

## THE ESKIMO MISSION OF THE MACKENZIE

self, a most unusual proceeding, and will await his return, perhaps two years hence.

On July 18th, Mr. Fry, with some of these people, were despatched via Herschel Island, in the Mission schooner which had just then been dedicated by the Bishop, and named "Tiliyak," which is the Eskimo word for "Messenger."

The other members of the party, with a son of one of them, go by their own boats, there being five boats in all. A late letter from Mr. Fry, dated August 1st, from Herschel Island, advises that he was then ready to start eastward with the first fair wind. Thus is launched in trembling, yet in confidence, the forward movement of the farthest north, fearful because the dangers are known, and the difficulties almost insurmountable ; an open coast, an unchartered shore, a heavy boat dependent upon fair winds, an unknown and barbarous people, no houses, scarcity of building materials, and a long cold winter with the dangers of ice. Confident because of the assurance that God is with us, that now or never is the time. A Venture  
of Faith.

These natives have not yet been "spoiled by civilization," and when one remembers the triumphs of Grace among the debauched natives of Herschel Island, what miracles may not be faithfully expected, where the depraving influences of whalers, traders and miners have not yet been felt ? If the agent of the grace of God be first on the ground, it is hoped a foundation may be laid, and a fortress built within their lives, to preserve these children of darkness from the worse darkness which has befallen so many aboriginal tribes. For the trader will come, and the whaler will come, and the reports of large deposits of copper are already exciting prospectors and mining men with a desire to exploit that country. But one man, and a band of half-taught native Christians, are not enough, and in those seas a sailing boat is not enough. Another man, two men, three men, would only touch the edge of the task. Herschel Island is the base of supplies, and it is a thousand miles from there. An Open  
Door.

The season of navigation is often only two months. The present boat, when it returns, is needed to work the Fort Immediate  
Needs.