



MISSION HOUSE AT POINT HOPE, ALASKA, IN MAY.

by Mr. Kirkby largely by his own manual labor.

Here Mr. Bompas began that remarkable missionary career, which has continued ever since, a period of thirty one years, almost without interruption. Indeed, the only interruption, which was a necessary one, was in 1874, when the C. M. S. recalled Mr. Bompas to England to invest him with the powers of the episcopate. Only this, apparently, could have led him to break away, even for a short time, from his work. The territory which then formed his diocese was an enormous one, embracing the three huge districts of Athabasca, Mackenzie River, and the Yukon. He was consecrated Bishop of Athabasca, and returned to his work with renewed vigor, and there, in some portion or other of the huge field, he has been ever since. For twenty-two years without interruption he has labored as a missionary bishop, taking for himself the hardest and most dreary work that could be found. He had learned the languages of the Indians and Eskimo of the Arctic regions, and had made himself conversant with their habits of life. He had become known to a great many of them, and his influence among them was great. When, therefore, a division of his great diocese was made in 1884, he retained for himself the northern portion, and was known as the Bishop of Mackenzie River. This relieved him of the district of Athabasca, but it is to his lasting honor that he clung to the dreary regions of the Arctic circle rather than leave the Indians among whom he had labored so long. In 1888 the Rev. W Spendlove, registrar of the diocese of Mackenzie River, spoke of his bishop as follows:

"For twenty-two years Bishop Bompas, a man of learning and holiness, has labored here, and, with only one short visit to England, has made it his home, or rather his residence; home

he has none on earth. Many thousand miles on snowshoes, and in canoe and boat, he has travelled, facing every danger, fearing no foe, untiring, yea, increasing in his labors. He has carried the Gospel throughout the length and breadth of those vast solitudes, literally to the uttermost parts of the earth. Hardy, self-denying, yet humble, he ranks high among the apostolical missionary bishops for zeal and devotion to Christ in the Church of God."

Two years after this well deserved tribute was paid (*i.e.*, in 1890) a further division of territory

was made by which Mackenzie River and Selkirk became two separate dioceses, with Fort Simpson and Fort Yukon as the respective headquarters.

Bishop Bompas again showed his extraordinary powers of self-denial and perseverance by going himself to the new and more inhospitable region, and leaving the better favored territory to a younger man—Bishop Reeve.

The Yukon district, as we have said, is close upon Alaska. The American Church has recently sent a bishop there, the Rt. Rev. Dr. Rowe, a Canadian by birth, and a graduate of Trinity College, Toronto, but a naturalized citizen of the United States. He and Bishop Bompas, ecclesiastically speaking, are near neighbors, but in point of territorial distance are by no means close together. They have much the same cold, rigorous climate to contend with. The little picture showing what a house looks like in Alaska in May is dreary enough. With such scenes Bishop Bompas has been familiar during the whole of his thirty-one years of missionary work. He is an old man now, as his portrait shows, but he and his brave wife still continue that life of exile which has had few parallels in missionary annals.

"No Church has better prospects than the Church of England; no Church has such a record in the past, such a field in the present, such a prospect in the future. Her standard is the Word of God alone; her creeds those of the undivided Catholic Church. Around her may yet be gathered the scattered forces of Christendom. But in order that she may take her place as a living witness to Christ, we must realize that we have been redeemed by Him, and empowered by Him to be His witnesses with the certainty of His supernatural supply, and the convincingness of His supernatural life."