



COOL OCCUPATION.

magazine, together with his portrait, but as another epoch in his history is brought before us, by the late division of his enormous diocese, it is only fitting that further reference be made to him now, and another look taken at his portrait. The annals of missionary work furnish few, if any, instances of more devoted work than his. The many years of loneliness that he has spent in the dreary region of the Arctic circle have marked him as a missionary well worthy of the name. For a short time his wife was with him; but finding the climate too rigorous for her, she was obliged to return to England. This would have been considered a valid reason by many men for seeking work elsewhere, but the bishop, now to be known as the Bishop of Selkirk, still held fast to his post, being rewarded by seeing the establishment of another diocese as the result of his work.

As to the climate of this diocese it is that of the Arctic regions.

Mr. Whympster in his "Travels in Alaska and on the Yukon," says of it:

"It is wonderful how searching the wind is in this Arctic climate; each little seam, slit or tear in your fur or woollen clothing makes you aware of its existence; and one's nose, ears, and angles generally, are specially the sufferers." He speaks of the nuisance they found their beards and moustaches to be; they would awake in the morning sometimes to find them congealed, by their breath, into masses of ice, and for this reason many of the men that were with him shaved closely all winter. He speaks of a merchant who had once narrowly escaped suffocation from the ice forming in this way on his luxuriant beard and moustache. Having wandered in the woods and lost his reckoning, he was found in the morning by his anxious friends with his mouth and nostrils almost entirely glued up with ice.

As the American Church has formed Alaska into a diocese, Selkirk will have it as a neighbour on the west, while the Mackenzie River, with its new bishop (reference to whom we hope to make next month), on the east, and Caledonia and a portion of Athabasca on the south, will be contiguous to it.

MISSION WORK IN ALASKA.

IN connection with the above sketch of the new diocese of Selkirk, it may be interesting to read the following, taken from the *Spirit of Missions*, regarding work in Alaska:—

"On July 20th, 1889, the missionary, Mr. Chapman, left St. Michael for Anvik, sailing the new boat, with the help of four Indians. The journey to Anvik was made in twenty-five days. The mission was abundantly supplied with clothing and gifts for the children by the kindness of old and new friends, and nothing that the promptings of Christian love could suggest was left undone on the part of the Church at home to cheer and encourage the missionary in the beginning of his year's work. The saw-mill and engine, with boiler, were sent up later, reaching Anvik, September 17th. The boiler was not discharged upon this date, but upon the 24th. The steamer which brought the saw-mill, etc., was wrecked, as reported at home, and was afterwards pumped out and put in repair. The mission sustained no considerable loss, as most of the goods had already gone up by the mission boat. Building the mission house occupied the time until the end of November. It was then barely habitable, but as it offered better facilities for the winter's work, it was decided to move into it, and it proved comfortable enough all winter long. The school was opened December 2nd, 1889, and continued until the end of April, with an average daily attendance of 15.8 pupils.

"Four miners wintered at Anvik, being forced to leave the upper Yukon on account of the scarcity of provisions. Their society was very acceptable to the missionary, and they rendered him invaluable assistance on two or three occasions.

"Food was somewhat scarce in the spring, and during the winter there was an unusual amount of sickness, but the death rate was not unusually high.

"On May 16th, the ice in the Yukon river broke, and the river, rising forty feet, flooded the mission buildings.

"Few logs were caught this spring as the wood went down the river with the ice; and the Indians, being desirous of restoring their own houses, which were washed away, it was difficult to get help after the first and second weeks in June. This, besides his own inclinations, decided the missionary to go to St. Michael, where, on July 13th, he met Mr. M. O. Cherry, whose arrival was to him like daybreak after a dark night. The sound of a Christian voice in his ears again was "inexpressibly sweet,"—not that his own position has been felt in any way irksome; but it is a great matter for thanksgiving to the Giver of every good and perfect gift, when the Church wakes up to her duty and her privileges."