

"tea and sweeties" (sweet biscuits). They slept sometimes in snow houses, sometimes in snowdrifts, or wherever they could find shelter from the biting wind. Along the coast they found driftwood under the snow wherewith to make fires, but sometimes they had only ice-coated willows, and once they had no fire at all, and had to boil their kettle over a candle! And this in intensely cold weather! "For days at a time the thermometer stood at 50° to 55° below zero (Fahr.)"! No wonder that they made "roaring fires" when they reached the pine woods! No wonder that Mr. Stringer froze his heels! It seems almost a wonder that they should ever care to leave the house again when once they reached home safely, which they did on December 6th.

The above needs no comment from me, and I am sure his appeal for an assistant will come with peculiar force after reading such an encouraging account of his labors.

"During the past year," he says, "I have realized that one man cannot do the work. The spring and summer are the best time for visiting the Eskimos on the coast—in fact, about the only times that satisfactory work can be done. There are three or more places hundreds of miles apart that should be visited at the same time of the year; and how can one man do it, unless he have wings? Influences are bearing in from different quarters that will make the work far more difficult in years to come. If a foothold is not gained now, many opportunities of good will be lost forever. I am persuaded that it is now or never. What is to be done? Where is the man? Where are the means? The harvest is ripe, and I have faith that another laborer will be sent forth in God's good time, and surely that time is now. An unordained man would do just as well for the present if he be the right sort of stuff, and possess patience and tact. I fully believe that a few years will see *the salvation or the ruin of the Eskimos.*"

He says much more to the same effect, for which there is not space in this letter. I earnestly commend this work to the consideration of God's people—His *laborers* and His *stewards*.

Woman's Auxiliary Department.

"The love of Christ constraineth us."—II. Cor. v. 14.

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CHILDREN'S WORK FOR MISSIONS.

From a paper read before the Woman's Auxiliary by MRS. KIRBY, of Collingwood.

It is most essential, in gathering the young together into working bands, to impress upon

their minds that there is something that should come even before *work* for God, and that is *love* to Him; that He asks for their heart first, that He will not be satisfied if they offer work instead, that He wants work that springs out of love, and that *then* working for Him, and trying to please Him, will be the sweetest thing in their lives. We must ever keep in mind, when encouraging them in their work, that it is not possible for *us* to awaken or sustain an interest in the salvation of the distant heathen; that this is so distinctively the work of the Holy Spirit that the first step toward the feeling that they and we ought to have is to confess our want of it, and dependence on Him for it; that we cannot read ourselves into an interest, or work ourselves up into a state of feeling that will continue.

A passing enthusiasm may be awakened, but it is too short-lived to effect anything. We need more than interest; we need love.

Ever bearing in mind this wondrous truth, and letting it guide us in our dealing with the young, we must read, study, get the great facts of missions *by heart*, till we are fired ourselves, then pass them on till others catch the fire, and are ready in turn, not only to read and wonder, but to offer body and soul to the work itself, and this we should not be satisfied to do with those in their teens only, but as soon as their minds can understand anything. Professor Drummond says: "We must watch for the dawn of the missionary spirit, and direct the picked few who manifest it by solemn and careful steps. The missionary spirit steals into the mind at a very tender age. It is too great a thing to come late—it has to bear too much strain to be of hasty growth. The few missionaries whom I have ventured to sound upon this matter have unanimously testified that the call came to them when very young; and I am inclined to place the usual time of impression at about the age of twelve years. This fact gives a new impulse to all the missionary work of the Sunday-school." The Lord Jesus wants the children for His work. Wherever He finds any ready to work for Him, He uses them. Because the boy Samuel loved Him, was quick to hear His voice, and then to answer, "Speak, Lord, for thy servant heareth," He made him a messenger to Eli, the high priest, and afterward His prophet and the judge of His people. Josiah, an eight-year-old boy, was ready and obedient. He made him King of Judah, and did great things through him.

The little lad, in the days of Jesus, was near Him, and ready with his basket of bread and fish. The Lord had need of him, and by him fed five thousand men, besides women and children.

How seldom do we see any number of children attend the missionary meetings, and, if