

Our Labrador Mission.

Report from the Reverend I. N. KERR, Missionary in Charge, and Letter from Mrs.

C. E. BISHOP, wife of the Assistant Missionary.

Summer work, on this coast, pleasant at all times, has been rendered exceptionally so this year by the arrival of two more Missionaries, the Rev. C. E. Bishop and Mrs. Bishop, who has heroically accompanied her husband to work for the Church on this bleak shore. Mr. and Mrs. Bishop, having visited the additional strip of coast line now included in this Mission, extending from Sandrako to Esquimaux Point, arrived at Natashquan, formerly the Western limit of the Mission, on August 7th, where I, coming from the Eastern limit of the Mission, met them on the evening of the same day; thus the whole Mission, over four hundred miles in extent, had been covered between us by boat.

On August 9th, we set out for headquarters, a hundred and fifty miles distant, in our little mission boat "Evangelic," with our trusty pilot, Owen Caecalier, whom former Missionaries will doubtless still remember, at the helm. After a pleasant sail we reached Casco Bay, where we were destined to be detained by rain and headwinds for eight days. There are only three families in this harbour, with whom we had daily Services, brightened by music from Mrs. Bishop's violin. Their houses are small, but were placed entirely at our disposal, and we named them "the Church and Boarding houses," from the respective uses we made of them. The good people were all most hospitable and kind, and when we were leaving, they accompanied us to the beach with expressions of sincere thankfulness for our visit, and of the loneliness which they would feel at our departure. We set sail with a fair breeze, but before reaching Romaine or "Olamashebo," the nearest harbour with inhabitants, we were "becalmed," and consequently there was nothing else to be done but to "turn in" to our little bunks for the night; a new experience for Mr. and Mrs. Bishop, which doubtless they would have enjoyed, but for the mosquitoes which permitted none but old "Tars" to sleep that night. Next morning, therefore, we were all early-risers, and, after a "beat"

of twelve hours against the wind, reached Wolf Bay, where we have one family, whose nearest neighbours are nine miles distant. There we spent a day and two nights very pleasantly and I trust with profit to the souls of this isolated family. On the following day, with a fair wind, we soon covered forty miles, which brought us to Harrington Harbour, where there is a small settlement of twenty odd families. After spending a few weeks here, during which we had many interesting Services, three Marriages and one Baptism, we bid good bye to Mrs. Bobbitt, our kind hostess, and on September 3rd we reached the picturesque village of Mutton Bay, headquarters of the Mission.

Here we have built a new Church this summer; the interior of which being finished on our arrival, we decided to use it, while the outside was being completed. On the thirteenth Sunday after Trinity, therefore, we had our opening Service with Celebration of the Holy Communion. Only those, who for years have worshipped in small overcrowded houses, can know the pleasure we felt in once more having a suitable House of Prayer, in which to meet our Saviour: and it was with joyful hearts that many voices were raised to sing,

"We love the place, O God,
Wherein Thine honour dwells:
The joy of Thine abode,
All earthly joy excels."

The music, which was well rendered on our little organ by Mrs. Bishop, helped greatly to brighten our Services, so much so that one woman, who came from a town in Newfoundland, said, "It made me feel like being at home again."

During our stay here we had daily Matins and Evensong, at which there was a marked attendance of men as well as women; and before we left, three young couples embraced the opportunity of being married in the new Church. Among the number Miss Laura Robertson, daughter of Capt. Robertson, who for many years has been most helpful in the Choir. In token of our appreciation of her services in the past and in hope of their continuance in the future, she was presented with a photo of the Bishop of Quebec and all his Clergy.

On the 17th of September we once more embarked on the "Evangeline," and after a visit at Old Post and Tabatière we made the run thence to "Bonno Espérance,"