

HURON. *To the Rev. F. G. Newton, Strathroy. Rev. J. O. Stringer writes, January 8th, 1899, from Herschel Island.*

"In the spring my wife and I visited Peel River, where we were kept very busy. The influx of miners through the country has made a vast difference. Peel River has at times the appearance of a thriving little town. We had the pleasure of a visit from our good Bishop and Whittaker was ordained and married on the same day. Our pleasant sojourn there came soon to an end, and we returned here and settled down for another winter. No ship came from San Francisco in the fall, consequently we did not receive our supplies for the year; however, some homeward bound ships landed some necessities and we were able to get through the winter very well. There is only one little steamer wintering here. As soon as the ice formed, I visited the Eskimos east of Mackenzie River, going further east than I had ever been before, and spent a short time in each village. The only guide I could obtain was a boy, both deaf and stupid, and somewhat lazy. We had to carry our wood or do without; our cotton tent had had many winters' rough usage; our stove was made out of old stove-pipe, and by means of these we were able to keep warm while our wood lasted, but on the return trip it gave out, and we had to travel in a blinding snowstorm or freeze in the tent. The boy gave out, too, and sat on the sled, while I had to run before the dogs, without track or guide of any kind. By keeping right into the wind I judged we were not far astray, and was glad when day came to find myself not far from the village, Took-too-yah-took. This visit was made for the purpose of visiting the chief, and a very interesting time I spent with him and his people; they treated me very kindly, and freely extended to me their hospitality, such as it was, but none of their houses would be considered comfortable by those used to civilized residences, but they are well suited to keep out the extreme cold of the arctic coast. Of late we have had an epidemic of bronchitis and pneumonia, which has gone very hard with the natives. My wife and I have been kept very busy night and day attending to the sick. Within three weeks five have died. The oldest man in the place has recovered, and calls us his father and mother because we took care of him and did not ask anything in payment. During this illness there were many opportunities of speaking to these poor people concerning