

THE ESKIMO MISSION OF THE MACKENZIE

they were generally better provided with material goods, it is not strange that the Eskimos listened to them.

But the steady consistent life of their teachers, in comparison with that of their seducers, was gradually realized by the Eskimos; the persistent proclamation of the Good-News, like the continual dropping of water, made an impression on their stony hearts; the work of the day school for children, and night school for men, begat an ambition for learning, and bit by bit the influence of the Mission grew. But the change was so slow as to be almost imperceptible, and as year by year passed away, and not one person was willing to cut loose from evil habits, or to take a stand for right, the question arose whether this barren field were worth the labour and expense bestowed upon it. The Headman of Herschel Island, and two young men related to him who had been very attentive at services and at night school, were the only ones who gave any promise of encouragement, from the spiritual side, and when, in 1906, Mr. Whittaker and family were obliged to leave Herschel Island, the Headman consented to keep the service books and hold services in his house on Sundays "for those who wished to believe." Thus the work was, in a sense, laid upon them, and the response has been gratifying.

For nine years Herschel Island was continuously occupied first by Rev. I. O. and Mrs. Stringer, and later by Mr. and Mrs. Whittaker. Two children were born to the latter, but passed to that land where there is neither heat nor cold, where all tears are wiped away, where they shall see their Saviour face to face. Their little bodies were carried 250 miles by sled to McPherson for burial. The isolation of the station may be judged from the fact that in five years Mrs. Whittaker saw only two white women, captains' wives from the whaling ships, and not a green tree during that time.

An epidemic of measles in 1902, aggravated by plentiful whiskey, carried off about thirty people at the Island, and nearly 50 more at different places along the coast, between the Alaskan boundary and Baillie Islands. Nearly all the victims were

Slow but
Certain
Progress.

Sorrow in
Solitude.

Spiritual
Blessing
from
Physical
Suffering.