

AMONG THE ESKIMO.



*Notes of voyage from Montreal to Cape
Burwell, Lake Harbor, Wakeham Bay
and Fort Chimo.*

From July 20th, to October 14th, 1918.

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from July 19th to October 14th, 1918.

THE VOYAGE.

Friday, July 19th: Had the pleasure of meeting our kind Bishop at Montreal, and as the vessel leaves to-morrow, we were fully occupied in making preparations for the journey.

Saturday, 20th: Went on board the "Nascopie." We were very kindly welcomed by the officers and others.

Sunday, 21st: Service was held in the forenoon. It was a hearty and inspiring gathering.

From Sunday 21st to Wednesday 24th: The weather was, during this period, often foggy and great care was shown in navigating the ship under such dangerous conditions.

Wednesday 24th: Fog cleared away. Passed Cape Race (that cape so dreaded by mariners) before noon. Reached St. John's, where we had the pleasure of meeting those great friends, so deeply interested in Eskimo work—The Rev. C. H. and Mrs. Barton.

Saturday, 27: Left St. John's.

Sunday, 28th: A hearty service was held in the forenoon and some of the sailors were visited in the evening. All on board were most kind and we feel that the prayers of many friends follow us as we journey on.

Tuesday, 30th: As we moved north we passed through vast fields of drift-ice, which, judging from the white reflection in the sky, stretch far away in a northerly direction. The "Nascopie," however, being an ice-breaker, drove right into the heaving masses, and either crushed them, or pushed aside the ice with her well-fortified bow.

Wednesday, 31st: About noon we drew near to Gray Strait, but the heavy blocks of ice were so close that it was found quite impossible to go ahead, so it was decided to go outside the Burton Islands and try and reach Port Burwell by this longer route.

Thursday, August 1st: Arrived at Fort Burwell. The Rev. Mr. Townley, belonging to the Moravian Mission, and others came to welcome us. Mr. Townley kindly invited us to the Mission House, where Mrs. Townley did everything for our comfort. The kindness of these friends will not be forgotten.

Saturday, August 3rd: Left Port Burwell, but we were soon in the midst of heavy floes where, for a time, the vessel was shut in on every side.

Sunday, 4th: Service was held in the morning, when Bishop Anderson preached from the words: "The Son of Man is come to seek and to save that which was lost"—a gospel-message full of comfort for weary souls. During the day we struggled on through vast and chaotic fields of ice; the crashing, grinding, noise, and the quivering sensation of ship being, at times, quite alarming.

LAKE HARBOUR.

August 5th: Early in the morning, the ship was surrounded by vast floes, so we could not move. These, however, finally opened out, and we then passed into open leads of water. Steaming on through these canal-like openings we reached Beacon Island, which is about nine miles from Lake Harbour. Here we took an Eskimo pilot on board, who told the Captain that the **winter ice** in Lake Harbour had not yet broken up, although it was "getting thin." So we steamed on, the "Nascopie" cutting her way right into the harbour.

Wednesday 7th: The ice in some places having broken up, the Bishop and myself were kindly taken in a steam launch belonging to the "Nascopie," to the still ice-bound shore. Here we climbed over ice and rocks to the Mission House, in which we lived during our stay, of nearly seven weeks, at Lake Harbour. Luke Kidlaapik, one of the catechists, with his wife Rhoda, had arrived from a long journey, but Joseph Pudlo, the other catechist, who had travelled in a westerly direction, did not reach Lake Harbour for some time after our arrival.

Thursday, 8th: As the ice was now somewhat scattered we crossed, in a small canoe, through winding openings between the floes to the Hudson's Bay Company Post, which is situated on the opposite side of the harbour. Here we were most cordially welcomed by the Hudson's Bay Company's officers, and a large body of Eskimo. We then visited the Eskimo tents, the inmates of which gave us many hearty handshakes, and were evidently not a little surprised and delighted to see the Bishop. A service, long to be remembered, was held in the evening. The church was packed, and the Bishop's message listened to with deep attention. After this first service, an after meeting was held when the subject of confirmation was explained to the Christian Eskimo. There are also many candidates for baptism, who shew a most earnest spirit.

Friday, 9th: Candidates for baptism and confirmation were instructed during the day, and a crowded service followed in the evening, when our Bishop pointed out the wonderful work of the Apostles, through the power of the Holy Ghost.

Saturday, 10th: A fierce gale from the S.E. arose, and the ice in the harbour, together with other floes from seaward, became so packed that little "open water" could be seen.

Sunday, 11th: A memorable day. **The first Confirmation Service in Baffin Land.** After a long and trying walk around and over large pans of ice which fringed the shore, and which forced us, during the first part of our journey, to take a rather long detour inland, we at last reached the Hudson's Bay Company's station. Here we were most kindly received by the gentleman in charge, Mr. J. Cantley, who invited us to partake of their evening meal after the Confirmation Service had taken place. And what a service! One I shall never forget—so impressive, so inspiring. It seemed as if the labours of Christ's servants in Baffin Land were at last crowned with victory. Thirty-eight were, on this occasion, confirmed, and one has every reason to believe that, as far as human insight can discern, all are true believers in Christ, and anxious to follow His will. After tea another service was held at which the candidates for baptism were addressed.

August 12th: Another wonderful day. As some of the people will soon be leaving it was thought well to baptize the candidates who were ready for this sacred rite. Sixteen of these longing souls were, therefore, baptized by the Bishop, and we could not but feel that a marked spiritual influence filled the House of God. After service we tramped in the dark over ice and rocks to the Mission House where we arrived about midnight.

Sunday, 18th: A day full of blessing. First, a most hearty service was held for our friends connected with the Hudson's Bay Company, following which Confirmation and Communion Services were held, which, like previous services, were marked by much spiritual power.

Monday, 19th: A busy day. As many of the people were going inland, to their Cariboo hunting lands, they came over to the Mission House to bid us good-bye, and never have I seen such a marked spirit of holy gratitude for the blessings which God has poured out upon them. Every band was commended to God in prayer, by Luke Kidlaapik in a most touching manner, and as they left us, possibly never to meet again in this life, our hearts were cheered by the fact that nearly every member in each family possessed and could read goodly portions of that Word which giveth understanding to the simple. This precious gift of God, conveyed to the people by the noble Bible Society, has proved to them, through the Holy Spirit's teaching, a fountain of life. Many of them have seen Jesus as Saviour, Lord and Provider in its sacred pages, and they have found Him sufficient. In the evening of this day another Baptismal Service was held when one child and three adults were baptised by the Bishop—one fine young fellow, who had evidently been searching the Scriptures, chose for himself the name of Timothy.

From Monday, 19th, to Sunday, 25th: As there are still several Eskimo at the place, services were held regularly for our friends. These, however, partook more of the nature of large Bible Classes than ordinary services, as they always read together, after the opening prayers, a portion of God's Word, the exposition of which, often verse by verse, forms a ground-work of Christian knowledge and spiritual strength.

Sunday, August 25th: Snowing during day. This year is truly called, using an Arctic term—"an ice year"—Such is caused by a late spring, following an exceptionally cold winter; consequently the ice does not break up till quite late, and it then becomes a frost forming factor, which almost seems to turn summer into winter. We had very hearty services during the day for the Hudson's Bay Company's officers, and for the Eskimo.

From Sunday, 25th, to Sunday, September 1st: We are now expounding the Epistle to the Romans at our daily meetings, the people also often come to see the Bishop and there are many opportunities for social chats, and for teaching them more fully the way of life.

Sunday, Sept. 1st: The weather having been calm of late, the ice, which had been almost welded together by former strong S.E. winds, now "opened up" so that we managed to pilot our frail canoe through the floes to the Hudson's Bay Company's station. Three helpful services were held during the day.

Friday, 6th: A sad day. A young girl, who had been baptized, died. As our Burial Service is translated, the sorrowing people who gathered near the grave, were able to realize the glory and honor of those who die in the Lord. What a contrast this to the days of heathen darkness! How precious is the Gospel which turns death into life. "Whosoever believeth in Me shall never die."

Saturday, 7th: Some Eskimo arrived whom I had never seen before, and it was a joy to hear some of them read quite fluently. They all expressed an earnest desire to be enrolled in Christ's flock. Here we can trace, as, in many other cases, the patient teaching of the Rev. J. W. Bilby, and the far reaching itinerating work of the Rev. A. L. Fleming; neither has the brief career of the late Mr. Broughton been forgotten by the grateful Eskimo, who still speak of him as the "one who loved."

Sunday, 8th: A day of days. A hearty service was held in the morning in the Hudson's Bay Company's House, while Luke Kidlaapik and Joseph Pudlo conducted an Eskimo service in the Church. In the afternoon there was a large congregation at which Bishop Anderson baptized eight adults and ten children. In the evening the church was full, and a most solemn and devout spirit rested on those assembled as the Bishop administered the rite of Confirmation to twenty earnest souls.

Saturday, 14th: A wet night so we did not hold service. Had, therefore, a time of prayer with the catechists, and they then explained, by the help of well kept records, their travels and their work for Christ during the past year. Joseph Pudlo, who had travelled in a westerly direction, had met and taught three hundred and sixty four of his own people, while Luke Kidlaapik, who had ministered to his Lake Harbour friends till after Christmas, had then made a long journey to Frobisher Bay during which about one hundred and twenty Eskimo were reached. They both report a great desire for Christian instruction, which statement fully agrees with our recent remarkable experiences. Besides these faithful men there are four unpaid teachers, one of them, in particular, Joseph Yafley, is a most attractive, clever and promising young man.

Sunday, 15th: Another happy day. In the afternoon four adults and five children were baptized by the Bishop, and in the evening seven were confirmed, amongst whom were the teachers, Joseph Pudlo, Joseph Yafley, and their wives.

From Sunday, 15th, to Saturday, 21st: We have been having remarkably fine weather lately which is such a pleasant contrast to the ice and snow conditions previously mentioned. We have been busy day by day holding services, receiving visitors, and expounding the Psalms in Eskimo for the catechists. This is done at our daily morning prayers, and means not a little careful preparation to make clear some parts of this wonderful Book. **Many copies of this treasury of God have, through the kindness of the Bible Society, been sent to Lake Harbour and to other Arctic stations this year. How can we thank this noble Society for such a gift?**

Saturday, 21st: The "Nascopie" arrived at about 1 p.m. The vessel will leave soon, so we were busy with various matters.

Sunday, 22nd: As we were informed that the "Nascopie" would leave about noon, the Bishop, myself and the native helpers partook of the Memorials of our Lord's Love. We spent a hallowed season together. We then went on board, and Lake Harbour was soon far away. And so ended a time of much labour, but certainly one of deep spiritual joy and great blessing.

WAKEHAM BAY.

Monday, 23rd: Arrived at Wakeham Bay. We soon went on shore where a large band of Eskimo welcomed us with many hearty hand shakes. In the afternoon we held an open air service. A goodly congregation assembled on the lee side of the Hudson's Bay Company's store, and as the sun was shining brightly our position was

means uncomfortable. Here was held a Baptismal and also a Confirmation Service when two children of Matthew Putulik were baptized, and Matthew, his wife, and the elder members of his family confirmed. Friends will doubtless remember that Matthew's family were baptized at Wakeham Bay on October 8th, 1916. There are many seeking souls at not every friend who reads these lines, wrestle with God in prayer for this place, who long to have a missionary living with or near them. Will these poor people? A man chosen by the Holy Spirit is the man needed for this strategic centre for Eskimo work.

Tuesday, 24th: Left Wakeham Bay.

Wednesday, 25th: Arrived at the entrance of the Fort Chimo river.

FORT CHIMO, UNGAVA BAY.

Thursday, 25th: The Eskimo pilot came on board in the morning, when, helped by the flood tide, we soon reached this most important post, for here we found over four hundred souls, one hundred and twenty of whom were Indians, chiefly of the Nascopic tribe. Going on shore we found at the landing place a beautiful triumphal arch, which the kind people had erected to welcome the Bishop, attached to which were these words of greeting, written in large syllabic characters—"We are thankful that thou, the great teacher, hast arrived." As the Rev. S. M. Stewart was away on furlough, and as our kind Bishop had been invited to do episcopal work at a place where hitherto no Bishop had found it possible to go, it was only through searching out the people from morning till night, and after many inquiries that we could select from the Christian Eskimo candidates for confirmation. Towards evening, however, as the Indians and Eskimo had heard of our desire to hold service in the spacious and nice church, a large congregation assembled, many of whom had to sit on the floor. Here they joined heartily in a simple service, and listened to the Bishop's message with deep attention.

Friday, 27th: As Silas Sappa, the Eskimo catechist, and a Mrs. Gordon, who are Mr. Stewart's great helpers in the good work, were at Fort Chimo, we were also greatly assisted by these friends in choosing from amongst several, who wished to be confirmed and baptised, those who seemed moved by the Holy Spirit to give themselves fully to Christ. So during this day, ten adults and three boys were baptised, and twenty seven adults confirmed.

Saturday, 28th: A memorable day. In the afternoon Bishop Anderson baptised two Indian children. The Bishop also preached to the Indians who quite understand him, and it was touching to see the intense attention of these poor creatures as they listened to the Gospel.

In the evening a Marriage Service was held in Eskimo, also a Confirmation Service at which eleven earnest souls were confirmed. Although there was much to cheer, yet the Eskimo, in particular, were filled with sorrow on account of the loss of two of their friends who were recently drowned through a canoe accident. Entering one of the homes of the mourners, so full of grief, the Saviour's comforting words (St. John, 11: 25-26) appealed to us with wonderful force, and as we knelt together in prayer, an indescribable spiritual power rested upon us.

Sunday, 29th: A most inspiring united service was held in the morning when forty Eskimo received the Memorials of our Saviour's unceasing love. The Bishop also spoke many loving parting words to the poor Indians and Eskimo. In the afternoon we left Fort Chimo when we bid farewell to our most hospitable friends, Mr. and Mrs. Watt, the Hudson's Bay Company's kind agents at this station, also to quite a large company of Indians and Eskimo who clasped our hands, and thanked us heartily for the little we had done for them. This is a brief record of a truly wonderful time, one, I feel sure, which will cheer Mr. Stewar's heart, whose labour of love here has not been in vain in the Lord.

Tuesday, Oct. 1st: Reached Port Burwell, where we had the pleasure of meeting old friends again.

Wednesday, 2nd: Left Port Burwell. Passed Cape Chudleigh the tide being with us. Drove along at the rate of some sixteen miles an hour.

Thursday, 3rd: A lovely day. No drift ice about, only a few icebergs. We have as fellow passengers, Capt. French of the R.N.W.M.P., and two of his brave men. They went out two years ago in the "Nascopie" and landed at Chesterfield Inlet. Captain French had orders to find the murderers of two prospectors and to investigate the cause or causes of this terrible crime. Starting from Baked Lake, Capt. French and his companions travelled on the whole, five thousand miles, and met four thousand Eskimo, many of whom had never seen a white man before. There can be no doubt that in the vast regions, to the north and west of Baffin Land there are still many Eskimo to be sought out. A stupendous task this for the Anglican church in Canada, but one which, in God's strength, will we feel sure, not be left undone.

Friday, 4th: Arrived at Cartwright which is a Hudson's Bay Company's station on the Labrador Coast. Had a very happy time with the Rev. H. Gordon, whose earnest work for God is well known.

Sunday, 6th: A most hearty service was held on-shore when Bishop Anderson preached a most helpful sermon on the duty of thanksgiving. Left Cartwright in the afternoon.

Tuesday, 8th: Arrived at St. John's, Newfoundland.

Wednesday, 9th: A very encouraging meeting was held in the evening, which was preceded by a most happy social meal. These were arranged by the thoughtful kindness of our friends, Mr. and Mrs. Barton. His Lordship, the Bishop of Newfoundland, in a most kindly manner, introduced Bishop Anderson and myself to the audience, and we both spoke of God's marvelous doings amongst the Eskimo.

Thursday, 10th: As we travel, via the Reid Newfoundland Co. route to Sydney, and from there to Montreal, we bid farewell to our friends on board the "Naseopie" all of whom have shown us not a little kindness and whose gentlemanly spirit we cannot forget. As the train leaves St. John's at 1 p.m. I was busy at the station the latter part of that forenoon and therefore did not know the nature of the telegram which had reached my friend Mr. Barton, but which he most kindly and wisely explained and handed to the Bishop. After the train started our Bishop, in a most sympathetic manner, told me that our son, Henry Martyn, had died on the 28th of September, from wounds received in France. There is something so sacred, so touching as his bright, loving face still lives before me, that I could not mention his pathetic death if I did not believe that God will, through that distant and unknown grave, cause some witnesses for Christ to go forth and join in Christ's everlasting work and victory in the Polar wastes. There is a mine of truth and comfort in our Saviour's words, "Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit."

Monday, 14th: Arrived at Ottawa; found Mrs. Peck wonderfully sustained by God's grace and love.

Deeply thanking all kind friends for their true sympathy, and for their unceasing and prevailing prayers,

Gratefully and truly yours,

E. J. PECK.