

June 23.—The ice has made a grand "jam" in the straits, and put a complete embargo on ship navigation. The American vessels are all here, and large part of the Nova Scotian fleet. (I think it would be well to give 'them' to the Witness. American papers would copy it, and Nova Scotia takes the Witness very largely). We are surprised at the amount of sympathy, remembrance and contribution among the American friends of the Mission, when their hearts are so full of anxious care for the great needs at home. My supplies have all reached me safely—they are amply sufficient, with what I have in store, and with the consignments of friends, to last us for many ears.

MISSION HOUSE,

CARIBOU ISLAND, LABRADOR, August 7, 1863.

Our anxiety to see the midsummer vessels was relieved on Tuesday the 4th, when in quick succession came Dodge's expedition vessel from Boston, and Blais, the Quebec coaster. The former had made a passage of 9 days, and brought us full and gratifying news from home friends, and especially from home land, in this its dark and troublous hour. It was late at night before with my servant boy, I had got the Montreal cases safely at the Mission house: as we opened box after box, we felt very grateful to the dear friends at Montreal for kindness and pains in sending so much for our comfort in the winter before us.

CARIBOU ISLAND, LABRADOR, Sept. 10, 1863.

My letter of May 27 from Esquimaux River, recounted to you the experiences of our winter life, and the dealings of God's Spirit and providence with us in the Mission, up to that date. The year did not break up, so as to permit our removal to the summer station till nearly two weeks later. Even then—on the 9th of June we met large fields of ice on our trip out, and found our harbor at Salmon Bay still unbroken. We were able however to land at another point on the island, and carry our luggage over the hill which was still covered with deep snow. The spring was long and cold, the ice continuing in the straits all the month of June, and snow on the land (in patches) even later.

The season since has, on the contrary, been remarkably warm and fine. The mercury has once gone up to 71°, a degree of heat which has never appeared on our thermometer record before; and not till this morning have we seen frost. That representative fruit of our country, the "baked apple", (the *rubus chamaemorus* of botanists) has consequently received ample baking, and we have gathered a store "for our winter," as the phrase is.

In our little garden too, we have also been successful this season in raising lettuce and rhubarb. Progress in this department is necessarily slow, as the soil has to be made, but we are confident that in a few years, sufficient potatoes and turnips may be raised here, to supply our need.

The first Quebec vessel arrived on the 12th of June (eight months after our last arrival in 1862), with its exciting news of continued war,—its cheering record of the progress of Christ's kingdom not only "by terrible things in righteousness," but by the silent influences of the "good spirit,"—and its sad tidings of death and mourning in home circles.

About a week later, the American vessels came, and afterwards the Nova Scotian fleet. These were more numerous than I have before seen them. The narrative of our summer work among these seamen, and the now scattered shoremen, would be only a repetition of the record of other years. The summer boarding school with its burden of expense for the people, and of toil for us, seems scarcely necessary now that the children can be taught more advantageously, during the eight months of winter, and is therefore discontinued, at least for the present. Our Sabbath meetings have been better attended than ever before, both by sailors and the inhabitants. Indeed we have been encouraged by the interest manifested by some of the former in their faithful attendance upon these services, even when winds and waves might give them a better