



ESKIMO MAN AND WOMAN.

all the Esquimaux contributed a small share. This proved to be the furthest point in my journey. My appearance in each camp excited a deal of observation and curiosity, as the Esquimaux had never had a European residing among them in the same way before.

For the following two or three weeks I was fully engaged in visiting the different camps, and conveying what instruction I could to the inmates. On the arrival of the Esquimaux chief I was invited to remove to his camp, which I did, and he continued from that time to entertain and feed me with great kindness and cordiality.

The point where we were encamped was in the estuary of the Mackenzie, about thirty miles from the Arctic Sea, and when the sun set, in the north there appeared a bright rim of light along the horizon, which was, I suppose, the reflection of the polar ice.

On May 7th, the first of the spring birds were seen. These were swans. On the 12th we saw the first overflow of water on the banks of the river, and on May 16th the thaw set in. On the 21st, after we had remained in our new camp rather more than a week, we left the ice with thankfulness, and took to the boats, proceeding up the river on the narrow strip of water which now appeared between the ice and the shore.

As I write the ducks and geese are flying backwards and forwards by hundreds over

head, and the fish are constantly brought in from the river. As the Esquimaux tents are small and well filled, I have found it best since the thaw began to camp by myself outside, and the more so as they keep in spring time rather strange hours, mostly going to bed after midnight, and not rising till past noon, and some remaining up all night, and then sleeping the greater part of the following day. It is true that there is now but little difference between day and night, as the sun hardly sets, and as it is generally cloudy, and I thought it most prudent to come without my watch, it is not always easy to know what time of day or night it is. Notwithstanding this, we who have been used to home life seem to wish to observe the distinction between day and night as far as possible, even though it be a distinction without a difference.

The main ice on the Mackenzie broke up on June 8th, but the channel by which we were ascending still continued blocked with ice till the 14th. After this date we were able to proceed on our voyage without further detention, and arrived safely, by God's help, at Peel's River Fort on June 18th, about midnight.

Here we have a vivid picture of the toil gone through by a missionary-pioneer, penetrating for the first time into unknown regions, and carrying the Gospel message to far-off tribes.

THE WOMAN'S AUXILIARY.

(Continued).

LET us keep that aim in full view at every meeting. Make it impossible for any one to be present without realizing it. Those who come are often young and untried workers, and we are training them and deciding of what sort they shall be.

Much depends on the president of the branch. She must be a spiritual woman, or else she will be a hindrance to the spirituality of the meeting. Let her be chosen, not for her position of wealth and influence in the congregation, not as a compliment to her or to her husband, but because she is the most capable woman we can find for the office; and most of all because she is a truly spiritual woman, a woman of prayer. Let her be chosen with prayer that God would guide us in our choice. Prayer, indeed, must run like a silver thread through all our work.

I would suggest that every meeting should be commenced with reading a few verses of the