

THE ESKIMO MISSION OF THE MACKENZIE

devour with avidity every word translated into the vernacular, and at once learn every new hymn. Some of the older people who cannot read can sing the Hymnal through, having learned it off by rote.

Two years ago they were told that the Gospel was sent to them by the kindness of others and that they ought to help send it to those still in darkness. The response was a contribution of \$305.00, a thanksgiving for the light that had come into their darkness. The second year with an increasing number baptized the amount arose to \$388.00. Perhaps the most striking feature of the thoroughness of their devotion is found in their readiness to go as teachers to distant tribes of their own people.

In most of these matters they have been much influenced by the example of the Indians who have had services, ceremonies, offerings and native teachers for two generations. During the present year eight persons were instructed, admitted to confirmation and to the Holy Communion, the first to be celebrated among the Eskimos in this district. Each of those confirmed is looked upon as licensed by the Bishop to teach. They are as unashamed of their religion as the Moslem who unrolls his prayer mat and performs his devotions regardless of observers. During the winter, which is the major part of the year, the Eskimos are much scattered, but live mostly in small groups of one to four families in a place, and pursue their trapping and hunting from a central camp, oftentimes a well-built house. In every such place there is some one competent to lead the service, and in some daily, and in all weekly service and prayer are held, and even though they do not see a missionary for months he is able to instruct them by letter, sending a copy to each camp where it is studied and practised.

The Eskimos resented the attempt of the Roman Priest to assume authority over them. The missionaries have tried in every particular to put the responsibility of decision on the individuals, contenting themselves with pointing out the right course, and where possible giving reasons for it. The outcome is, that a course indicated by the missionary is implicitly

Missionary
Zeal.

Each Com-
municant a
Teacher.

A Ready
Will to
Obey.