PREFACE.

thought as in dress, but he stands in the line of saintly succession, and drank of the same Divine fount which inspired the heart of St. Paul.

In describing the habits of life and religious ideas of the Greenlanders, it will be found that the following pages deal more especially with the natives as Egede found them; their subsequent contact with European traders, and the wide-spread teaching of Christianity have, of course, considerably modified these characteristics. Although usually credited with mental sluggishness, these Greenlanders were evidently quick-witted enough in arguments with the missionaries, and the reader will, no doubt, be struck with the family likeness between many of the objections of these poor philosophers in fur and the difficulties raised by so-called lovers of wisdom to-day. But while we recognise the old shadow darkening their intelligence and pity them in their ignorance, we also see in their case the demonstration of that Divine energy by which the Sun of Righteousness chases away all clouds and brings to the heart of man light and peace. Like most pioneers it was not given to Egede to see the full fruition of his labours, but in those years of tearful sowing he beheld, like Abraham, by faith the promise of God fulfilled, and died in sight of that glorious harvest which his successors reaped.

The Moravian Brethren who took up the thread of his work, and have quietly and steadfastly maintained it until this day, deserve a much better record than