

# ACADEMIC DEPARTMENT

UNDER SUPERVISION OF MISS M. V. GAITHER, *Principal*

If I can let into some soul a little light,  
If I some pathway dark and drear can render bright,  
If I to one in gloom can show the sunny side,  
Though no reward I win, I shall be satisfied.

—SELECTED.

## SOME OTHER GIRLS



MY topic, "Some Other Girls," doubtless brings before your mind's eye a great variety of pictures. You see fur-clad Eskimo girls; quaint Japanese girls, and their nearby relatives, the Chinese girls; dusky skinned girls of India; brown girls of Australia and adjacent islands, and the still darker skinned girls of Africa. You see the peasant girls of Europe, the Spanish maiden in her picturesque costume, and you see your own smartly-clad, bright, progressive girls. But the picture that I wish to present to you is of my own race. I would still further restrict you to one little corner of Alaska where is my home.

Before the Copper River Railroad was built, the Indians and a few white people dwelt peaceably together on equal footing, sharing impartially the fishing, the hunting, and the trading. Then came the railroad and the town of Cordova was built where white people have stores and a hotel and own and control all the industries. The right-of-way of the railroad passed directly through the little Indian village, so the company built houses for the natives at another site about two and a-half miles from Cordova. Their old homes had been substantial structures. Their new houses are mere shacks, and small ones at that, carelessly constructed of cheap material by contract labor. The winds blow through the cracks, and in stormy weather the inhabitants suffer with cold.

Since the coming of the white man with innovations of civilization, the Indian men cannot make enough during the summer to support their families through the winter. Food and clothing are dearer in Alaska than in the States. Hunting is limited to a period of a few months, consequently the fare of the Indians is more frugal than formerly. The women and girls make baskets and beautiful moccasins for sale. Grass for making baskets is scarce and hard to get. Moccasins are made of seal skins and sold to Cordova merchants at \$1.00 a pair. The next day these same moccasins appear in the show case price