

en route from southern lands, but only a very few have been shot. In consequence, more scurvy than I have seen before has prevailed among the people, from which we at the Mission have all suffered somewhat. We removed hither from the Caribou Island Station on the 18th September, and were soon followed by the different families who now make their winter quarters in this settlement. Five new houses were put up, and so the *census* of our little community reads at present thus; *families* 16; *population* 87. It will be remembered that this only includes the number of people living in the Mission settlement, and none of the other scattered families, who are able to meet with us occasionally. Before the rivers closed the men had time to get down, by raft and boat, a large amount of firewood for the Mission—a most important and satisfactory item to us as concerns both the willing disposition of the people, and the comfortable fact of having sufficient fuel in store.

Much the same line of effort, as a pointed out last year, has been followed this season, as far as our more limited strength and health has permitted. The day school has been in session from November, and is not yet closed. The number of pupils has been somewhat smaller than last year, owing to temporary circumstances and to the injunction served by the Romish priest upon the families of his flock, concerning their children's attendance. The failure in the "fall fishery," above referred to, upon which we depend to supply our lamps with oil, prevented us from holding the evening school. The only seal caught in the vicinity was kindly given us, and yielded sufficient blubber to light the chapel for the evening meetings.

The attendance upon religious services has continued satisfactory, and included more than before, persons out of the settlement, who, in favourable weather and travelling, can come in with koomatiks or on raquettes. We believe also that there is a growing interest in the regular hearing and study of the Word—a spirit of inquiry to know from it the truth as it is in Jesus,—and a gradual supplanting of former sources and means of entertainment by those decidedly instructive and religious. For instance, controverted doctrines (as those of Roman Catholicism) are made the frequent subject of conversation in the woodcutter's cabin and elsewhere; sacred hymns take the place of silly songs in the evening circles; and religious books and papers are perused where once the most foolish fiction was read and talked over. Every Sabbath afternoon, a Gospel tract or paper is distributed to each family, which we think, with the Spirit's added blessing, cannot fail to do good.

When the bays were frozen so as to make travelling practicable in the evening we commenced the prayer meeting, which always proves a precious season of communion with the Saviour, His Word, and each other. The *week of prayer* was remembered;—both in public meeting and private worship, we endeavoured to unite our petitions and praises with those which we knew to be ascending from every other part of the globe. On Friday evening also we have come together in the chapel to practice *singing*. The Melodeon led, and many voices, old and young, joined—"in speaking to ourselves in psalms, and hymns, and spiritual songs." This gave us a pleasant interview together and some preparation also for "singing to the Lord" on His day.

I cannot tell you that the same manifest blessing of the Holy Spirit has attended these various means as last winter. Still, we believe that God has blessed the teachings of His Word to the building up of some in the faith of Christ, and in bringing two or three others into a conscious dependence upon Him for pardon and peace. We were much strengthened at a recent prayer meeting, by a new testimony to the power and preciousness of the great salvation. It was given by a young man from England, who has lived on this coast for some time, and who has, it is hoped, lately found "the redemption that is in Christ Jesus." Such incidents, though rare, encourage us greatly. I might enumerate many sources of discouragement in the progress of our labours—perhaps they are needful to drive us to Christ, the only true source of strength and sympathy. While indifference and ingratitude on the part of those for whom your Mission has tried to do so much, often come in to depress and grieve us, they do not change our feelings or plans concerning the Mission.

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