

inhabited spot in the Dominion from the seat of the government of Canada. It is the rendezvous for whaling ships in Behring Sea, and here many of them winter. Once again the missionary enterprise of the Church has turned to the profit of her own children; for this mission, planned for the salvation of the Esquimaux, will prove a perfect boon to the crews of the whalers. During this winter about twenty ships are to winter there, and to their crews it will be Mr. Whittaker's privilege to minister. Thus for these, His needy children, has God "prepared a table in the wilderness."

The Bishop wrote from the island on August 26th, sending his letters by the tender to the fleet by way of Behring Straits and San Francisco.

He gives two items of information, which will call forth the devout thanksgiving of all interested in missions. The first is that the whalers have subscribed \$500 toward the expenses of the mission—the first time on record of contributions for missions given on the Arctic Ocean. Even the most sanguine believer in God's promise to provide the silver and the gold for His work would scarcely expect to find it there. Truly God's mercies and providences are beyond our greatest expectations.

The second calls equally for profound gratitude; for the Bishop states that the whalers have signed a declaration that they will not distribute strong drink among the Christian Indians, or those Esquimaux among whom Mr. Stringer is laboring. Possibly all may not abide by their agreement, but it is a great encouragement, and it shows how great Mr. Stringer's influence has been among people usually so careless. Thus are the restraining influences of the Gospel reaching "unto earth's remotest bounds"; thus is the promise being kept. "All the ends of the world shall remember and turn unto the Lord, and all the kindreds of the nations shall worship before Him."

Further interesting information is sent by the Bishop. The visit was made partly in response to the invitation of the Esquimaux chief of those regions—another encouragement to this intrepid apostle of the north.

It will astonish our lady readers to hear that four or five ladies who are with the whaling ships will winter at this *ultima thule* of the Dominion. It gives, too, a significant lesson; for if women can go there, braving the long, dreary winter with their husbands, and engaged merely in worldly enterprise, it ought not to be impossible for women to venture even thus far in the noblest and highest of all enterprises.

The Bishop reports that the whalers had very poor success during the past season. Some ships did not get a single whale, and none got more than three, owing to the prevalence of N.W. winds, which drove in vast quantities of ice, making navigation difficult.

Whales have from the same cause been both wild and scarce.

May we not truly say that if the mission on Herschel Island accomplishes nothing more than to afford the ministration of the Gospel to these brave, hardy toilers of the deep—amid all their peril and hardship, pointing them heavenward to Him who holds the waters in the hollow of His hand—that mission will have amply justified itself, and will deserve the prayers and the gifts of all Christian people. Will not our readers help?

Of his work further south the Bishop sends most encouraging accounts. At Peel River he found the work of Archdeacon McDonald going on well. Even in those remote regions "la grippe" had prevailed, and the archdeacon was suffering from it, but Mrs. McDonald and their four children were well. Most of the Indians of the district were round the mission. Of the services he writes: "It was a most inspiring sight to see the Indians flock to church every time the bell rang for service, and to observe their devout demeanor and the heartiness of their singing. But probably most people would have been more interested in the Esquimaux service, which was more informal, if not less hearty. They cannot read yet, but they repeated a few short prayers, and Mr. Stringer has taught them some hymns, which they sang with evident pleasure. I addressed them, through an interpreter, and they made audible assent to several of my remarks. I wish I could have taken a photograph of them as they sat there in church. It would have made a striking picture, and one which would have interested all readers and lovers of missionary work."

The archdeacon, with his family, will probably visit Winnipeg next year. The Bishop also hopes to be there to attend the provincial and general synods.

At Fort Norman, during the summer, the Bishop confirmed twelve persons presented by the Rev. J. Hawksley, who has since gone to England on furlough. Eleven of these afterwards received the Holy Communion. During his visit he had daily evening prayers with the Indians, generally followed by an address, which was listened to with marked attention.

Mr. Stringer, who has been granted a well-earned vacation, is now probably in Ontario, and will (D.V.) return to his work next summer.

The recorded work of these devoted missionaries of Mackenzie River reads, indeed, like a new chapter in the Acts of the Apostles. Let the Christians of more favored regions remember their brothers and sisters under the "northern crown" before the Throne of grace. The Bishop's commissary, the Very Rev. the Dean of Rupert's Land, Winnipeg, will be glad to receive offerings for Mackenzie River missions.

B.