

blinding drift they missed their camping place, travelled far out to sea, and unable to find land, had to sleep on the ice. He says, "There on the bare ice, far from shore, the wind blowing a gale with the temperature at 45 below zero, we made what shelter we could with our sled and a big cotton sheet, spread our bedding on the ice, and crept in, pulling the dogs across our feet, for their safety and ours. It was a question in my mind when we lay down, whether we should ever get up. We had run about 50 miles and were very tired, and I really suffered more from cramp than cold, but happily, slept fairly well." The next morning, after five hours, hard travelling, they reached their destination in safety, with no greater mishap than a few frost bites, and lameness in the knees, and were hospitably entertained by the captain of the ship. They had travelled 70 miles on foot in 33 hours, had drunk nothing during that time, and had eaten but once! What a narrow escape they had may be gathered from the following: Proceeding from ship to ship along the shore and staying a while at each they at length reached the Island. On March 6th a most terrific gale came on suddenly, in the midst of a warm, beautiful day, and caught a great many men away from the ships, some hunting, others visiting ships at a distance. The result was that four seamen and two natives were frozen to death, all within a mile, and some within 200 yds. of the ships! The bodies were recovered the next day, and buried the day following.

He stayed three weeks at the Island, holding frequent services for the natives, and weekly ones for the whalers, and was "able to teach the people many things which they heard gladly, but may heed little." He reached home in the best of health after three months' life under the above circumstances.

A few weeks later Mr. Stringer, accompanied by Mr. Young, retraced Mr. Whittaker's steps, and visited first the western, then the eastern Eskimo. Of the former he writes: "There is a growing eagerness to learn manifested by the western natives. Altogether the visit was quite encouraging, at least the word was preached and listened to, and the work was more of a personal nature than heretofore." There were many natives at the Island, as usual, with whom he held daily prayers. Amongst the eastern tribe, however, matters at first were not so satisfactory. Evil reports, as he at length discovered, spread by some of the ship's people to serve their own ends, had produced a decided coolness, which, however, gradually wore off, and many pleasant days were spent with them as they journeyed together up the river towards the fort. "The sons of old Ooblouk whom I have often mentioned before were among the number and were

always most attentive. They nearly always have evening prayers, and ask a blessing before eating." Owing to the lateness of the season, home was not reached until the 23rd June, causing Mrs. Stringer no little anxiety.

The *unpleasant episode* referred to occurred the previous summer when Mr. and Mrs. Stringer, and Mr. Whittaker were at the eastern village. It was caused by a bottle of whiskey, of which the chief had partaken too freely. Taking offence at a little inadvertence he flew into a rage, ordered the whole party to leave and never return, and was with difficulty restrained from violence! Fortunately some of the men took a right view of the situation, seized and carried him off bodily, and in a short time the excitement calmed down, and he returned and made it up by shaking hands all round. In how great a peril their lives were He only knows who kept them from it.

I am thankful to learn that the liquor traffic amongst the Eskimo has very greatly abated, but sorry that its twin vice is as rampant as ever, "white children being the rule rather than the exception," at the Island.

The discovery of gold on the upper Yukon has brought a number of gold seekers into this district who are endeavoring to make their way thither, and who have been frozen in at different points on the route. Hundreds, perhaps thousands more will be coming through after navigation opens; and there seems every probability that many will settle along the river, and search for the precious metal on this side the mountains; and perhaps start other industries.

In view of this there seems an urgent call for more missionaries. There ought to be one at every post to look after the spiritual welfare of the incomers, and also for the protection of the natives.

If this commends itself to anyone I shall be glad to receive funds for the support of three or four more men. Prompt action ought to be taken, and the ground occupied as soon as possible.

Contributions for this purpose will be gladly received and acknowledged by:—

H. G. Malaher, Esq., 20 Compton Terrace, Islington, London, England.

G. Grisdale, Esq., Synod Office, Winnipeg, Canada.

G. C. Thomas, Esq., Church Missions House, New York, U. S. A., or may be paid into the Mackenzie River Diocesan Account, Imperial Bank, Winnipeg.

Commending the whole work, and all the workers to your earnest prayers.

I am, with very kind remembrance, very faithfully and sincerely yours,

W. D. REEVE, D.D.

*Bishop of Mackenzie River*