

He had far outgrown his strength, and was terribly weak, and looked like a wraith. It was very nice to see how his boy friends would visit him in their spare time ; and the Mission and the Factory people kept him supplied with what little dishes he was able to take ; and as the weather grew warmer he was able to creep outside again and amuse himself with "gardening" in old meat tins, which at that time became the rage among the smaller school-children—indeed, all ranks and all ages seemed beset by a wild longing to see something growing. It is impossible to understand, until one has experienced it, the utter desolation of the winter scene, the deadly monotony of looking out for six months without break on one great stretch of dazzling snow and ice, just bounded in the distance by the dark grey fringe of pine-bush ; for the river was frozen over by the end of October, and as we look across now, in the intense heat of May 25th, we can just see the last remaining traces of ice on the further shore ! The intense stillness of the winter, both to eye and ear, felt verily like death, and as the increasing sunshine awoke the Spring within one, a great craving for life and loveliness possessed one's whole being. Then was the worst time of heart hunger for home and home scenery. But our time of relief was at hand ; what must it be for Messrs. Peck and Parker, far north in Cumberland Sound, with no such summer in store for them ? Noble souls, *cheerfully* bearing so much that they may do the Master's will !

Well, the resurrection came at the end of April ; first, days of scorching sun, when the huge snow-drifts sank visibly, and to step outside the house meant testing the depth of the water anywhere between the height of one's shoes and the knee ; and inside the house was pretty bad, for the thaw brought the water streaming through the foundations and completely flooded the floor of the kitchen and the adjacent rooms. You might see George Spence in the morning carrying out the contribution from his bedroom by the pailful. Upstairs we did well enough, unless there was a heavy rain-storm, which would beat in under the roof and drip down on us ; and many an earnest wish was expressed for the building of the new house, whose foundation logs, as you know, had been spiked with a little school ceremony and prayer last Fall. We sincerely hope for the arrival of a carpenter from Canada, and funds from everywhere to make a wind- and water-tight abode for all the Mission Staff an accomplished fact ! But I have digressed. The Bishop has described at length the stages of the break-up ; there was life enough then, at any rate—great ice mountains rushing up into the air one after another till we could see quite a range, mercifully along the further uninhabited shore, where