

health has been very good this past winter, I think it needs one of a stronger constitution than mine to go about among the people, and to bear, for any number of years together, the severe climate.

S. R. B.

Rev. Mr. Butler was aided in 1865 by two devoted young ladies, presenting us with a fine specimen of woman's work for Christ. For several years Miss Macfarlane has wrought with a glowing zeal for the salvation of the children whom she taught and loved so well. Let us hear a letter written by her in 1865, and judge if her zeal remained as warm, and wise, and practical as ever:—

MISSION HOUSE, May 12th, 1865. }
Esquimaux River, Labrador. }

Now that the winter is gone and the ice fast breaking up, the time is near at hand when we can again have communication with the outer world, and knowing that you will doubtless expect to hear directly from myself in regard to this my first winter in Labrador, I will now attempt to give you a brief account of my life and labours here, during this season now closing upon me.

WINTER'S WORK.

We left Cariboo Island on the 6th of October, and after four cold hours on the water, arrived safely at our winter home "in the river." At that time but few families were in the settlement, so I could not at once enter upon my much longed-for labour with the children in the school-room, but occupied my time in visiting the families then within our reach and in preparing for the school, until the 24th of October, when with a hopeful and trusting heart, I was permitted to meet my children and organize the school. The commencement number was quite small, only twenty-three, but at the end of two weeks my roll contained nearly fifty names.—Most of the scholars were quite young, though occasionally some of the older ones have attended, even to some of the hunters in early winter, when stormy or "falling weather, as they would say, hindered their outdoor occupations.

CHRISTMAS.

From the day of commencement I was enabled to continue without interruption until the Christmas holidays, when I gave them a week's vacation, at which time we had a "Band of Hope" gathering and received seven new members; also a Christmas tree, well laden with appropriate and needful fruit, with which all, old and young, were greatly pleased, as it was the

first they had ever seen. Some weeks before I was telling one of my boys that we were going to have a Christmas tree for the school, and I asked him if he had ever seen one; he replied, his large eyes growing larger than ever, "No ma'am, I never see'd any, they don't grow here." Poor boy, true enough.

After this first vacation we continued on till towards the 1st of February, when the short illness of one of our number rendered it necessary to dismiss them for three days.

And again towards the last of March, which seemed to be a general shoe "topping" season, I gave them two days more. Then on the fourth of the present month, as more than one-half of the scholars had gone to their summer homes, and the breaking ice rendered it difficult for others to attend, so that no more than seven or eight would be able to continue, we thought it best to dismiss them for the season. I did so with much painful reluctance, for though I had often been very, *very weary* with my work I was *by no means weary* of it, but rather loved it more and more as I continued, and was permitted to see the growing fruit of my labours, and the upspringing of the precious seed of truth which had been carefully and faithfully sown in these young hearts by her who had gone before me. O how gladly, had it been possible, would I have *taken hold* of these months as they glided so swiftly by, and *held them firmly* in their place that I might have kept these dear children with me yet longer! But the months are gone and they are scattered, and now I can only commit them, in prayer, to Jesus—trusting that He will carry on and perfect that good work which I believe He has begun in many of their hearts.

REVIEW.

As I commenced, though I found much good soil which had been carefully prepared and faithfully strewn with seeds of instruction, as I expected, I found much fallow and unbroken ground, demanding much wise and patient labour. Most of the children I found teachable and obedient; though some needed a firm hand and a few could be conquered only with the rod. The most obstinate of these latter, however, soon became one of my best boys, and has since written me many *slate* letters, expressive of sorrow for his disobedience, and gratitude for my kindness to him.

LOVE OF SCHOOL.

The opening hour was nine in the morning, but the children usually gathered at *eight*, and sometimes earlier, especially as the days lengthened, when they would nearly all be present at *seven* or half-past, one little girl, of thirteen years, with her