

THE ESKIMO MISSION OF THE MACKENZIE

and resented the attempt to usurp authority over them. But while they became listeners to the message, there was little indication of any desire to follow its precepts. They attended services interestedly, but were indifferent to the things taught them, not realizing that these things applied to them in any sense.

Rev. C. E.
Whittaker,
1895.

Mr. Stringer went on furlough in '95 and returned with a bride in '96, and the next year went to reside at Herschel Island. Mr. C. E. Whittaker, a layman, joined the Mission in 1895, was ordained and married in 1898 and worked with Mr. Stringer until the latter's return home in 1901. He then succeeded to his work, and residence at Herschel Island. Mr. W. D. Young was also on the Mission staff from 1896 to 1902.

Mr. W. D.
Young, 1896.

Opposition
from
American
Whalers.

During these years the missionaries endeavoured by preaching and teaching, at home and abroad, by ministering to the sick, by godly example supporting precept, by kindly helpfulness to the needy and sorrowing, by every possible means, in season and out, to make known to them the love of God in Christ. The interpreter died, another, who could give a little help, suicided, and so the language has always presented great difficulty. But worst of all was the presence and influence of the American whaling ships. From 1890 onward, from ten to twenty-five ships a year cruised in the Arctic, and ten to fifteen frequently passed the winter in the harbour at Herschel Island. The average crew of these ships was about forty men and as Eskimo concubines were usually maintained by Captains and officers, the crews had no restraints placed on their licentious desires. The more unscrupulous among them dispensed liquor freely in trade or to debauch the women, and so successful were they that for years there was scarcely a woman, or girl of age, who had not fallen a prey, and the present writer has seen a sober population, within an hour after the arrival of a ship, turned into a howling bedlam of drunken men, women and children. And in addition, the officers and men not only by example opposed the work of the Mission, but belittled and ridiculed the teaching given there. As there were scores or hundreds of these men to one missionary, and as