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OF

HOME MISSIONS

IN CONNECTION WITH THE ONE HUNDRED
AND FOURTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN
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NORTHERN ALASKA'S NEED

BY THE

REV. S. HALL YOUNG, D. D.

GENERAL MISSIONARY TO ALASKA.

I AM not after money, I am after you. I am after some men for Alaska—here and now; and that is the kind of men we want (pointing to Dr. Koonce). A walk of 1200 miles across mountains and rivers with the thermometer 62 degrees below zero is a very little thing for Dr. Koonce. He does not mind it. It gives him an appetite.

I asked for a man last year at the General Assembly. Mr. John H. Converse, of Philadelphia, put into the hands of the Board the support of a man for Teller. We have not found that man yet. Many times we thought we had found him, and only last year a young man, admirably adapted for that work as it seemed to us and recommended by many, found, on consulting with his mother, that he could not go.

Teller is a new mining camp on Behring Sea, in the midst of a mining region, and has six camps near it. When we failed to get that man last summer we put that church in charge of a good Presbyterian elder

from Iowa and he is holding the fort. Will you go? Will you go? You may be afraid of the hardships. Well, Dr. Jackson, Dr. Koonce, and I have travelled somewhat extensively over Alaska the last few years, and speaking for them as well as for myself, I have to say we have yet to find the hardships. They don't exist for us. A man must go within a few weeks if he would be in time before the rivers close.

Last Sunday, at the First Presbyterian Church, after my address, three ladies came with \$300 to put into that work for a man in the interior, in the land where Dr. Koonce and Mr. Kirk are laboring. A classmate of our Moderator and of Dr. Duffield, and one of the brightest men of that very bright class of 1877 at Princeton, an old college friend of mine, offered himself for the work. The only thing that makes me hesitate in nominating him with all my heart for the position is that I love him too well. I hesitate about killing him, and yet it is a glorious thing to die in Alaska, and it might be the life of him and the health of him as it has been to some others. This morning our honored Moderator, Henry van Dyke, put into my hands this check for \$500, as he said, "as a token of love, to be used in the work of Alaska." We will get the money if you will give the men. Will you do it? My brethren, comfortably situated in your pleasant pastorates, will you not hear the call? If you are adaptable men and able to build your own church with your own hand; able to live the life of the miner; able to "mush" over the territory, and, as some one has said, do everything that the miners

do except drink whiskey and play poker, and do all the necessary things better than the miner does, and preach the gospel free from the lust of gold, you are the men we want. I ask this Assembly to give us two or three men so that I can come in the name of our Board of Home Missions and ask for the rest of the money—and get it, too.