

It may here be observed, that, up to this date, embracing a period of more than sixty years, the ship had always proceeded to Labrador by way of Stromness, though, in returning home, she had generally taken her passage through the Channel. The reasons for the northward course having been so long preferred, were various. In the first place, as the latitude of the Orkneys very nearly corresponds with that of northern Labrador, the portion of the Atlantic to be traversed was somewhat smaller by this than by the southern passage, especially in the alternate years, when Okak had to be first visited. Again, the danger from hostile cruizers was less imminent by taking this course, a convoy being ordinarily provided for the Hudson's Bay and Davis' Straits ships. This was a consideration of some importance in time of war, and led to its being generally preferred, also on the passage home, up to the year 1815; and lastly, it has so happened, that nearly all the successive commanders of the vessel have been natives of the Orkney Islands, and the greater number of the crew likewise. It was natural, therefore, that they should prefer a course which brought them, at least twice a year, into personal contact with such of their relatives and friends, as were still residing in those islands, not to mention that the annual visit of the ship tended to excite and keep alive a very warm interest in the Labrador Mission, in the minds of not a few of the Christian people of Stromness and neighbouring islands, and to call forth their active and sympathising benevolence.*

On the establishment of a fourth Missionary settlement on the coast of Labrador, an alteration took place in the Society's practice in this particular. It being found necessary to send the ship to Hopedale first, as the most southern, and consequently, under ordinary circumstances, the most accessible of the four stations, the Channel passage was for some time preferred in going out as well as in returning. The voyage of the *Harmony* in 1832, was the first in which this course was taken.

According to the testimony of the captain, the weather, that year, was more severe, and the hardships experienced by himself and his crew greater, than he had ever before known, in the twenty-eight voyages he had made in the service of the Society.†

The year following, the ship was exposed to imminent danger, from a violent storm which she encountered while lying off Hebron. For some hours, the captain, who with two boys happened to be the only persons on board, the remaining hands being variously occupied on shore, expected almost every moment, that the ship would part

* Among the departed friends of the Society in the Orkneys, two deserve to be especially remembered. The one, the Rev. Mr. Clouston, the parish minister of Stromness, a truly faithful servant of Christ, whose affection for his Moravian Brethren, and interest in the Mission in Labrador, continued unimpaired till his decease. The other, Mr. David Ramsay, of Kirvall, a tradesman of moderate means, but of a large heart and liberal mind, whose attachment to his own particular community, that of the Congregationalists, was far outweighed by the unfeigned love which he bore to all Christ's disciples of whatever name.

† Per. Accts. Vol. xii. p. 454.