



ESKIMO SNOW HUTS.

the Eskimos, away from missionaries, and with only too great success. Articles of food and luxury, and especially intoxicating liquors, were offered as an almost irresistible bribe, and once entangled in the snares of these men, the poor Eskimos were made use of with diabolical skill and malice to tempt their countrymen to their destruction."

Many thrilling incidents are recorded of early missionary endeavor, of which the following is a type :

The year 1782 was rendered memorable by a remarkable providential deliverance. Liebisich and William Turner set out from Nain for Okak on March 11th in a dog-sleigh. Their route lay across the frozen sea. Though the distance was one hundred and fifty miles, and for a considerable part of the way they had to pass over very deep water, preferable on account of the smoothness of the ice, under the favorable atmospheric conditions of their start no special anxiety was entertained. But in the afternoon there were indications of a coming storm. The heaving of the restless ocean could be felt under its

icy covering. By evening the wind had become a gale that whirled the snow with blinding violence. The undulations of the vast sheet of ice, several yards thick, began to impede progress. Soon the ice commenced to burst with the sound of heavy ordnance. Only with the greatest difficulty, and in the very nick of time, did the travellers make the shore.

Scarcely had they effected a landing, when the ice for miles along the coast broke up with the violence of the storm amid terrific noise. The Eskimo companions of the missionaries built a snow-house on the beach. Thankful for this refuge in the piercing cold, they had but settled down to rest, when Liebisich, who could not sleep owing to a painfully sore throat and the howling of the storm outside, perceived that salt water was trickling through the roof. Hastily digging a passage through the side of the house, they were hardly at a safe distance, when a mighty wave carried away their abandoned resting-place. A hole cut into a snowbank was their sole resource till morning. Their scanty supply of provisions had to be carefully eked out for several days in a new snow hut.

On the 13th the storm abated, but the sea was absolutely clear of ice, and it was impossible to proceed or to return. Not until twelve o'clock on the night of the 17th did