

His sheep, bestowed on me, during this period of trial, the bread and water of life so abundantly; that my strength did not utterly fail; and shed such powerful beams of light upon my path, that I did not go astray. But I learned that it was only when depending daily and hourly on Him, that I could escape the snares of the devil. I was truly humbled, and had learned to feel kindly towards other poor sin-sick wanderers.

Not long afterwards, I received a call to serve in the Mission among the Esquimaux, on the coast of Labrador. Remembering, how faithfully our gracious Saviour had led me thus far, and entirely confiding in Him, for His aid for the future, I accepted the appointment,—though I wondered that He should call such a poor, incapable being into His service.

On the 5th of April, 1797, I received instructions in reference to my appointment, and was accepted acoluth, together with the Brethren Schmitt and Reinan. The former of these went, nine years afterwards, to South Africa, and is well-known, as having had a combat with a tiger, or leopard; the other Brother was lost, while out shooting, in Labrador, and was never afterwards heard of.

After a safe and pleasant journey by land and sea, we reached Okak, on the 27th of July, 1797. Thence, I proceeded to Nain, which was my appointed residence. I was very desirous to become at once acquainted with the Esquimaux language. But, at that time, we possessed only a very imperfect dictionary, a not very intelligible elementary grammar, and a hymn-book, comprising 150 hymns, many of which consisted of only one verse. In addition to the difficulties arising from these very imperfect means of acquiring a correct knowledge of the language, my hardness of hearing was a great hindrance to me. The result was,—especially as there is much to do in the Labrador Mission, for which a knowledge of the language is not indispensable,—that, for a long time, I made but little progress. Being, however, accustomed to labour, from my childhood, I was able to make myself useful in a variety of ways, and found the readiness which I had acquired in working in wood very beneficial.

In 1810, I was called upon to take a share in the holding of meetings for the Esquimaux. At first, I declined doing so; and experienced a conflict, similar to that which occurred, when I first felt an impulse to offer myself for the Mission-service. However, I carried this trouble, with a heavy heart and much earnestness, to our Saviour, and was then directed to the words of Scripture:—‘Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts.’ (Zech. iv. 6.) I now resolved to venture, though it was with much timidity and trepidation. It was on the second Sunday in Advent, that I delivered my first sermon in Esquimaux, on the text, ‘If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.’ (1 John, i. 8.) I speedily forgot all that I had intended to say, and could only speak what occurred to me—or rather, what was given to me at the time. But the word of the Lord was fulfilled to me. The powerful influence of the Spirit of God was perceptible, so that the service was blessed to myself, and, I believe, to all that were present. Subsequently, whenever I had a similar duty to perform, and felt myself dry, empty, and incapable, I always went with my