

row the mountain's face. Down they roll, swelling the river until its volume sweeps away all obstacles, and leaves it ready to bear the traveller seaward. So is the Gospel ministry dissolving hard hearts around me; uplifting the dread incubus drawn over them by Satan, and setting free those streams of faith and love that remove all barriers between man and his rest in God."

But alas, that Gospel itself often brings its heart-aches and disappointments. So Bishop Ridley found it when he returned to Metlakatla, at one time the most promising mission station in the world. He found that Mr. Duncan was not carrying the mission on in accordance with the teaching of the Church of England, the sacrament of the Lord's Supper, for instance, being persistently ignored. Because of these troubles, Bishop Ridley visited England in January, 1882, and conferred with the Church Missionary Society. It was determined that if Mr. Duncan could not conform to the plain teaching, not only of the Church, but of Christ Himself, he must be dismissed as an agent of the Society. With this difficult task Bishop Ridley was charged, and executed it as gently as the sad circumstances would allow. This led to much trouble,—trouble which has clouded the fair beginnings of the Metlakatla mission. But Bishop Ridley has remained among these Indians himself, teaching them as a good bishop should teach them, and Mr. Duncan has been seeking a new home for his Indians, or those who may choose to follow him, in the colder regions of Alaska.

Such has been the work of the first Bishop of Caledonia. Strong and brave he has encountered much hard work and many difficulties, but out of them all let us hope that the work of the Church may yet rise triumphant.

SOME ASPECTS OF LIFE AND WORK IN COLD REGIONS.

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IN our last article we furnished the reader with a description, necessarily brief, of the various modes adopted by the hardy Eskimo in capturing the seal, without which even he could not subsist in the Arctic regions. It is well known that the various parts of this useful animal supply him with the major portion of his food, clothing and light. Seal hunting is of great antiquity, and as a proof of this, Professor Brown tells us "it is said that some of the old Icelandic sagas, or romantic histories, were written on seal parchment. The German warriors who confronted the Roman legionaries were clothed in seal-skins, and the Roman military tents were at one time also constructed of the same material. It was believed to be so sure a talisman against lightning, that Augustus always wore a piece upon his person to act as a safeguard against what he so dreaded. In the north, cables were made of seals' and walrus' hides, and the Finns and Lapps paid their tribute

in them. The old Icelandic colonists in Greenland paid their Peter's pence in the same material, and a receipt is still in existence showing that their contributions to the Crusades were paid at Bergen in 1327 in sea-horse tusks."

As an article of food the flesh of some of the species is excellent, particularly the heart and flippers. The writer has frequently eaten the latter while undergoing the fatigues of long missionary journeys, as well as at other times, and he probably would not have lost his relish for them had it not been for an *unfortunate reference to their great similarity to the human hand made by a Newfoundland fisherman on an occasion when the said writer was busily engaged in relieving the numerous small bones of a flipper of their flesh.*

It is quite a common thing for the seal hunters of Newfoundland and Labrador, during the hunt, to cut out the hearts of the slaughtered seal, and, after exposing them to the frost for a very short time, cut them in slices and eat them. They are said to be good. This, however, will not appear so horrible and repulsive a practice to the reader, if he is informed that the effect of intense cold on meat is almost wholly similar to that of great heat. In both cases the sinews are hardened and its superfluous moisture dried up.

The reader will probably be as horrified to hear, as the writer was to discover, that these northern seal hunters also very frequently imbibe large draughts of the warm blood which flows so copiously from the slain seals. When remonstrated with by the writer, he has been told that it is an almost absolute necessity and nearly always a last resort to quench thirst. Salt water is, of course, useless, and the intense cold quickly freezes any liquid which may be taken out of the ice for that purpose.

Next to the seal, the walrus is the most valuable and therefore the most zealously hunted of all the denizens of northern seas. He is a valuable prey, but a fierce antagonist, and many are the thrilling narratives of hair-dreadth escapes from the deadly blows of his formidable tusks. Walrus, or sea-horse, hunting is a much more exciting pursuit than that of seals, and, in an equal degree, more dangerous. From nine to sixteen feet in length, and weighing generally about twenty hundred-weight, encased in a coat of mail, in the shape of a skin two or three inches in thickness, his head crowned with ugly large eyes, and formidable tusks, surrounded at the base by coarse bristles, he is sufficiently demoniacal in appearance to suggest in the superstitious mind of the dweller in high latitudes a wholesome dread of him. According to them, he is under the protection of a walrus deity, whose roars, far from beyond the lands which come under their ken, they affect to hear in terror, *sounding through the aurora-lit winter night.**

The Eskimo hunt the walrus with no weapon save the harpoon, which they throw from their

* Professor Brown's "Countries of the World," to whose pages the writer is indebted for a portion of the substance of this article.