A Hudsons Bay Ball
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1183

Christmas in British Columbia

A. Hudsons Bay Ball –

Those who are lucky enough to be able to leave their forts & go to Headquarters for Xmas have lots of fun, amongst other things there is invariably a ball – A very different thing tho' to a civilized 'Ball'. All the voyageurs & laborers &c are invited together with their wives & daughters (all halfbreeds as there are no pure white women so far north.) The dancing consists entirely of jigs & reels & the music a violin & a drum – All the women sit on one side of the room & the men on the other – The man chooses his partner dances the jig or reel & then takes the "fair one" back to her side of the room – The women never utter a word & allways look as demure & serious as possible – (when alone tho' quite the reverse) The men on the other hand yell all the while they dance & give vent to the most fearful war hoops – The dresses are most amusing – The women with their beaded leggings & gorgeous silk hankerchiefs on their heads & the men in the flashiest of leggings & beautifully worked deerskin coats – They all wear moccasins –

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