

PREFACE

THE Tukudh Grammar here presented is little more than an outline of what it represents. It is, however, hoped that it will be considered sufficient to be of real service. With the help of the syllabary prefixed to it the pronunciation of even the longest words, after a few lessons, is rendered comparatively easy. Without it a long time may elapse before the correct sounds of words can be discerned. It was only after many years that they were ascertained, and that the syllabary was completed as it is. The art of reading is quickly acquired by the Natives who speak the language, especially by the more intelligent. An instance may be cited of one, who previously had a slight knowledge of reading in English. He was taught the syllabary in three days. He was then given a copy of the Gospel of St. John. This was at the end of April. In the month of June when his own and another tribe assembled at a trading post of the Hudson Bay Company, he was able to read to them in their own tongue out of the Holy Gospel given to him. As a Christian leader he had been accustomed to teach them orally what he himself had been taught. This was in 1874. Since that time even old men have learnt to read the Holy Scriptures, and other books, translated into their language.