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A Missionary in Alaska

This year the work has gone on here with increased interest in every way. The attendance at all the services is large. Every one comes who can get out. At his time of year many come to this village to trade, as it is the clearing house of the Siberian fur trade. Since January I have had in my audience those who came from 105 miles southeast and 300 miles northeast. And since fall I have had several who came from almost up to Point Barrow, and are wintering here. They carry the gospel with them and have a strong evangelistic spirit, so that while I have not travelled far beyond the reindeer camps, I have had means of reaching out a long way. In a month Helen and I are going to make a trip 75 miles northeast to another Government school point and to the villages along the way, as well as to visit the north reindeer herd.

I hoped Mr. Lopp would winter here this year, but he had to go to Seattle as a witness on a criminal suit. He could have given me a great deal of information that would have been helpful.

In many ways the Eskimos are very different from Indians. They do not seem to have such deep rooted superstit-

ions as the Dakotas. And they are so ready to hear and accept the Gospel. On all this coast heathenism and idolatry is practically dead. Last year only one out of about twenty-five whaling crews prepared by worshipping their idols. The rest repudiated the whole heathen theology, and said they would pray and trust God. This year I do not think they can recruit one full heathen crew. Since I have been here the old men have turned around completely. It was a great surprise to the younger men to have them come to church. But now they are always there.

It has been a great comfort to have Helen with me. And she enjoys the life and work here. It is not a hard place to live in a fair degree of comfort. Fresh meat is always obtainable. Yesterday I had a dozen ducks brought in; and fresh fish is always to be got, as well as fresh seal.

The early part of winter was fine but February has been cold, from 20 to 40 degrees below zero all the time. But the returning sun has brought some warmth. Though our house does not come within its sphere of action. For about one quarter of the year the sun does not reach the house.