

## ST. DAVID'S MISSION, MACKENZIE RIVER.

N. W. T., CANADA, November 30th, 1895.

MY DEAR SIR :

In taking a mental review of the events of the past year there are several which present themselves as matters for great thankfulness and encouragement ; e. g., my visit to the Eskimo and the work amongst them ; confirmation at Fort Norman ; the stand made by the Indians at Hay River ; the addition to our staff of workers ; &c. Perhaps it may be well to refer to these in the order in which I have mentioned them. The difficulty is to say all I would like to say without making the letter too long.

## 1.—VISIT TO THE ESKIMO, AND WORK AMONGST THEM.

When I left home at the beginning of June it was with no thought of going so far north as the Arctic Ocean, but on reaching Fort McPherson both Archdeacon McDonald and Mr. Stringer considered it advisable. The Eskimo too seemed pleased at the idea of my going to see them in their own homes. So after much thought and prayer I determined to go, although not very well prepared for such a trip. In company then with Messrs. Stringer and Whittaker, (the latter a new recruit for this work,) and two Indians. I left Fort McPherson in a whale boat on July 29th, and after a somewhat cold and rough passage we reached the Eskimo village on August 6th. All turned out to give us a welcome, and, after the hand shaking was over, we were invited to the Council House, where I was accorded the seat of honor, and where in due time a goodly number assembled for prayers. When these were concluded a dance was given for our entertainment which was interesting to witness. At its conclusion enough tea and sugar was given to the chief to enable all to partake of a cup in honor of our arrival. I wish I could tell of all I saw there, their mode of life, houses, occupations, how they hunt the white whale, dress, food, superstitions, manner of burying the dead, &c., &c., but all this must be left for another occasion. Some of our Canadian friends, doubtless, will hear about them from Mr. Stringer this winter, and also about his own house which he built.

Prayers were held once, generally twice every evening, and were usually well attended. The heartiness of the singing, and the earnest attention given to what was being said were most cheering. Audible assent was often made to the speaker's remarks. On one occasion

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