

# Methodist Magazine and Review.

DECEMBER, 1905.

## MORAVIAN MISSIONS IN LABRADOR.

BY THE EDITOR.

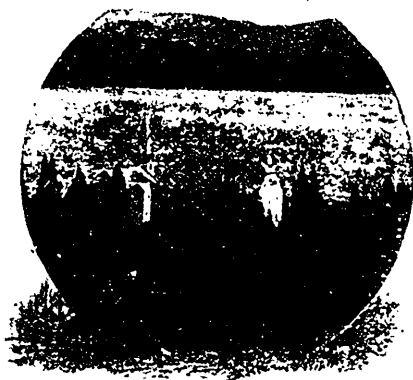
### II.



OUR first personal acquaintance with the Moravian missionaries of Labrador was during a summer trip as far as Nain in 1904. We had met a few Eskimo sailors or fishermen at Rigolet and other places in southern Labrador, but it was at Hopedale, one of the older Moravian missions, that we came across them in any considerable numbers. It was Sunday morning when our steamer arrived, and the missionaries and lay helpers came down to bid us welcome. Against a dull, grey sky, and backed by low, rounded, sterile hills, the mission buildings, with their great red roofs and neatly painted walls, presented an appearance still more attractive from their forbidding surroundings.

The Eskimos, far from being the squalid, unkempt-looking creatures, whom we too often associate with the name, wore, the women especially, neat and clean attire, in some cases of an immaculate whiteness, cut in native style, a short tunic with flaps on front and back, and seal-skin boots or shoes. The chief difference between the men and women's attire was the longer flaps of the latter, and that their glossy black hair was neatly parted and knotted on the back of the head, while that of the men was squarely

VOL. LXII. No. 6.



MORAVIAN MISSION AT MAKKOVIK,  
LABRADOR.

cut off below the ears. They are a short, stout, cheerful-looking people, of brown or copper color, but not so dark as our American Indians.

The entrance to the mission premises is through a strong fence or stockade, a survival of the time when such construction was necessary for defence from raid or robber. Our steamer anchored in the offing while we went ashore in the ship's boat to a well-built wharf. Being Sunday morning, most of the Eskimos, who are often absent during the week on hunting or fishing excursions, were at home. We were conducted to the chapel, a large, long room on the ground floor, equipped with comfortable, high-backed benches, platform and reading desk, and a small pipe