

## THE ESKIMO MISSION OF THE MACKENZIE

jewelry, grudged not their furs, in their desire to obtain copies of the book. A service called at any time was immediately responded to by every one in the village and the attentive faces and eager eyes bespoke a deeper work of the spirit than had ever before been manifest among them.

### First Fruits

One elderly man, fifteen years a cripple from rheumatism, but keen of mind, had made himself schoolmaster in ordinary. He now, first among the Eskimos of this region, desired baptism, and choosing the name of John he was received by the Bishop. Another young man named Simon was baptized the same day, and a few days later several others at Herschel Island and Escape Reef.

### Many Baptisms.

The duty and privilege of baptism had never been pressed upon them, lest many should seek it without a work of grace begun. But now that some had received the rite, many others gave evidence of intention to "lead a new life, following the commandments of God," and in the year 1910 one hundred and thirteen were baptized. So far from being a fashion, every candidate seemed to realize the solemnity of the ceremony and of the promises they took upon them. Previously the women were the greater offenders in matters of purity. Nearly one hundred women have been baptized, and no case of offence among them is known to the Mission. Some of their unbaptized sisters still continue in their old courses.

### Changed Lives.

The total number of baptized persons to July 20th, 1912, was two hundred and forty-eight, including 52 children, for whom parents, or other relatives, already baptized, stood sponsor. And the change wrought is "marvellous in our eyes." No case of theft has been heard of in years. The last murder was nine years ago, the murderer living now without fear of vengeance. Infanticide has ceased, polygamy is abandoned, lying extremely rare. Besides hands and face daily, they bathe every Saturday, and appear in clean clothes on Sunday. The treatment of the aged is much more kindly, and in all other matters of ethics they show great improvement. Though very little in the way of schooling has been done for them, the majority of them have learned to read and write, and they