

## REPORT.

Owing to the displacement of this Society from its position in the series of Anniversaries, this Annual Meeting, which otherwise, would have been held in January; at the time of the meetings of the kindred Societies, is now held in May, at such time as we hoped to be able to secure the desired presence with us of our returned Missionary, Mr. Carpenter. In this, however, we are still disappointed, for though he has been here, he was in too feeble health to take part in the meeting, and has returned home.

This Report will relate almost exclusively to the Labrador Mission, for the reason that it is the only mission which the Society now sustains, the members of which during the past season have been: Rev. Mr. Carpenter and Mrs. Carpenter, and Rev. S. R. Butler from Massachusetts, Miss Brodie from Canada, and Miss Macfarlane from Maine.

As usual, we present the work and progress of the Mission by publication of letters from the Missionaries.

ESQUIMAUX RIVER,

LABRADOR, May 11th, 1864.

To the Secretary C. F. M. S.

Exactly eight months ago to-day you dated your last letter, and forwarded your last package to us. Not a word or an echo has since reached us from the outside world, and I suppose a part or whole of another month will elapse before the ice-gates open to let in this year's tidings of joy or sorrow from home lands and home friends. But we have had nevertheless our own little world of experience and effort, which, though it does not include at the very utmost bound of communication, more than two hundred miles of coast, nor contain over a thousand souls, supplies enough of interest and of employment to absorb all our time and energy. And now, as the river before our door is slowly breaking up, and the spy-glass from our highest *raskapi* reveals open water in the Straits, we are beginning to think of summer, of Caribou, of vessels and of letters. We feel thankful to God that He has graciously spared our lives to see once more the ice melt, and the sea birds fly. The winter has been shorter and less severe than the preceding one. During the first three months, the weather was almost uninterruptedly cold and clear, the temperature scarcely once rising above the freezing point, but, being without any great storms, was quite tolerable. March brought a milder term, since which time the weather has been uniformly pleasant and the koomatik travelling excellent. The winter has been a hard one for the poor—and, with a very few exceptions, all are poor. The seal fishery of December was a failure, and very little fur has been trapped. Game has been unusually scarce, so that some of the wandering *Mountaineers* of the interior have been compelled to come out to the coast for food. A half-dozen deer, and two hundred rabbits and partridges will cover all the fresh provision secured during the whole winter in our settlement. Just now the ducks are passing us