, I was taken before the judge, arrangements made for increasing my bonds to \$3200, and I was set free.

As we have only one mail steamer a month, they accomplished their purpose in detaining me at Sitka.

This was the last outrage and the end of the power of the officials, as the next mail steamer brought their successors.

The new United States District Attorney, Col. M. D. Ball, gave early attention to the indictments pending against me.

Finding that the matter on which the four indictments for obs<sup>t</sup>

a road were based was not, under the laws of Oregon, a *criminal* offense, nor an *indictable* offense, but at most a misdemeanor, cognizable before a justice of the peace, and also finding that the obstruction in the one case was purely technical and in the others an alteration of the road which came within the spirit of the law, he moved that they be set aside.

The exact grounds on which the indictments were set aside are stated in the following entry on the records of the court:

**IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE UNITED STATES FOR THE DISTRICT OF ALASKA.**

At a term thereof begun and held at Sitka, (May Term) on the 5th day of October, 1885—Present: The Honorable Edward J. Dawne, Judge,—the following order was made and entered of record, to wit:

In the United States District Court for the District of Alaska.

THE UNITED STATES <i>vs.</i> SHELDON JACKSON.	}	On Indictment for Obstructing Public Road.
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**ON INDICTMENTS NOS. 19, 20, 21.**

In these cases the indictments are set aside and defendant's bail exonerated upon motion of the United States District Attorney made for the reason that the indictments are, neither of them, endorsed "A True Bill," and such endorsement, signed by the foreman of the Grand Jury, as required by Sec. 6, Ch. 7, page 348, and applied by Sec. 115, Ch. X, page 355, Criminal Code of Oregon, upon Sec. 715, Ch. X, page 445, of which said indictments are founded, and which omission has been held by the court as sufficient ground for dismissal in case No. 18.

And the District Attorney asks to have it spread upon the record that he will not, of his own motion, nor unless required to act upon the complaint of some party who shall feel aggrieved by the alleged obstruction, take further action in the premises—for the reasons—

1st. That the Code of Oregon, Sec. 5, Ch. I, page 461, provides in express terms that offenses defined in section 715 (under which these indictments are found) shall be subject to the jurisdiction of Justices of the Peace, whose authority is conferred on United States Commissioners in this District, under section 5 of the Organic Act.

2d. That the known and well-defined facts which constitute the alleged offense are not such as, in his opinion, would warrant a conviction by a trial jury—the obstruction in one case being purely technical, and not supported by reason for its application, and in the others an alteration having been made which comes within the spirit of the Oregon law, (its letter not being capable of being applied for want of county court machinery,) in that it not only does not "materially increase the distance to the injury of the public," but in fact is in all respects "equal to the old for the convenience of travellers," and will be, when completed, superior.

Which request is granted.

(Signed)

EDWARD J. DAWNE,  
*District Judge.*

The setting aside of the indictments by the court, and the removal of the offending officials by the President, closed the persecutions in Alaska.

The opposition was then transferred to Washington. The removed officials and their friends have sent repeated misrepresentations to the Departments and used the public press to blacken my character, impeach my credibility and belittle the efficiency of my work, on the one hand, and, on the other, excuse the conduct of the ex-officials.

To meet these misrepresentations I call particular attention to the testimonies contained in the Appendix to this pamphlet.

## APPENDIX.

*A Sworn Statement of Facts in relation to the Troubles in the Native Industrial and Training School at Sitka, Alaska, in 1885, by Prof. A. J. DAVIS, late Superintendent.*

On the 11th day of March, 1885, I arrived at Sitka, Alaska, and at once assumed charge of the Indian school as its superintendent.

The steamer on which I traveled from Portland, Oregon, to Sitka had among its passengers an Indian woman who took passage at Victoria, B. C. From all that I observed while on board the steamer, together with what I gathered from conversation with others on the route, I had every reason to believe the woman to be of very doubtful character. This woman claimed to be a cousin of one of the young girls in the Training School, and soon after her arrival at Sitka she had issued a writ of *habeas corpus* for the person of the young girl in question. The girl was taken before Hon. Ward McAllister, U. S. District Judge. As soon as I heard of the proceeding I hastened to the court. This was about 9 o'clock P. M. When I arrived in the court room the evidence for the plaintiff was almost all heard. When I succeeded in gaining the attention of the court I stated that I was now superintendent of the school and desired to be heard, adding that from what I had seen and heard while on the steamer I did not regard the woman a fit person to whom to confide a young girl. The court refused to hear me further, and peremptorily decided that the woman could take the girl, which she did accordingly, and left on the steamer early on the following morning. Neither time nor opportunity was given me to secure counsel or make a defense. Subsequent events did not change my opinion of the character or purpose of the woman.

The effect of the ruling of the court in this and a subsequent case was to cause almost one-half of the children to run away from the school and to prejudice the natives against placing other children in the institution. The fate of many of the larger girls who ran away may be inferred. A letter just received from one of the *employés* of the school states:

"One of the girls who ran away last summer came up to the house sobbing as if her heart would break, and begged us to take her back again. She had lived a very wicked life since leaving the Home, so with aching hearts we were compelled to refuse her."

I have many reasons to believe that some of the civil officers at that time in the Territory were inimical to the school, and were responsible for much harm done.

My connection with the school made me cognizant of much that Hon. Sheldon Jackson did while he had charge of the institution, and while I was in the Territory I failed to see any disregard on his part of the lawful rights of parents and citizens. His zeal, energy and thorough devotion to the work are to be commended. He was abused and persecuted by those who should have seconded his efforts, and many acts were resorted to in order to hinder his plans.

I deem it due to Dr. Jackson that the above facts should be known and that he should be encouraged to complete the work he has begun and continued with so much efficiency and personal sacrifice.

(Signed)

A. J. DAVIS.

STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA, }  
City of Harrisburg, } ss.

On the 6th day of February, A. D. 1886, personally appeared before me, a notary public residing in the said city, A. J. Davis, who, having been duly affirmed according to law, deposeth that the facts set forth in the foregoing statement are correct to the best of his knowledge and belief.

(Signed)

A. J. DAVIS.

Affirmed and subscribed before me the day and year aforesaid.

[SEAL.]

(Signed)

J. WESLEY AWL.  
Notary Public

officers of the school very properly refused to let the child go. The woman then, at the instigation and with the assistance of some evil-disposed white men, took out a writ of *habeas corpus*. A special term of court was held at 8 o'clock in the evening. The officers of the school were refused a hearing,<sup>2</sup> and the girl was given into the custody of the woman.

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This was reported to the Judge. Having sent for the District Attorney they, together, searched the Statutes for authority to arrest Mr. Austin for "contempt of court."

In May was opened the first regular term of court ever held in Alaska.

On the grand jury were placed Russian Creoles who did not understand the English language. When the attention of the court was called to it, District Attorney Haskett replied that he could make them understand sufficient for his purpose. He also nominated a foreman he could use, and it was currently reported that he and the foreman were overheard entering into a combination to "go for Dr. Jackson."

As soon as the case could be reached in court the temporary injunction against the Mission property was dissolved.

The District Attorney then bent all his engeries to procure indictments against me. The grand jury were plied with false statements and misinterpretation of law, until after being in session 19 days, it is not strange that they were worried into finding 13 indictments, five of which were against me. On the five, it is said, that the jury stood 12 to 11. The U. S. District Attorney knew so little law that, it is said, not one of the 13 indictments was drawn up in a legal manner, and that consequently all of them could have been thrown out of court on a demurrer.

One of those against myself was for writing a letter to the foreman of the grand jury, which I had a right to do. The other four were for building fences, walks, and other improvements for the school upon Government lands reserved by Congress for the purpose.

Congress forbade the "importation, manufacture, and sale of intoxicating liquors" in Alaska. And yet there are at least thirty saloons in South-eastern Alaska where intoxicating liquor was openly sold, and the District

Attorney was a daily customer. The lowest kind of dance houses were in full blast without a license, native girls from twelve to fifteen years of age were frequently outraged, slaves were bought and sold by the natives; but the U. S. District Attorney had no time to bring these trivial offenses before the grand jury. It was more important for the public welfare "to go for the missionaries."

The letter written to the foreman of the grand jury was as follows:

SITKA, ALASKA, *May 20, 1885.*

Mr. FULLER, *Foreman of the Grand Jury.*

DEAR SIR: Learning that the grand jury have matters before them pertaining to myself, I ask to be heard before they come to a decision.

Believing that your jury are honorable men desiring to hear all sides before acting, I remain,

Yours truly,

SHELDON JACKSON,  
*U. S. General Agent of Education.*

I am advised that, under the following section of the laws of Oregon (which, as far as applicable, are extended over Alaska), I had a clear legal right to be heard before the grand jury, and that was all that the letter asked.

Laws of Oregon as amended in 1880, Section 166, page 28 provides:

In the trial of or examination upon all indictments, complaints, information, and other proceedings before any court, magistrate, jury, Grand Jury or other tribunal against persons accused or charged with the commission of crimes or offenses, the person so charged or accused shall, at his own request, but not otherwise, be deemed a competent witness, the credit to be given to his testimony being left solely to the jury under the instructions of the court, or to the discrimination of the magistrate, grand jury, or other tribunal before which such testimony may be given.

The grand jury received my letter, and by a vote invited me to testify before them, which I did; and then they turned around, and under the instructions of Judge McAllister, indicted me for writing the letter.

When it reached the court, however, the indictment was set aside.

The four indictments for obstructing the public highways were set for trial at the November term of court, and I was placed under \$2000 bonds to appear for trial.

On the 19th of August, under instructions from Washington to establish certain schools to commence in September, I went aboard the mail steamer with school desks and furniture for the Government school at Wrangell, and with charts, maps, &c., for the schools at Hoonah, Haines, Juneau, Wrangell and Jackson; also with the papers and instructions necessary to set them in operation early in September. I was also expecting to visit Killisnoo and see what arrangements could be made for a school there. Just as the gang-plank was to be drawn in and the steamer leave, I was arrested by Deputy Marshal Sullivan, and with unnecessary rudeness hustled off the steamer, locked up in a cell, and denied even an empty box to sit upon. After the steamer was out of reach, I was taken before the judge, arrangements made for increasing my bonds to \$3200, and I was set free.

As we have only one mail steamer a month, they accomplished their purpose in detaining me at Sitka.

This was the last outrage and the end of the power of the officials, as the next mail steamer brought their successors.

The new United States District Attorney, Col. M. D. Ball, gave early attention to the indictments pending against me.

Finding that the matter on which the four indictments for obstructing

a road were based was not, under the laws of Oregon, a *criminal* offense, nor an *indictable* offense, but at most a misdemeanor, cognizable before a justice of the peace, and also finding that the obstruction in the one case was purely technical and in the others an alteration of the road which came within the spirit of the law, he moved that they be set aside.

The exact grounds on which the indictments were set aside are stated in the following entry on the records of the court:

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE UNITED STATES FOR THE DISTRICT OF ALASKA.

At a term thereof begun and held at Sitka, (May Term) on the 5th day of October, 1885—Present: The Honorable Edward J. Dawne, Judge,—the following order was made and entered of record, to wit:

In the United States District Court for the District of Alaska.

THE UNITED STATES	}	On Indictment for Obstructing Public Road.
vs.		
SHELDON JACKSON.		

ON INDICTMENTS NOS. 19, 20, 21.

In these cases the indictments are set aside and defendant's bail exonerated upon motion of the United States District Attorney made for the reason that the indictments are, neither of them, endorsed "A True Bill," and such endorsement, signed by the foreman of the Grand Jury, as required by Sec. 6, Ch. 7, page 348, and applied by Sec. 115, Ch. X, page 355, Criminal Code of Oregon, upon Sec. 715, Ch. X, page 445, of which said indictments are founded, and which omission has been held by the court as sufficient ground for dismissal in case No. 18.

And the District Attorney asks to have it spread upon the record that he will not, of his own motion, nor unless required to act upon the complaint of some party who shall feel aggrieved by the alleged obstruction, take further action in the premises—for the reasons—

1st. That the Code of Oregon, Sec. 5, Ch. I, page 461, provides in express terms that offenses defined in section 715 (under which these indictments are found) shall be subject to the jurisdiction of Justices of the Peace, whose authority is conferred on United States Commissioners in this District, under section 5 of the Organic Act.

2d. That the known and well-defined facts which constitute the alleged offense are not such as, in his opinion, would warrant a conviction by a trial jury—the obstruction in one case being purely technical, and not supported by reason for its application, and in the others an alteration having been made which comes within the spirit of the Oregon law, (its letter not being capable of being applied for want of county court machinery,) in that it not only does not "materially increase the distance to the injury of the public," but in fact is in all respects "equal to the old for the convenience of travellers," and will be, when completed, superior.

Which request is granted.

(Signed)

EDWARD J. DAWNE,  
*District Judge.*

The setting aside of the indictments by the court, and the removal of the offending officials by the President, closed the persecutions in Alaska.

The opposition was then transferred to Washington. The removed officials and their friends have sent repeated misrepresentations to the Departments and used the public press to blacken my character, impeach my credibility and belittle the efficiency of my work, on the one hand, and, on the other, excuse the conduct of the ex-officials.

To meet these misrepresentations I call particular attention to the testimonies contained in the Appendix to this pamphlet.

## APPENDIX.

*A Sworn Statement of Facts in relation to the Troubles in the Native Industrial and Training School at Sitka, Alaska, in 1885, by Prof. A. J. DAVIS, late Superintendent.*

On the 11th day of March, 1885, I arrived at Sitka, Alaska, and at once assumed charge of the Indian school as its superintendent.

The steamer on which I traveled from Portland, Oregon, to Sitka had among its passengers an Indian woman who took passage at Victoria, B. C. From all that I observed while on board the steamer, together with what I gathered from conversation with others on the route, I had every reason to believe the woman to be of very doubtful character. This woman claimed to be a cousin of one of the young girls in the Training School, and soon after her arrival at Sitka she had issued a writ of *habeas corpus* for the person of the young girl in question. The girl was taken before Hon. Ward McAllister, U. S. District Judge. As soon as I heard of the proceeding I hastened to the court. This was about 9 o'clock P. M. When I arrived in the court room the evidence for the plaintiff was almost all heard. When I succeeded in gaining the attention of the court I stated that I was now superintendent of the school and desired to be heard, adding that from what I had seen and heard while on the steamer I did not regard the woman a fit person to whom to confide a young girl. The court refused to hear me further, and peremptorily decided that the woman could take the girl, which she did accordingly, and left on the steamer early on the following morning. Neither time nor opportunity was given me to secure counsel or make a defense. Subsequent events did not change my opinion of the character or purpose of the woman.

The effect of the ruling of the court in this and a subsequent case was to cause almost one-half of the children to run away from the school and to prejudice the natives against placing other children in the institution. The fate of many of the larger girls who ran away may be inferred. A letter just received from one of the *employés* of the school states:

"One of the girls who ran away last summer came up to the house sobbing as if her heart would break, and begged us to take her back again. She had lived a very wicked life since leaving the Home, so with aching hearts we were compelled to refuse her."

I have many reasons to believe that some of the civil officers at that time in the Territory were inimical to the school, and were responsible for much harm done.

My connection with the school made me cognizant of much that Hon. Sheldon Jackson did while he had charge of the institution, and while I was in the Territory I failed to see any disregard on his part of the lawful rights of parents and citizens. His zeal, energy and thorough devotion to the work are to be commended. He was abused and persecuted by those who should have seconded his efforts, and many acts were resorted to in order to hinder his plans.

I deem it due to Dr. Jackson that the above facts should be known and that he should be permitted to complete the work he has begun and continued with so much efficiency and personal sacrifice.

(Signed)

A. J. DAVIS.

STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA, }  
City of Harrisburg, } ss.

On the 6th day of February, A. D. 1886, personally appeared before me, a notary public residing in the said city, A. J. Davis, who, having been duly affirmed according to law, deposeth that the facts set forth in the foregoing statement are correct to the best of his knowledge and belief.

(Signed)

A. J. DAVIS.

Affirmed and subscribed before me the day and year aforesaid.

[SEAL.]

(Signed)

J. WESLEY AWL,  
Notary Public.

*A Sworn Statement of Lieut. T. DIX BOLLES, U. S. N., concerning the persecution of Dr. Sheldon Jackson by Government officials in Alaska.*

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 5, 1886.

My attention having been called to the statement published in the edition of March 1st, New York "World," in reference to the removal of Judge McAllister, which article contains also a fierce attack upon the reputation of Rev. Sheldon Jackson, Educational Agent for Alaska, said article purporting to be derived from the papers in the case as filed before your Committee, I desire to place myself on record as protesting against the falsity of much therein stated.

As a naval officer on duty in Alaskan waters in 1881-4-5, I am able to speak from personal knowledge, and as an outsider to the issues, from an unbiased standpoint.

Up to the time the civil government relieved the Navy from control of Alaskan affairs, the schools, under charge of Dr. Jackson, had been steadily advancing in scope and usefulness. Not very shortly after, in the fall of 1884, various members of the civil government, both in their actions and in their conversations with me, showed that there was a strong feeling against the Mission Schools and their teachers, not simply against Dr. Jackson, but others. One went so far as to say "he would break them up."

The District Attorney, an intemperate man, even openly by words incited the Russians and Indians to overt acts of violence and arson.

The course of Judge McAllister in permitting a woman—not the mother of the child—to take the child away from the school where its parents had placed it, was the opening wedge for numbers of others and led to a loss of almost one-half of the scholars, many of them young girls, who represented to their parents just so much coin by the sale of their virtue.

No attempt was made to carry out Article 14\* of the Organic Act, the authorities being afraid to uphold the law as passed by Congress. (This statement was made to me by Judge McAllister.)

The law was used as a cover to screen personal animosities, and persistent efforts were made to cripple and demoralize the schools. Finally an official act of the court, so grossly brutal and unjust, was perpetrated,† that the Governor and Marshal, who had before been only too glad to throw difficulties in Dr. Jackson's way, came out openly with their condemnation, saying that "such conduct was illegal and improper, passing beyond decency."

In regard to Dr. Jackson, I can from personal knowledge say that he is zealous and earnest in his efforts for the good of the Indians and the educational interests of Alaska, and faithful in the discharge of his duties.

I have found him truthful and honest, in fact an earnest, hardworking, faithful, Christian man. These virtues being the antithesis of Alaskan ideas, naturally have produced bitter foes.

Very respectfully, (Signed) T. DIX BOLLES,  
Lieut. U. S. Navy, late Executive Officer U. S. S. *Pinta*.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 8th day of March, A. D. 1886.  
(SEAL.) (Signed) H. J. ENNIS,  
Notary Public, Washington, D. C.

*Statement of Rev. ALONZO E. AUSTIN, Presbyterian Clergyman at Sitka, Alaska.*

SITKA, ALASKA, April 1, 1885.

DEAR FRIEND: Your kind letter reached me by last steamer and found us all in great trouble, and we have been eating the bread of affliction ever since.

I can hardly hold my pen in my hand to-day.

The civil government of Alaska, from which we hoped so much, has inaugurated its reign by practically breaking up our Mission. Dr. Jackson left for Washington by last steamer, and I suppose you will hear through him some account of the commencement of our troubles, but he will be surprised to hear how far they have gone. We had then over a hundred boys and girls in our Home. To-day we have less than fifty, and before the steamer arrives I fear we shall not have twenty, and it may be we shall have to suspend entirely.

\* Prohibiting intoxicating liquors.

† The illegal imprisonment of Dr. Jackson.

You will wonder how this can be possible. The night Dr. Jackson left the Judge issued a writ of *habeas corpus* at nine o'clock P. M. and took one of our girls, between twelve and thirteen years of age, and turned her over to a cousin, a vile woman, who came up on the steamer from Victoria and carried her away with her. Soon after this an Indian doctor's girl was taken away from the Home in the same way, although her parents brought her to us not two months before, and put her in the Home for five years, as we proved by the matron and our interpreter. The Judge decides that a verbal contract is not binding, and that a white man has no right to make a contract of any kind with an Indian.

It is evident that all the officers of the civil government are opposed to us, with two exceptions—be it said to their praise—Mr. Lewis, the clerk of the court, who is a true friend, I think, and Hon. J. G. Brady, U. S. Commissioner. The District Attorney is a notorious drunkard. He applied to Rev. J. G. Brady, (who was the first missionary to Sitka,) United States Commissioner, for a warrant to arrest me for punishing one of the boys, but he would not grant it. The parents of the boy tried to get him away, but he would not go, although he is not over ten years of age.

The Judge has granted an injunction, restraining us from building or making any improvements on our lands, &c.

The civil authorities employ a Russian interpreter, and they have three native policemen who are paid by them. I think these facts will help you to understand the situation.

A few Sabbaths ago I preached on the rebellion of Absalom, and quoted his words, "Oh, that I were made judge in the land," &c.; II Samuel. Some one told the Judge and Marshal that I said they were hypocrites, liars, &c., and I hear they were furious and were going to arrest me at once, but found they were mistaken. I could not understand the matter until I happened to think of the scripture quoted. Do not be surprised if you hear I am in the guard house. I do not feel I deserve such honor for the Master, but I am ready to go if He wills.

What we need is to have the present Judge, District Attorney and Marshal removed at once; and if we cannot have Christian men in their places, do let us have moral, sober men at least. Whiskey is plentiful; dance houses abound; but it seems that about the only thing the present Government can find to do is to break up a flourishing Indian school.

There is danger that this trouble will reach all our mission stations in Alaska, and there is danger that some of the missionaries may be killed by Indians, who will hear the most exaggerated account of our troubles.

Sincerely yours,

ALONZO E. AUSTIN.

*Affidavit of Mrs. A. R. McFarland, the first resident Protestant Missionary in Alaska.*

STATE OF NEW YORK, }  
County of Broome, } ss.

On this the 12th day of March, A. D. 1886, before me, William B. Edwards, county judge of the said county of Broome, personally appeared Mrs. Anna R. McFarland, who, being by me first duly sworn, deposes and says:

That she is a resident of Sitka, in Alaska, where her occupation is that of a teacher in the employ of the "Presbyterian Board of Home Missions in the United States of America."

That she is temporarily visiting the Atlantic States in the interest of the schools in Alaska of which she has charge.

That she is personally acquainted with the Rev. Sheldon Jackson, D. D., general agent of education in Alaska, having been intimately associated with him in mission work for more than six years in New Mexico, and for the last eight years continuously in Alaska.

That she has the utmost confidence in the honesty, veracity, integrity, and uprightness of the said Jackson, and that she has always found him to be, and that she believes him to be, an earnest, conscientious Christian gentleman.

That she has read the article in the *New York World* of March 1st, A. D. 1886, entitled "Mr. Ward McAllister's Son," and that in so far as regards the charges therein made against the character of the said Jackson she knows them to be false

and utterly without foundation, and she believes them to have been made maliciously and from personal animosity and spite.

ANNA R. MCFARLAND.

Subscribed and sworn to before me March 12th, 1886.

[SEAL.]

W. B. EDWARDS.

County Judge of Broome County.

STATE OF NEW YORK, }  
Broome County, Clerk's Office, } ss.

I, Chas. F. Tupper, clerk of the county of Broome, of the county court of said county, and of the Supreme Court, both being courts of record, having a common seal, do certify that Hon. W. B. Edwards, who hath signed his name to the foregoing affidavit, was at the time of so doing county judge of the county of Broome in and for said county and State, duly sworn, and authorized to take the same; that all his official acts are entitled to full faith and credit, and that his signature thereunto is genuine.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the said county and courts, at the city of Binghamton, this 12th day of March, 1886.

[SEAL.]

CHAS. F. TUPPER, Clerk.

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*Sworn Statement of Rev. EUGENE S. WILLARD, of Haines, Alaska. The effect of the misrule of the Government Officials upon a Tribe 200 miles distant. Threatened Massacre of the Mission Family.*

In 1881 I and my family located as missionaries among the Chilcat people at Haines, 200 miles north of Sitka.

When the troubles commenced at Sitka we and a lady associated with us were the only white people at our station. News of the troubles spread rapidly from tribe to tribe. When the word reached our people that "the new white men" (Government officials) said the teachers were "no good," that they maltreated the children under their care, "starved, beat, and witched them to death," it was believed. Our people became insolent and unteachable, suspicious and contemptuous toward us.

The children in our school home, through their affection for us personally, could not be induced by all the arts of their friends to leave us, and were happily saved from forcible removal by the firm and decided stand which we took to shield them.

Hoochinoo making became for the first time in the history of our mission open and fashionable. Men, women and children were drunk. Children of the village were prohibited by their people from attending the day school, and finally the lives of our two babes were by the tribe ordered to be taken as payment for the life of a chief's daughter, who, while in the training school at Sitka, had died of pneumonia. She had every attention that careful nursing could give her, including the services of the surgeon from the United States ship *Pinta*.

So hindered was our work by this attitude of the people, directly traceable to the influence of Government misrule at Sitka, that it became necessary to suspend the mission work at Haines.

In direct contrast to this has been the work of Dr. Jackson, first to enter the lists for the enlightenment of the native people of Alaska; his unchanging course has been one of unflinching endeavor, through difficulties, opposition and calumny, toward the best good of the Territory and the elevation of its people.

During our nearly five years' intimate connection with him in Alaska, we have never known his zeal to flag, even under a steady ten hours a day work in the rain, on school premises. In the discharge of his duties as a servant of the Government, as agent of education, we believe that he has been no less faithful, and that he has been honest, efficient, and trustworthy.

EUGENE S. WILLARD.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 12th day of March, 1886.

JOHN N. OLIVER,

[SEAL.]

U. S. Commissioner D. C.

The Hon. JOHN EATON, LL.D., U. S. Commissioner of Education, whose position makes him responsible for his selections, in an official communication to the Honorable the Secretary of the Interior, April 9th, 1885, concerning the appointment of General Agent of Education in Alaska, says : \*

“ \* \* \* In looking for the proper person to become such agent I find no one either so well qualified or so strongly recommended as Mr. Sheldon Jackson. He has repeatedly visited considerable portions of the country and written a book which is a popular source of information in regard to its people and their progress, and led the way in the establishment of the schools at present taught in the Territory, and is now their superintendent. He was unanimously recommended for the position of Superintendent of Instruction by all of the private organizations some time since aiming to promote education in Alaska, and by a considerable number of prominent men. I have known Mr. Jackson thoroughly for a considerable number of years. He is a Christian gentleman of excellent ability, great energy, and, I believe, specially fitted to carry through successfully the plan of establishing schools in that far-off country.”

Again, in a reply to a communication concerning the troubles in Alaska, General Eaton writes in vindication of Dr. Jackson as follows :

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
BUREAU OF EDUCATION,  
WASHINGTON, D. C., August 24th, 1885.

SIR : I have given these matters careful consideration and would remark as follows :

(A) First, respecting Dr. Jackson's qualifications as General Agent of Education in Alaska. He is admitted, I believe, by all who know him to be a man of good ability and great energy, and of thoroughly upright character. He has had a course of instruction in one of the colleges of the State of New York, and the training of one of her theological seminaries. He is widely known as a speaker and writer ; indeed, there is indefinite evidence of his literary qualifications. Personally I have known him for a number of years, especially in connection with his interest and efforts for the promotion of education in the territories, and more recently in Alaska. In all my intercourse with him I have never seen anything to lead me to doubt his qualifications for the duties assigned him, but I have seen much to convince me of his fitness for them. In addition to his ability, his culture and large experience, I have known of his special interest in the Territory of Alaska. I believe he has done more than any other one man to make the condition of that Territory known to the people of the United States and to create the sentiment out of which has come the legislation establishing a government for that neglected country. He has urged the subject in the columns of many newspapers and spoken in most if not all of the great cities from the Pacific to the Atlantic, and before various educational organizations, local and national.

In his conferences with me he has shown a ready appreciation of the fact that education in Alaska should not be exclusively in letters, but specially adapted to the people in their environment, and fitted to prepare them most speedily to improve their condition, to make them intelligent, virtuous, industrious, and skillful in the pursuit of their various avocations and in the discharge of their duties to each other and as citizens of the country now responsible for their government. He has been specially efficient in establishing mission schools in that far-off country by the aid of his own church. He has been the agent in seeking the co-operation of various other denominational agencies of education and has had their hearty approval and assurance of co-operation. In addition, I may say that I believe that there is an indefinite number of those who know Dr. Jackson who fully concur in the opinion I have stated. I find in the proceedings of the last National Educational Association, embracing educators of various religious denominations and from all parts of the country, among the resolutions unanimously passed the following :

“ EDUCATION IN ALASKA.

“ Resolved, That this association rejoices to know that Congress has provided for schooling the children of Alaska, and that Dr. Sheldon Jackson has been designated as agent to organize these schools. We know of no one so well qualified as he is for this distant and difficult task, and we send him our heartiest greetings.

(Signed)

“ F. LOUIS SOLDAN, *President.*

“ W. E. SHELDON, *Secretary.*”

\* See Senate Ex. Doc. 85, 49th Congress, 1st Session.

Second. The grand jury on the subject of education observes :

"We recognize the long established policy of our government to encourage schools and educational facilities, and would say that our Russian citizens are as a class poor and unacquainted with the rights and privileges of American citizens, and that non-sectarian schools, by fair, honest, and upright persons, not prejudiced in favor of any sect or creed, should be established for the benefit of the white children of Alaska Territory."

It will be observed that this opinion of the grand jury has reference only to the white children of Alaska Territory, which, according to the Census Report of 1880, had only 430 whites in a total population of 33,426, or, if the proportion should hold true there as it does often in other localities, that one-fifth of the population may be reckoned of school age, their consideration had reference only to the white school population of only 86 out of a total school population of 6,685.

Moreover, it appears that they were unmindful of the law under which the Territory was organized, and under which they were acting, which provides in Section 13—

"The Secretary of the Interior shall make needful and proper provision for the education of children of school age in the Territory of Alaska without reference to race."

It should be observed also that the white children are mainly centered at a few points. On this point I should also observe that Dr. Jackson, the General Agent of Education in Alaska, in order to avoid any race difficulty that might possibly arise, recommended that there should be at each Sitka and Juneau two schools, and thus any race irritation avoided.

Moreover, the teachers supplied to open the schools at Sitka and Juneau were not of Dr. Jackson's own religious denomination, and therefore he could not be subjected to the charge that he was imposing his own sectarian views upon the schools which he was organizing. I have hoped that there would be an opportunity to refer these data to Sitka and obtain further explanations.

Meantime, Professor Davis, whom I have known as a correspondent of this office, and for a number of years as superintendent of schools in one of the counties of Pennsylvania, and who has resided for some time as a teacher in Sitka, a man, I believe, of the highest character and of excellent ability to judge of the facts, assures me of Dr. Jackson's fitness and efficiency as General Agent for Education there.

Professor Dall, an eminent scientist, who has spent considerable time in exploring Alaska, who prepared the first elaborate volume in English on that country, and who has been entrusted with the compilation of the material for the maps of Alaska published by the Coast Survey, and who is constantly observing the situation of affairs in Alaska, expresses to me his regret that this opposition to schools has been stirred up in Sitka, and says that he believes that it has been concentrated against Dr. Jackson because of the ability, fidelity, and energy with which he has sought to serve the purposes of the Government there, and his sharpness and persistence in exposing the misconduct of those who would impose upon the ignorance of the natives. Indeed, so far as I know, Dr. Jackson's actions and statements have been wholly in accord with those statements of the condition of things in that country, upon which the President and the Honorable Secretary of the Interior have felt called upon to supply new officers to several of the most important civil positions in that country, especially those located at Sitka. It should not be forgotten that the trouble and unpleasant feeling represented in these papers herewith returned, is limited to Sitka, and that Sitka is only a single point in the vast country in which the General Agent of Education is expected to operate, and that no one, aside from Dr. Jackson, appears, so far as I know, to have shown any such knowledge or capacity or fitness for undertaking the difficult work outside of Sitka as he has.

(B) In regard to the indictments found against Dr. Jackson by the grand jury, it is difficult to write without more definite knowledge. From Professor Davis, who was at Sitka at the time of the efforts to procure indictments against Dr. Jackson, I learn that the first indictment was for writing a letter to the grand jury, and the facts, as Professor Davis understood them, were that the grand jury was to consider the question of indicting Dr. Jackson, and he (the Doctor) asked by letter, in accordance with their rules, that he be allowed to be heard personally, and, as Professor Davis understood, they heard him personally, and rejected the proposed indictment, but indicted him for writing the letter.

The other indictments, ostensibly for obstructing the highway, Prof. Davis assured me were connected with the erection of buildings for the Indian Training

School. These buildings were erected on two sides of what is known as the "General Davis" road, and that in order to facilitate the work of the school and protect the health of the pupils a covered way was built over the road between the two buildings, and as I understood Prof. Davis, in his judgment, there was in no sense any obstruction of the road in the erection of the buildings in the covered way or the fences, but that by some process which he did not understand five indictments of this character were specified, and the professor assured me that all of the indictments which were tried before he left were dismissed. He believed that they were all frivolous and without foundation, and that they would be so decided in due time by the court, and that these indictments would only point more unmistakably to Dr. Jackson's efficiency on the one hand, and the unwarrantable spirit on the other hand which has been attempting to defeat all the efforts for the education of the natives of Alaska. I am confident that with new, competent, faithful, public-spirited, virtuous, and patriotic officers, a new and desirable order of things will appear in place of these troubles, and that Dr. Jackson will be found one of the most efficient promoters of this desirable result. All of which is respectfully submitted.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
 (Signed) JOHN EATON,  
*Commissioner.*

Again, in transmitting to the Senate a copy of the Report of Schools in Alaska, Gen. EATON writes:\*

MARCH 1, 1886.

To the Honorable THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,  
 Washington, D. C.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith the report of Dr. Sheldon Jackson, General Agent of Education in Alaska, called for in your letter of the 17th ult., in accordance with Senate Resolution of February 15, 1886.

In forwarding this report, allow me to say that in obeying the order from the Department to organize the common schools required under the provisions of the Organic Act providing a form of Government for Alaska, the first requisite, as it seemed to me, was some one in Alaska possessed of the ability, education, honesty, devotion, courage and willingness to sacrifice his comfort and himself and endure the hardships and perils of undertaking to supervise the establishment of the schools; one who should not only understand the facts in the condition of the youth to be taught, but who should be able to aid in securing the teachers fit for the work. No one, to my knowledge, met these requirements as did Dr. Sheldon Jackson, who had already spent so much time in the Territory, and who had studied the people and their environment so thoroughly, and who had done so much to arouse the country to an effort for the education of their children.

Although I had carefully studied Alaska with reference to the possibilities of education there, and had endeavored to report the facts as I found them with the same care that I had studied and reported all other portions of the country since entering upon the duties of this office, I could have accomplished little or nothing had not Dr. Jackson accepted the place of General Agent of Education as named by you. With his aid I believe that good progress has been made, considering the distances to be travelled and the lack of communication and the other obstacles encountered. Plans have been matured; the co-operation of benevolent agencies has, as far as possible, been secured, in some cases greatly increasing the amount expended and the good accomplished; the schools have been started upon methods and principles specially calculated to take the people as they are, on their soil, in their climate, and with all their other peculiar surroundings and all their customs, and give them the benefit of instruction in the virtues of our civilization before they are destroyed by its vices. The people are self-supporting and teachable, and never should be set back by introducing the destructive features long ago admitted into our policy of treating the Indians, and now found at once so obstructive and so expensive in the present efforts for their wise education. Although the report is only a preliminary one—coming in the first few months of progress—it is brought as nearly as possible down to date, and is full in details of great value.

It will be seen that I have not thought it best, with the smallness of the appropriation already made for the work, to begin the erection of school buildings,

\* See Senate Ex. Doc. 85, 49th Congress, 1st Session.

but in my opinion there is now in hand sufficient data on which to base estimates and to proceed to erect buildings. These, in my judgment, with the school-house, should include a residence for the family of the teacher.

I have elsewhere recommended that \$50,000 should be appropriated for the next fiscal year.

It only remains for me to add that I have many evidences that the schools and the general agent have been uniformly favorably received by the Alaskans, and that the only opposition has originated with those who should have been the first and most constant to aid him and his work.

I may be pardoned, perhaps, if I add that I have felt that in our neglect to fulfill our solemn treaty promises with the Alaskans, our boasted free government has in their case been brought into unfavorable comparison with the Imperial Government of autocratic Russia, and I have therefore taken special pleasure in endeavoring under the order of the department to give the people of those distant regions, even at this late day, the benefit of our common schools in the form best adapted to their good and best calculated to teach them our ideas, and to introduce among them the knowledge of the blessings of our free institutions.

I have the honor to be,

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN EATON, *Commissioner*.

THE CHURCH AND HOME, Harrisburg, Pa., May, 1885, prints the following letter of Prof. A. J. Davis, Superintendent of the Industrial Training School, Sitka, Alaska:

SITKA, ALASKA, *April 9, 1885.*

DEAR MR. CHAMBERS: I left Harrisburg on February 13, and arrived at Sitka March 11, being two days less than a month on the way. On my arrival I found matters in connection with the Mission and the Indian Industrial Home in a disturbed condition. Several of the officials of the civil government of the Territory are in open hostility toward the Mission and School, and have succeeded in practically breaking up the school within the past month. They stirred up the Russian residents against us, sowed distrust and dissatisfaction among the Indians, and instituted petty suits to annoy us, and make these simple-minded people think we are violators of the law. First they took away from us by legal process one of our brightest and most attractive girls, who was given to Mrs. McFarland several years ago by her mother, and surrendered her to a woman whose character in the past has been notoriously bad, and we presume the girl is now leading a lewd life\* though she is only twelve years old. Another girl was next taken by her parents. This was a signal for a general exodus, and, while one month ago we had over one hundred in the home, there are now less than fifty remaining. The Judge has decided that any person can come and take away from us any child, no matter what agreement has been entered upon with the parents of the child, and that the person so taking the child need not be a relative provided the child is willing to go. With such a construction of the law, together with the feeling of opposition to us which now pervades the community, we are almost powerless. Years of self-denial and laborious devotion by our missionaries seem to have been spent in vain. Of course we trust this condition of affairs is only temporary, but the loss to us already is irreparable. Children who had been in the homes at Sitka and Wrangle for several years and were well trained and partially educated—could read, write and speak English—have left us, and would not be desirable people to have return to the school after the life they are now leading.

The District Attorney is most active in acts of annoyance. He is said to be a man of intemperate life, and while the provisions of the organic act for this territory in relation to possession, sale or importation of intoxicating liquors are openly and flagrantly violated with impunity, this man busies himself in stirring up strife in petty matters. It is said that he receives fees in every case brought before the court, in addition to his salary, so you may infer one incentive by which he is actuated.

We feel discouraged, but are confident the right will triumph in the end. We solicit the prayers of the Christian people of Harrisburg in our behalf. The Lord will surely hear the cry of His people and will afford us relief in His own good time and way.

Hoping God may shower His richest blessing on your labors, I remain,

Very truly your friend,

A. J. DAVIS.

\*The outcry made in the newspapers concerning the outrage of removing a girl from school for such a purpose led to placing the girl in a Roman Catholic Sisters' School at Victoria, B. C.

*Statement of Lieut. T. DIX BOLLES, U. S. N., Executive Officer of U. S. S. Pinta.*

U. S. S. PINTA, SITKA, ALASKA, June 16, 1885.

To the COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
Washington, D. C.

SIR: Rev. Sheldon Jackson has shown me a letter in which a statement of complaints received at your office from citizens of Sitka is set forth.

As an officer under Government who has been here for some time, and is fully cognizant of all the facts, I would most respectfully state that in regard to the complaints as numbered in your letter:

1st. The original town site plot of New Archangel was thrown out by the Land Office soon after the purchase of Alaska, and there is no town site or town government.

2d. The Davis road as originally built is still open, the only encroachment being a covered way over it sufficiently wide and high to permit safe and easy passage to the largest wagon or team in town.

That no road has been fenced up, nor any attempt been made to do so. The Russians never gravelled a road or walk, and until General Davis built the road only an Indian trail existed, of which the country all over Alaska is a network. General Davis made a good corduroy gravelled road, which has since been repaired by the Navy, but the so-called Russian citizens never spent a cent or worked an hour on the road. The so-called public walk or park, consisting of a six-foot gravel path through half a mile of marsh and bog, over which very seldom any one passes other than an occasional unwary stranger.

3d. Like all schools certain hours are set apart for parents' visits, and they are never at these times prohibited unless peculiar circumstances should necessitate; it has been the exception and not the rule.

4th. The fact in regard to slave labor was before the grand jury last week, and they, although supposed to be anxious to find a true bill, threw the charge out as frivolous. A mail contract twice or thrice sublet finally to an Indian who uses another Indian supposed to be a slave to help him paddle a canoe.

As an officer on the spot I must say that certain members of the civil government have spent their energies and time in striving to break up this Indian school instead of attending to flagrant breaches of the law which took place daily under their eyes and in which they joined.

The district attorney is particularly an example. He has been drunk more than half the time on whiskey which he brought into Sitka, when the law distinctly says that such sale is illegal, and not a man has been molested.

Trusting that this letter may carry some weight, I am, sir, yours, &c.,

(Signed)

T. DIX BOLLES,  
*Lieutenant U. S. Navy, Executive Officer.*

*Statement of Hon. JOHN G. BRADY, U. S. Commissioner at Sitka, ex officio Probate Judge, and U. S. Land Registrar.*

SITKA, ALASKA, June 17, 1885.

To the Hon. COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
Washington, D. C.

SIR: I have read the letter of Lt. Bolles and concur in what he says. The conduct of Governor Kinkead, Marshal Hillger, and District Attorney Haskett toward the Mission School here, and especially toward Dr. Sheldon Jackson, is, in my judgment, without excuse. The largest saloon keeper in the town told me this very day that the District Attorney owed him a large sum for drinks at the bar, and that he did not expect to get a cent out of him. Governor Kinkead has been drunk most of his time, and spends his intervals in cursing Dr. Jackson. An Indian woman told me a few days ago that the Marshal is her sweetheart, and I have every reason to believe that she told the truth. Such men have no love for missions, nor for what they teach. They have stirred up strife since they came, and have made the lives of some of us miserable for the past six months. It is about time that those in authority in Washington knew something of the private lives of these men who are opposing missions and schools.

I make the above statements deliberately—feel prepared to prove them and more if necessary.

Very respectfully,

(Signed)

JOHN G. BRADY,  
*U. S. Commissioner at Sitka.*

*Statement of Hon. JOHN G. BRADY, U. S. Commissioner, Probate Judge, and Land Office Registrar, Sitka, Alaska, on WARD McALLISTER, Jr., published in the daily Chicago Tribune of November 23, 1885.*

\* \* \* I understand strong influences are at work to have Judge Ward McAllister reinstated as Judge of the Territory. When law was extended to Alaska McAllister was appointed Judge, though the appointment was opposed by Secretary Folger and other members of the Cabinet. He had never been in the Territory, and knew nothing of the laws of Oregon. His legal experience was what he found in a brief term as Assistant United States District Attorney at San Francisco. His father, a New York caterer, was an intimate friend of Attorney-General Brewster, and Brewster insisted on the appointment. He was less than 30 years old, was an Eastern dude and Anglomaniac, had been a short time on the Pacific, and was destitute of almost every attribute which would entitle him to the supreme control of the judicial, legal, and executive affairs of a great, half-civilized Territory—for such control the appointment practically gives. With his little velvet jacket, high collar, gloves and dandy cane, I tell you he was a rare curiosity in Sitka. May 17, 1884, the Territory was made a judicial district. September last McAllister was removed by President Cleveland and Judge Dawne of Salem, Oregon, appointed in his place. This appointment has to be confirmed by the Senate, and owing to the strength of the influences at work McAllister may be reinstated, which would be a serious calamity for the Territory. *He antagonized mission work, being assisted in this by District Attorney Haskett, who was removed at the same time. Between these two the so-called administration of law was a mockery, even to the natives.* They made the United States prohibitory law—which applies to Indian reservations—a dead letter. All the saloon keepers in the Territory were on the grand jury, and there were also on it three Russians who did not know the English language. Haskett said he guessed they knew English enough for him, and that settled it. With a white English-speaking population of perhaps 2,000 in the district there was no excuse for such a jury. \* \* \*

*Letter of a Banker, well known in his own section of the country as a reliable Christian gentleman, to a prominent Government Officer.*

NOVEMBER 21, 1885.

MY DEAR SIR:—Your letter of October 28th is received, requesting me to state to you any facts which may have come under my observation on a recent excursion to Alaska, in regard to the schools there, their condition, the manner in which they are conducted, and the opposition to them. As you state, my visit there was an excursion, going and returning upon the same steamer. Hence my observations were brief, as we remained only a few hours at any one place.

The newly-appointed Governor of Alaska reports about 1,900 white inhabitants in the southern part of the Territory. As many of these are men without families, the number of children of school age must be small.

Hence, the present requirements for white schools can only be quite limited, and are needed, I should presume, at only Fort Wrangel, Juneau, and Sitka. But I have no doubt but settlers are going to Alaska soon, and many more schools will be needed. It would seem, then, that to provide schools at the places named, and to lay the foundations for a broader work, is what is required at present for white schools there. The schools already established, we were led to believe, were well cared for and doing good work, being fairly well conducted, and meeting with no special opposition.

The work of the Indian schools is necessarily much larger and more difficult, and yet with all the ordinary difficulties, there are especial advantages in teaching the Alaska Indians. They seem very glad to work as the whites do. In the great Treadwell Gold Mine at Juneau there were about 200 Indians and Chinamen at work—the former getting \$2.50 per day, and the latter \$1.50. The president of the mine told us those figures showed the comparative value of their work.

Certainly those Indians worked with a will, skillfully and well. And then the boys and girls are glad to attend schools and do as the whites do. In these respects several persons with us marked the difference between these Indians and those in the older territories. Our observation also showed that the boys and girls who had been in school made even rapid progress in studies and in capacity and skill in doing various kinds of work, such as whites are accustomed to—the boys showing especial skill in carpentry, and the girls at sewing and house-work.

When we saw all this it seemed to us that the plain duty of the Nation and Gov-

ernment was to make ample appropriations for educating the Indian boys and girls, and then a generation or two would effectually solve the Indian problem. The schools for these children at Fort Wrangel and Sitka seemed well managed, and certainly have very competent and even consecrated teachers, doing their work well and thoroughly. With the *one matter* of opposition removed, there would seem to be no great difficulties in the way of these schools rapidly enlarging their work. And then other schools should be established, until all the Indian children were thus provided for.

The one opposition to which I refer is, or was, the combined power—civil, social and personal influence—of nearly all of the late Government officials in Alaska. We met Governor Kinkead, U. S. District Attorney Haskett, U. S. Judge McAllister and some others, on the steamer going to Sitka. But it was only after our visit there—when we saw the prostitution of the sacred judicial and executive power of the Government to the most petty personal spite and selfish interests—that we could comprehend that such powers could be used for so base a purpose. I have no doubt but you are well informed of all the facts which I refer to, and therefore I need not repeat them. At first it seemed impossible that men from American homes and families could put obstacles in the way of educating these wretched Indian children. But at length the reasons became plain. Those officials were there for very greedy and selfish purposes, and the more disgusting and immoral a town like Sitka could be made the less opposition would they meet in carrying out their schemes of greed. This I discovered in personal conversation with some of these officials. They were willing Indians should be educated, but they did not want the moral power of the mission and schools at the centres where their bad schemes were being carried out. This, I believe, is the key to all their opposition to Dr. Jackson and the Sitka schools. They wanted him to take the mission and schools off to some island. That done—intemperance and degraded morals could go on unchecked, and the profits on all that illegal whiskey traffic, as well as all other abuses of civil power, then could continue to pour into such coffers as was desired. So whatever faults Dr. Jackson may have he will always deserve the honor of striking that great wickedness strong and effectual blows. But with these officials removed, and the same kind kept out of office, then there is no reason why the present administration of schools in Alaska should not do entirely satisfactory work.

I believe I have thus indicated what the condition of the schools is in Alaska, how conducted, and the opposition to them, as you requested.

Ex-Governor and ex-U. S. Senator Booth, of California, was on the excursion with us, and no one spoke more scathingly, yet guardedly, of the incompetence and wickedness of these officials. Especially did he condemn U. S. Judge McAllister, and stated to us his complete unfitness for such a position—by moral character, habits of life, and lack of knowledge to discharge his duties. It is to be hoped the new judge, or whoever may be appointed to succeed him, will be a manly and strong man, able to hold his integrity where the temptation to do otherwise will be strong and difficult to resist.

Believing I have answered your inquiries, without any desire to favor any person, but only the truth and pure government,

I am, my dear sir, yours respectfully,

P. S.—Your letter came during my absence from home, or it would have received an earlier response.

The same gentleman, in a private letter to a friend, says :

“This striking incident,\* with what we had learned on shore, has led us to get together the story of Dr. Jackson’s condition at Sitka, which I will briefly try to lay before you, thus serving a double purpose of making the day shorter by writing to you and giving you facts which you will be glad to have.

I will begin by saying that the officials of the Territory, the Governor, U. S. Judge, U. S. Marshal and Deputies, the U. S. District Attorney, and some others, are old political hacks, who got their appointments from President Arthur chiefly, if not wholly, to better their fortunes, the discharge of official duty being not only a secondary but an after matter of no consequence at all when their own schemes were to be carried out. And such schemes as they work up are only equalled by the Tweed and like political bosses. Men on board who know all about these

\* The illegal imprisonment of Dr. Jackson at Sitka.

things do not hesitate to say that they are all criminals, and to carry out their plans they prostitute all their official power to their uses, with all possible nonchalance, as though that was what it was given them for."

*A communication to "The Interior," Chicago, Illinois, October 29th, 1885, by  
Rev. R. W. HILL, D. D.*

(Dr. Hill was Superintendent of Missions for the Synod of the Columbia, which embraces Alaska in its limits.)

"DR. SHELDON JACKSON.

"We learned while in the west that Dr. Jackson had been put under arrest at Sitka, Alaska, by the local authorities, but have heard nothing more on the subject except in confirmation of the rumor. The only specific charge we heard of was that of obstructing the highway with a building, which was a mere technicality, and not the real grievance sought to be avenged. We learned from the Governor of Alaska, however, that charges and complaints were on file against Dr. Jackson in the Interior Department at Washington which he was directed to investigate. We suppose that these relate to the monopoly of the Government appropriations for the schools under Dr. Jackson's control; but he probably is doing all the teaching that is done. He may have given unnecessary offence, but he has a hard lot of speculators and swindlers to contend against."

I have clipped the above from the same issue of *THE INTERIOR*, and perhaps can throw some little light on the matter. In the first place Dr. Jackson is not in charge of the schools of our board in Alaska. The rules of the board have placed them under the care of superintendents who reside in the schools. These are directly responsible to the board. The financial management, so far as the purchase of supplies and the auditing of bills are concerned, is vested in the synodical missionary, who is also required to closely inspect the workings of the schools at least once in each year. It thus will appear that while Dr. Jackson has been one of the most zealous and successful workers for Alaska, he has no responsibility or control. His only relation to the work is that of a faithful and earnest advocate before the churches and to the world in behalf of the Indians. It is not too much to say that to him more than any other one man is due the great work which we have been carrying on in Alaska. Until his voice roused the Church the interest taken in that far-off region and its people was but slight. He labored incessantly among the churches and through the press until he awakened that missionary zeal for Alaska which has given us the churches and schools which we have there. He is now suffering from the bitter and malignant persecutions of those who have found his work an obstacle to the success of their own wicked schemes. I have carefully examined into all the charges which have been made against him in the cases for which he has been held, and find only malice and hatred of mission work at the bottom of them all. Whether he can secure a fair and impartial investigation and trial in Alaska is a matter of grave doubt, as any jury which can be secured will go to a trial more or less prejudiced against Dr. Jackson. The alleged obstruction of the highways, for which he will be tried, is only a pretext on which to hamper him in his work, and, perhaps, influence opinion in Washington to secure his removal from the official position which he holds—Government Agent for Education for Alaska. It has been alleged that he has used his position to help our schools. If he had done otherwise he would have gone contrary to the intention and purpose of his appointment, which was to foster the interest of education. When he first went there he found a country without schools—now there are many, but almost all supported without expense to Government by our church. He recognized the work which our schools have accomplished and used his powers to aid them. At the same time he has established Government schools wherever it has been found feasible to do so, and proposes to extend a chain of free schools all along the inhabited coasts of the Territory. These schools are to be maintained at the expense of the government, and are not to be under a denominational control, though it is to be hoped they all will be dominated by a Christian spirit. As long as Dr. Jackson continues to act as the educational agent we are assured that the school system of Alaska will be in harmony with Christian civilization, and for this reason, if no other, it is desirable to have Dr. Jackson retain his present position. That he has been free from mistakes in his methods no one will contend, but he has been animated by a sincere

desire to do good, and for the great good which has resulted from his labors for Alaska we can afford to be charitable toward his errors of judgment. *The present bitter and unrelenting attack has been pushed by disappointed politicians who have openly boasted that they will never leave Alaska until Dr. Jackson has been driven out.* The whole thing is a deliberate attempt to destroy our work under cover of an attack on him. It must not be forgotten that the first attack was directly at the Sitka Mission; and had for its avowed object the removal of the buildings and other school property from the land now occupied. It is to be hoped that in some way the band who are leagued together to harass our work may be effectually reached, and that out of all his troubles Dr. Jackson may emerge victoriously.

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23 BEACON STREET, BOSTON, MASS.,

March 6, 1886.

Senator \_\_\_\_\_,  
Washington, D. C.

DEAR SIR: Allow me to express the interest which I know scores of the best citizens here feel in the success of the measures now before Congress looking toward largely increased appropriations for education in Alaska.

The Rev. Dr. Sheldon Jackson has made himself an authority on all educational matters pertaining to that Territory.

I have studied his work there very carefully, and beg leave to second his proposals and those of General Eaton for enlarged aid from Congress.

Yours most respectfully,

(Signed)

JOSEPH COOK.

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*Statement of WILLIAM C. NORCROSS, Esq., Attorney for Chicago, Burlington & Quincey Railroad.*

MONMOUTH, ILL., February 12, 1886.

Hon. WM. N. NEECE, M. C., Washington, D. C.

DEAR FRIEND: It has been intimated to me that perhaps a movement is on foot, to some extent aided by the new Governor of Alaska, to have Dr. Sheldon Jackson removed from his position as General Agent of Education in Alaska, it being one under the supervision of the Secretary of the Interior.

As I have a very great desire to see Dr. Jackson retain his position, I take this method of asking you, as a personal favor to myself, to go at once and see Secretary Lamar and Assistant Secretary Muldrow, and insist on Dr. Jackson being retained in his present official position.

Dr. Jackson worked up the Educational Fund from the beginning, and I insist that he ought to be allowed to get the movement fully under way before he is removed.

Having known Dr. Jackson personally and intimately for more than twenty years, it affords me great pleasure to say that for sound judgment, sagacity of foresight, indomitable energy, high moral courage, and unselfish devotion to duty, that I consider him the peer of any man with whom it has been my good fortune to be acquainted.

That he can fill the position better than any other living man I don't hesitate to affirm. This is strong language; but I *know* whereof I speak.

If he tells you anything you can act upon his statements with as much reliance as though it were a matter of your own personal knowledge.

Stand by him, and I will stand by you in so doing.

As ever, your friend,

(Signed)

WM. C. NORCROSS.

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THE NATIONAL EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION of the United States, at their 25th Annual Session, Saratoga Springs, July 14-17, 1885, unanimously adopted the following resolution:

This association rejoices to know that Congress has provided for schooling the children of Alaska, and that Dr. Sheldon Jackson has been designated as agent to organize these schools. We know of no one so well qualified as he is for this distant and difficult task, and we send him our heartiest greetings.

*Annual Report of the U. S. Commissioner of Education for 1882-3.  
Pages XLV and XLVI.*

As this report is going through the press, the House of Representatives, on the 14th of May, 1884, passed the Senate bill providing a civil government for Alaska, which was signed by the President on the 17th. \* \* \*

The Secretary of the Interior is directed to make needful and proper provision for the education of the children of school age in the Territory of Alaska, without reference to race, until such time as permanent provision shall be made for the same, and the sum of \$25,000 is appropriated for this purpose.

Thus, after seventeen years of delay, a government has been secured for Alaska. In respect to this successful result this Bureau has endeavored to do its whole duty by obtaining trustworthy information in regard to the condition of the inhabitants and their educational needs, and by furnishing it to the government officers and to the people. In this effort Prof. W. H. Dall, of the United States Coast Survey, and Rev. G. H. Atkinson, D. D., of Oregon, were especially helpful.

The report of this office for 1870 had a notice of education in Alaska, and year after year these notices were continued as data warranted.

In 1876 the Commissioner of Education, as representative of the Department of the Interior, expended a portion of the funds at his control to secure a representation of native life in Alaska for the Centennial Exposition at Philadelphia.

In February, 1882, a special report from this office on education in Alaska, recommending an appropriation of \$50,000 for schools, was made to the Secretary of the Interior, and by him forwarded to Congress through the President.

In 1877 Rev. Sheldon Jackson, D. D., superintendent of Presbyterian missions for the Rocky Mountain Territories, having had his attention called to Alaska, visited the southeastern portion, and established the first American school in that section on the 10th of August, 1877, with Mrs. A. R. McFarland as teacher. Later, he established schools at Sitka, Haines (Chilkats), Boyd (Hoonyahs), and Jackson (Hydahs). Returning to the States, Dr. Jackson commenced an agitation to arouse the dormant public sentiment of the country in behalf of a government and schools for Alaska. He held public meetings in many of the leading cities and many of the prominent towns from the Pacific to the Atlantic, delivering from 1878 to 1884 about nine hundred addresses on Alaska. He went before committees of the Forty-Sixth, Forty-Seventh, and Forty-Eighth Congresses, and with unflinching zeal sought to enlist the interest of Congressmen. He secured the hearty co-operation of the missionary societies of the Baptist, Methodist, Congregational, Episcopal, Moravian, and Presbyterian Churches.

In 1880 he published a book on Alaska, and on March 23, 1882, delivered an address before the Department of Superintendence of the National Educational Association, which was printed by this Bureau in Circular of Information No. 2, 1882. Of this circular three editions have been called for, making an aggregate of 60,000 copies. During the summer of 1883, he visited the twenty-second annual meeting of the National Educational Association of the United States, the second National Educational Assembly, and the State teachers' associations of Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Connecticut, each of which passed strong resolutions asking Congress to provide a school system for Alaska.

Through these meetings the teachers became interested, and thousands of petitions from teachers scattered from Maine to Texas and from Florida to Oregon, were sent to Congressmen, asking for schools for Alaska. So persistent and continuous was the pressure invoked by Dr. Jackson from so many, varied, and widely separated forces, that when the bill was reached Congress passed it with great unanimity.

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*Statement of Hon. JOSEPH N. DOLPH, in an address made in the U. S. Senate, February 25th, 1886.*

"\* \* \* During the recess of Congress last year I visited Alaska, partly for purposes of pleasure and recreation and partly for the purpose of ascertaining the resources of the Territory and the adaptation of the new government that was provided by the last Congress for it to meet the needs of its people. While there I visited two of the industrial schools of the Territory, one located at Sitka and the other located at Wrangel. While I was prepared to some extent by my information in regard to the work of education in industrial Indian schools for what I saw, I was agreeably surprised and much gratified with the character of the educational work

being done in Alaska; and I was greatly impressed with the necessity of educating the native youth of that Territory, and also with the obstacles in the way of establishing anything like a uniform system of education in the Territory. \* \* \*

And again, in an address before the U. S. Senate, March 4th, 1886:

"\* \* \* I do not agree with the Senators who have said that the money appropriated for education in Alaska has been either misapplied or has not produced good results. I undertake to say that there never has been money appropriated by the Federal Government or by a State for the education of whites or Indians in any part of the United States that has produced better results than the expenditure of the money appropriated by Congress for education in Alaska. \* \* \*"

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## EDITORIALS FROM NEWSPAPERS.

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**THE NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL OF EDUCATION**, Boston, Mass., May 21st, 1885, says:

"Long neglected Alaska has at last obtained recognition in respect to education, in the appointment of Dr. Sheldon Jackson as United States General Agent of Education in that Territory. The needs of such an agent are very pressing, the opportunities for his services are opening on all hands, and the selection of Dr. Jackson, so long identified with the best interests of the people in the far Northwest, is the wisest possible. The Journal rejoices in the approach of a better day for the people of Alaska, through the elevating influence of the school, the church, and the Christian home."

**THE NEW YORK OBSERVER**, New York, May 21, 1885, says:

"The Rev. Sheldon Jackson, D. D., who has rendered such efficient service in promoting the work of Home Missions in the States and Territories of the West, and on the Pacific Coast, as the agent of the Presbyterian Board, has been appointed 'United States General Agent of Education in Alaska.' We do not know where a better man for such a service could be found."

**THE STANDARD**, Portland, Oregon, the leading Democratic newspaper of the Northwest, September 11, 1885, says:

"Whatever may be the qualifications of Judge Dawne for his new position in Alaska, we are assured that he cannot be worse than the judge he is to succeed, who knows neither law, medicine, nor divinity. The same remark will also apply to the other officials of that Territory. A little incident occurred just as the Ancon was leaving Sitka on her last return voyage, which suggests the need of the extension of the reform policy of this administration to that region. Rev. Sheldon Jackson, a missionary of the Presbyterian Church, was indicted some time ago by the grand jury for blocking up a road leading out from Sitka. Congress gave a section of land to the church society that would establish a mission there, and Mr. Jackson selected for his mission a section across which there had been a road, and turned the road out to the section line, which was really a better location, even if there had been much use for the road. As he is obnoxious to the powers that be he was indicted for this trivial and apparently insufficient cause. He had made arrangements to go east and report at Washington and at the office of the mission board in New York the bad state of affairs in Alaska. He had his trunks on the boat, his ticket bought, and for an hour or more Attorney-General Haskett was with Mr. Jackson and other passengers on board with the writ in his pocket. Just as the gang-plank was to be taken up this officer drew the writ out of his pocket and arrested Mr. Jackson, and took him ashore. His baggage was put off, and the boat started on its ill-fated voyage to this land of more liberty and law than has been permitted to exist in Alaska. Another matter has been brought to our attention by passengers just returned from Alaska, which needs the attention of the new government. The law of Congress makes it a penal offense to carry spirituous liquors into Alaska, except for medicinal purposes. But at Juneau, we are informed that there are seventeen places where liquor is sold as openly as it is in this city. One firm has the monopoly of smuggling whiskey into the country, where it is sold for \$10 a gallon. It is said to be a very poor quality, but very efficacious in retarding the progress of civilization and good government. It is hoped that Mr. Jackson will have procured satisfactory

bonds to appear in answer to his indictment in the great road case, so that he can come down on the Idaho, and give the people of the United States the benefit of the knowledge he has acquired in Alaska. Without knowing the particulars of the difficulties he has encountered in attempting to establish a mission there, we are assured by a gentleman who was in Alaska in 1876, and has just been there again, that there has been a very great improvement in the habits of the Indians, and that it is more difficult for miners and other adventurers to make use of the natives for improper purposes."

**THE OREGONIAN**, Portland, Oregon, the leading Republican newspaper of the Northwest, October 27, 1885, says :

"Last May it was reported from Alaska that Rev. Sheldon Jackson, United States General Agent of Education in Alaska, had been indicted by a grand jury for misdemeanors in connection with his work in the industrial school for the Indians there. It turns out, as might have been supposed, *that the whole proceeding was purely malicious*. There are white men in Alaska who do not want any work done among the natives for their instruction or elevation. Especially they do not want the Indian girls instructed in morality and chastity, and for this reason they are very hostile to Dr. Jackson's work. When Judge Dawne arrived in Alaska he caused Dr. Jackson to appear before his court to answer to the indictments; but upon hearing them the court ordered the proceedings dismissed, since they were sustained neither by facts nor law. Dr. Jackson will go on with his work."

**THE PRESBYTERIAN BANNER**, a religious newspaper at Pittsburg, Pa., with an extensive circulation, under date of October 7th, 1885, says :

"The associated press has been every now and then circulating reports concerning the missionaries of our church at Sitka, in Alaska, which have the effect of leading some to believe that they have at least come into unnecessary conflict with the civil authority, especially since the General Agent of Education in Alaska, Rev. Sheldon Jackson, D. D., was actually thrown into prison. The missionaries and teachers have published a lengthy statement, which presents the United States officials in a very bad light, and shows that Judge McAllister and District Attorney Haskett were entirely unfit for their positions and a disgrace to the United States Government. Happily these officers have been displaced by President Cleveland, and it is hoped that their successors are men of a different character."

**THE INTERIOR**, Chicago, Ill., an influential and widely-circulated religious newspaper, (October 15th, 1885,) says :

"Our readers saw in last week's paper the account of the arrest of Dr. Sheldon Jackson at Sitka by the United States authorities. Since this account was printed we have conversed with a gentleman who had visited our missions in Alaska and who was standing by the side of Dr. Jackson on the steamer at the time of his arrest. From him we have more particular account of the state of things in Alaska, and of which the imprisonment of Dr. Jackson was the culmination. *Some of the officers of the Government, including the District Attorney, were on the steamer going to Alaska with our informant, who is an elder in one of our churches. Every effort was made by them to prejudice the minds of the passengers against the mission work being done by our church.* A most bitter feeling was constantly manifested, and our friend was assured that he would have no opportunity to investigate the mission work, as such investigation would be avoided by the preachers and teachers. He was told that he would get no invitation from any missionary to visit the mission premises. Their work would not bear examination and it would not be desired. What was our friend's surprise, therefore, to be greeted first on leaving the steamer at 11 o'clock at night, by one of the missionaries with a most cordial invitation to him and all the other passengers to come to the schools and see what was being done. Of course he availed himself of this invitation, and found things in condition exactly the opposite of what had been described by the Government officials. The school had about sixty cleanly-looking, industrious and happy scholars. The teachers had every encouragement which the progress of the work could give, and every discouragement which the active hostility of the civil authorities could supply. The secret of this hostility on the part of officers, traders and miners is in the fact that the schools were lifting the people out of the power of evil-minded men. The arrest of Dr. Jackson was an outrage of the grossest sort. The improvements he had made were on Government land reserved for the schools, and the highway said to have been obstructed was

no highway at all. On the morning of the day of his intended departure on his work of opening schools in southern Alaska, he appeared before the court, notified them of his purpose, asking whether anything more was wanted of him, in the matter of his bonds or for any other purpose. He was told nothing more was required. The officer then waited till the boat was on the point of sailing, when he was arrested, hurried across the gangway plank, and put into prison until he should increase the amount of his bond. A feeling of indignation prevailed on the steamer in view of an outrage so gross and violent. It was without a shadow of justification, and the evident outcropping of a groundless malice. The Christian public will derive some satisfaction from the fact that the President has made a clean sweep of the Alaskan government from the Governor down. It is to be hoped the new officers will bring some credit to their country by so helping the labors of missionaries and teachers as somewhat to atone for the disgrace of the past month."

**THE CHRISTIAN AT WORK**, published at New York city, in its edition of October 15th, 1885, says concerning the troubles in Alaska :

"Dr. Jackson has for years enjoyed the highest reputation as a devoted, earnest missionary, one possessing rare tact, good abilities, and not wanting the very desirable quality of prudence. His reputation for perfect trustworthiness has always stood high, and we, and the Christian public as well, will continue to receive his statements with perfect confidence until they shall be proved unworthy of credence. \* \* \* We appreciate the difficulties in the way of securing good government for every State and Territory in the Union. And we can understand how in a province five thousand miles away from our National seat of government, isolated from the rest of the country, abuses and outrages may exist wholly unknown to the proper authorities. We blame for this no administration—not the last, by whom the official appointments were made, and assuredly not President Cleveland's administration, which has made such a splendid record in the direction of giving us an efficient, pure government, and which has recalled both of these appointments. No ; we only hold up to public scorn and condemnation those Alaska officials who have dishonored their trusts, who by their action or inaction or both have become the abettors of vice, and the promoters of crime, and the agents of persecution. We have only to add that this matter will be brought to the attention of the President in the hope and thorough confidence that his administration will take the necessary steps in the matter. Secretary Lamar is too well known as a gentleman of the highest character and an officer of courage and promptitude to have it doubted for one moment that he will do all in his power to redress wrong, and to depose from office men who abuse their trusts, and who themselves violate the very laws which it is made their sacred duty to enforce and obey. It should be stated here that both District Attorney Haskett and Judge McAllister have been removed from office. It is certainly most unfortunate that the new appointment—Judge Dawne—was an unworthy one, secured through misrepresentation. It is now said Judge Dawne will not be confirmed by the Senate, and that Judge McAllister will be restored to his old position. If what Dr. Jackson says is true, as we must believe it to be, it is to be hoped that no political influence will be successful in placing Judge McAllister again on the Alaskan bench. We have an idea these Alaskan outrages will be settled, and that speedily and effectively, and in the right direction."

**THE CHRISTIAN OBSERVER**, of Louisville, Ky., says :

"Dr. Sheldon Jackson has been handsomely vindicated. He is foremost among Presbyterian missionaries in Alaska, and has been also United States Agent of Education in that Territory. Some time ago enemies of the work secured an indictment against him for planting some fence-posts of one of the school houses in a public road, and took care to serve the warrant on him just as the monthly steamer on which he was to sail for other places was in the act of starting, thus greatly delaying the work. Judge McAllister and Attorney Haskett were soon after recalled. When Judge Dawne arrived in Alaska he caused Dr. Jackson to appear before his court to answer to the indictments ; but upon hearing them, the court ordered the proceedings dismissed, since they were sustained neither by facts nor law. Dr. Jackson will go on with his work. The *Daily Oregonian* says : 'There are white men in Alaska who do not want any work done among the natives for their instruction, or any work done among the natives for elevation. Especially they do not want the Indian girls instructed in morality and chastity, and for this reason they are very hostile toward Dr. Jackson's work.' "

THE ILLUSTRATED CHRISTIAN WEEKLY, of New York City, with a wide circulation in the United States and other English-speaking lands, under date of November 21st, 1885, says:

“ \* \* \* That there is reason for a change in the administration of affairs has been recently made unmistakable in the scandalous treatment by Government officials of Dr. Sheldon Jackson, the United States General Agent of Education in Alaska. He has been very active in establishing schools for the instruction of the children and the promotion of habits of industry and morality. This has made him the object of the malicious hatred of white men, who for gain and lust pandered to the vices of the natives. Unfortunately, representatives of the Government were of this class, and basely used their official position to injure him and obstruct the school work. As he was leaving Sitka on the monthly steamer in August to make arrangements for opening several Government schools in September, he was rudely arrested on a frivolous charge on a warrant issued by the Judge and District Attorney, who had shown great hostility to the educational and mission work. The arrest was so timed that the steamer left without him, and he was subjected to indignities that were unsparingly condemned by all respectable citizens there. President Cleveland promptly removed these disreputable politicians from office on learning the facts. We regret to know that strenuous efforts are being made by influential family and political friends in this city to have the judge restored to his position, although intellectually and morally so unfit for it. His return, it is believed, would lead to vindictive measures against the schools and the churches, and to the encouragement of saloons and brothels. We hope the firmness of the President may spare the Government such a disgrace to humanity, decency and justice.”

THE PRESBYTERIAN HOME MISSIONARY, (the organ of the Board of Home Missions of the Presbyterian Church of the United States of America, with a circulation of 25,000,) November, 1885, says :

“The treatment of Dr. Jackson, as depicted on another page, it is difficult to characterize in any fit terms. We have just seen a clergyman from eastern New York, who was also a passenger on the steamer, who saw the whole transaction, and points out other damaging features of the case that are not mentioned elsewhere. He says scarce a single member of the large number of passengers offered a defence or even an apology for the conduct of the officials. The opposition to the successful prosecution of the school, especially since the Government began to assist its direction, has never been fully told. Perhaps the climax has been reached, and order, under new officials in part, may be speedily restored.”

*Statement of Rev. T. C. BEATTIE, of Chester, N. Y., published in Presbyterian Home Missionary, January, 1886. Mr. BEATTIE visited Alaska in 1885.*

“A summer trip cannot give one more than a glance at Alaska, the ‘great land,’ but that glance shows one many things which will never be forgotten. There will be much which the traveller will not see on account of the extent of the country, but this will not prevent the impression being true of those things seen. I wish to compress into a few words the impressions made upon me by the trip of last August, speaking especially of those among whom the mission work is being done, the Indians. \* \* \*

“We cannot expect to see as much in eight years as in the twenty-four at Metlakatlah. In order to be brief we shall speak of the principal mission station, Sitka. The characteristics of the work there are much like those elsewhere. To know what has been done, go with me down by the shore of that beautiful island-dotted bay. There is seen what may by courtesy be called a home. They are not all such in Sitka, but there are many. You stoop almost double to enter the low door. There may be no window. A fire is in the midst of the hut. The smoke finds exit through a hole in the roof. Smoked fish hang from the rafters, hang everywhere. Be careful, or they will put out your eyes as you run against them. You cannot stand upright on account of them. Huddled about the fire there are people of a color between the mulatto and the red man. They may have a greasy blanket about their dirty person, or may be scantily clad in clothes like our own. Their faces are made hideous by a mixture of oil and soot. In confusion upon the floor is a mass of uncleaned cooking utensils, dried fish, uncured fox and bear skins, hunting and fishing outfits, wornout baskets, snarling dogs and filthy children.

"The sight almost sickens you. The Indians eating their fish dipped in rancid oil, or the nameless mixture boiling over the fire, render you completely so. You never looked upon a more homeless sight, nor upon those who had a more stolid look. It will be impossible, you say, in generations to uproot these tendencies. Go with me beyond the town to two plain-looking buildings, lying almost in the shadow of snow-capped mountains. Enter a plain looking room with unplanned supports for the ceiling. See about fifty boys and girls gathered together. Hear them give beautiful answers to the questions asked as to what they are, and shall be. See the bright and intelligent faces. They are those who lived in the dark, smoky, unclean hut. The soot upon the faces has been washed off, and the unclean garments have given place to those neat and clean, and the old look has passed away. They are indeed 'new creatures.' You hear at the prayer-meeting the Indian women (you do not think of calling them squaws now) offer prayer, and your heart is touched, and you welcome them with a warm clasp of the hand to the realm of womanhood.

"If you wish to see what missions do and have done, go to Sitka, and contrast the old life upon the shore and the new under the mountains, and you will be convinced that our land must have mission work for its present saving. Much has been done by our cultivated missionaries, of whom the church can be proud, for in them the Indian can see the best type of Christian ladies and gentlemen. *But more would have been done except for the opposition of our government officials, who did all in their power to prevent the good work going on. I myself saw the culminating outrage.* but it has been mentioned already in your columns; and so enough. The prayer of the church should be that the seed sown by these earnest workers may bear fruit in the establishment of many Christian Alaskan homes."

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