

It was rained on, snowed on, frozen, thawed, and lastly towed up the bay in a raft, just before the erection, and when the time came to put the frame together not a board or beam would meet or fit in anywhere.

The only assistance to be got is a couple of day's work from the "Alert's" carpenter and another man, to get the heavy cross-beams into place, and to get this assistance the missionary works day and night making the foundation, before the "Alert" sails.

They are living meanwhile in a small iron chapel, remnant of the former mission, a tiny room, one half curtained off to cook in—the other contains their bedroom furniture. Scarcely room to turn round there—and when it rains, as it constantly does in these regions in summer, the water would pour in torrents upon them, and drench even their bedding, in spite of everything.

It was, moreover very late in the summer and the weather was getting very cold, warning the builder to hurry.

#### THE BUILDING OF THE HOUSE.

##### *The Mission Home.*

He strains every nerve and works with superhuman endurance, sawing the timbers to refit them into their places, and hammering in nails like one who means to die hard.

(For they would freeze in their little, draughty, leaky iron chapel, when it came to be 40 below zero.) To hold services by the way in this little iron chapel, all the furniture had usually to be piled upon the bed; and much disinfecting powder had to be used after a score or so of Indians and Eskimo had been sitting huddled together round the place.

The wife sits patiently by as the husband works and labors, upon the planks perhaps as he saws them, as determined as he, encouraging him.

Till just before the first pinch of the numbing Arctic cold, the rough outline of the house is finished—two rooms, or three with a partition, all in rough boarding, with only high walls outside. But it was a shelter and their own home, though most of it was still to make.

They lived there that winter airily, the single windows would freeze over with such a thick coating of hoar-frost inside, they adopted