

BRIEF ACCOUNT

OF THE

MISSIONARY SHIPS

Employed in the Service of the Mission

ON THE COAST OF

LABRADOR

FROM THE YEAR 1770 TO 1877.

JULY, 1877.

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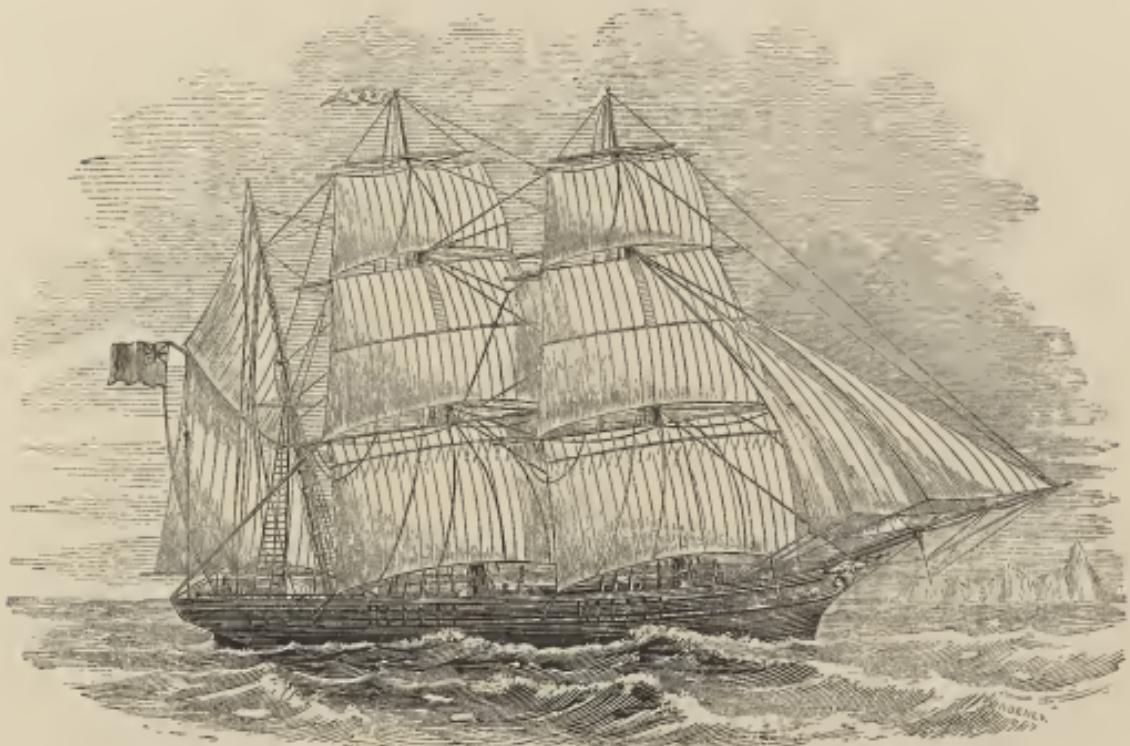
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"THE HARMONY." (LABRADOR.)

## LABRADOR.

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BRIEF ACCOUNT of the VESSELS employed in the Service of the Mission on the Coast of LABRADOR, and of the more remarkable Deliverances from imminent Peril, which they have experienced from the year 1770 to the present time.

[NOTE.—The following account is taken from Periodical Accounts, Vol. XXI. Nos. ccxxii and ccxxiii. No alteration is made beyond what is required by the lapse of time, and the only addition is what is requisite to bring the history down to the present period.]

The Divine protection vouchsafed to the ships, which, for a century, have been the medium of annual communication between the settlements on the coast of Labrador and the Church at home, may justly be regarded as one of the most remarkable features in the history of the Brethren's Missions. So marvellous has it been, that it has arrested the attention of candid and observant men of the world, as well as of children of God in various ranks of society, and of various Christian denominations,—especially of such as were experienced in maritime affairs.\* While the former have paid a willing, and, in some instances, a practical homage to a truth, the nature and value of which they were able but imperfectly to appreciate,† the latter have been led to ponder with admiring gratitude the gracious dealings of Jehovah with His servants and messengers, and to acknowledge the striking proof hereby afforded, that “ whatsoever the Lord pleaseth, that doth He in heaven and in earth, in the sea, and all deep places.” (Ps. cxxxv. 6.)

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\* Among these may be particularly mentioned the late Admiral Lord Gambier, who having, in the earlier part of his naval life, seen much service in the American Seas, and for a time held the office of Lieutenant-Governor of Newfoundland, was well acquainted with the peculiar perils incident to the navigation of the North Atlantic. This distinguished and truly Christian officer has more than once declared, in the hearing of the writer, that he considered the preservation of the Labrador ship, during so long a course of years, as the most remarkable occurrence in maritime history that had come to his knowledge.

† In this light may be regarded the annually recurring fact, that the vessel employed by the Society is insured by underwriters at Lloyd's at a premium considerably less than that which is charged for vessels bound to other portions of British North America, including the territories of the Hudson's Bay Company.

A wish having been often expressed that a somewhat detailed account should be published relative to the vessels employed in the service of the Labrador Mission, and the deliverances from imminent danger which they had from time to time experienced, it has been thought that the present would be a suitable occasion for the attempt to gratify it.\* In preparing the following statements, the Editor has only to regret, that the imperfection of the materials to which he has had access, including the documents in the archives of the "Society for the Furtherance of the Gospel," and the narrow limits within which it is obviously necessary that he should confine himself, have not allowed him to render it as complete as he should have desired. It will be readily understood that the facts and circumstances related are but a selection from those which might be adduced, and which, to a considerable extent, have already been recorded in the pages of the Periodical Accounts. To this journal the reader is referred for particulars of occurrences since the year 1790.

It was at the general Synod of the Brethren's Church, held at Marienborn in the year 1769, that the resolution was definitely taken to attempt the establishment of a Mission on the coast of Labrador. The carrying out of this resolution was entrusted principally to the "Brethren's Society for the Furtherance of the Gospel," whose members had already showed the lively interest which they felt in the conversion of the Eskimos, by the assistance they had rendered to Erhardt in 1752, and to Haven and Drachart in 1764 and 1765, in their endeavours to plant the standard of the Cross among those rude and barbarous heathen. Though these several attempts had been attended with no immediate success, and the first had proved fatal to the leader of the enterprise, the experience acquired by means of them was, in many respects, of the highest value. It served to place in the clearest light the manifold difficulties and inconvenience inseparable from any effort to communicate with Labrador by way of Newfoundland, and the consequent necessity of providing a vessel for the maintenance of a direct and regular intercourse with that coast, in the event of a mission being established upon it. A visit of a preliminary and exploratory character having been determined on in the early part of the year 1770, it became, therefore, one of the first objects of the Society, to procure such a vessel, and to engage the services of a trustworthy and experienced captain for the conduct of the expedition. After a good deal of inquiry in London and in other parts, a small sloop of eighty tons burden, called the *Jersey Packet*,† was purchased and fitted out by the Society, or rather, by

\* For a very brief notice on this subject, see "Retrospect of the Origin and Progress of the Brethren's Society for the Furtherance of the Gospel, and of its Operations during the past 100 years."—Periodical Accounts, Vol. xvi. pp. 1—16.

† It is a rather singular circumstance, that the only perfect document in the Archives of the Society, printed or manuscript, which mentions the name of this vessel—the first employed in the service of the Labrador Mission—is the proclamation of Commodore Byron, at that time Lieutenant-Governor of Newfoundland, in favour of the undertaking. This document, a token of the friendly feeling and benevolent regard of an officer, whose services and sufferings have given him a

"the ship's company,"\* and the command of her given to Captain Francis Mugford. She is described, in a MS. letter of Br. Benj. La Trobe to the Directing Board of the Unity, as not only "a tight and sound ship, but also a prime sailer, readily obedient to the helm, and out-sailing all the vessels on the river on the passage down to Gravesend." From the same letter, it appears, that the brethren, who were connected with this expedition in one or other capacity, were ten in number, of whom Jens Haven, Lawrence Drachart, and Stephen Jensen, were considered the leaders.† The vessel, after calling at Lymington, Hants, for a supply of sails, and at Exmouth, in Devonshire, for a quantity of fishing tackle, the gift of Mr. S. Parminter, himself an honorary member of the Society, proceeded

name in the naval annals of his country, and who was the grandfather of the late celebrated Lord Byron, and of his cousin, the present estimable bearer of that title, is herewith subjoined. Its contents, which are in entire harmony with the Order in Council, granted by his Majesty King George III. in 1769, afford an additional evidence of the praiseworthy intentions of the British Government, in sanctioning and promoting the establishment of the Mission in Labrador.

"By His Excellency the Hon. John Byron, Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Island of Newfoundland, the Coast of Labrador, &c. :—

"Whereas His Majesty was pleased, by an Order of Council, May 3rd, 1769, to encourage the Unitas Fratrum, and their Society for the Furtherance of the Gospel among the Heathen, to make a settlement on the northern coast of Labrador, for the purposes of civilising and instructing the savages inhabiting that coast, and to permit and allow certain persons, in trust for the Unitas Fratrum and its Society for the Furtherance of the Gospel, to occupy and possess, during His Majesty's pleasure, a certain quantity of land, in such part of Eskimo Bay, on the coast of Labrador, as they should find most suitable for the purpose ;

"And whereas His Majesty did at the same time order, that the Governor or Commander-in-Chief of Newfoundland, for the time being, do give them all reasonable assistance and support in forming the said establishment, and in His Majesty's name to warn all persons from molesting or disturbing the said settlers ; and whereas certain persons, who are members of the said Society for the Furtherance of the Gospel have purchased the '*Jersey Packet*' (Francis Mugford, commander), burthen 80 tons, square sterned, plantation-built, in order to go this year to the coast of Labrador, to converse with the Eskimos, and try to bring them to a peaceable temper, and to look out for such parts on or near Eskimo Bay as may suit best for the purpose of establishing a Mission of the Unitas Fratrum, and to that end have engaged some Missionaries to go on board the said '*Jersey Packet*' for the landable purposes aforesaid ;

"These are therefore to certify, to all persons whom it may concern, that this establishment is undertaken and formed under His Majesty's express direction and authority, whose protection they are under. And all officers, civil and military, and all other His Majesty's subjects within my government, are hereby strictly charged and required, not to give any interruption or hindrance to the said Mission, but that they do afford the said Brethren all friendly assistance for the success of their pious undertaking, calculated for the benefit of mankind in general, and for the Kingdom of Great Britain in particular.

"Given under my hand this 21st day of April, 1770.

"By his Excellency's command,

"J. BYRON.

"HENRY STACY."

\* This company, consisting for the most part of brethren who were members of the Society for the Furtherance of the Gospel, but acting independently of that body, continued to have the management of the ship and the barter traffic with the Eskimos till the year 1797, when it was dissolved, and its functions transferred to the Society. (See "Retrospect," pp. 7, 14.)

† See also Kölbing's "History of the Missions in Greenland and Labrador," (in 1831, German).

on her voyage to Labrador, where, under the protecting care of God, she arrived in safety on the 24th of July. The result of this expedition was the establishment of the most friendly relations with the Eskimo population, and the selection, with their full concurrence, of a suitable locality for a missionary settlement. After accomplishing these important objects, the whole party returned to England in the autumn of the same year.\*

In the course of the following winter, the final arrangements were made for the establishment of the long proposed Mission. The Society for the Furtherance of the Gospel, having deliberately and cheerfully renewed its engagement to care for the temporal support of the Mission,† a vessel of somewhat larger dimensions, called *The Amity*, was purchased by the ship's company, and, having been furnished by the Society with stores of every kind, requisite for the commencement of the intended station, was despatched to the coast of Labrador, under the orders of Captain Mugford. Among the company on board, consisting of fourteen persons, were the Brn. Haven, Brasen, and Schneider, with their wives, and the veteran

\* As a specimen of the simple yet stedfast faith of the leaders of this blessed enterprise, and of the favour manifested towards it by individuals high in office, it may not be altogether irrelevant to give the following extract from the letter of Br. Benjamin La Trobe, already referred to, describing the interview with Lord Hillsborough, the Secretary of State for the American Colonies, to which he was admitted on the 1st of May, 1770, with the Brn. Drachart and Haven :—

"Having introduced the Brethren above named, I informed his Lordship that they were desirous of thanking him for his great kindness, and of taking their respectful leave of him, previous to their approaching departure for Labrador. His Lordship inquired, whether Drachart could speak English? 'No.' Where he had been for some time past? 'In Yorkshire.' And cannot speak English? Drachart replied, 'that he was too old to learn.' He looked at Drachart with concern, and said: 'Dear Sir, then you are certainly too old to go to Labrador, if you are too old to learn English.' and turning to me, he added: 'Indeed, Sir, you should not send this old gentleman to such a savage people.' I told his Lordship, that it was his own earnest desire to go. He answered: 'I protest, you are the only true public-spirited people I know; and may God prosper you.' Drachart being told what his Lordship had said, pointed upwards and replied: 'There is One above, who can bring me through, and if He only gives me grace to see one more Eskimo brought to the feet of Jesus with my dear Karpik, I shall esteem all difficulties light.' This was interpreted to his Lordship. He was much pleased and struck, and remarked: 'Well, indeed, I know no people like you.' At the same time he bemoaned the death of poor Karpik, owing to an attack of small-pox, and said: 'If you had spoken a word to me, he should have been inoculated.'"

It is proper to observe, in explanation of the foregoing, that Br. Drachart had been for twelve years a missionary in Greenland, where the English language was not spoken, and where he consequently had no opportunity of learning it; but that the knowledge of Greenlandic which he had acquired was of the greatest importance to the brethren engaged in the attempt to bring the Gospel to the Eskimos. To the Eskimo youth Karpik, who had been sent to England in 1769, by Governor Palliser, and placed in the Brethren's School at Fulneck, in Yorkshire, Drachart had been the instrument of much spiritual good. By the blessing of the Lord on his faithful instruction, imparted in a language which he could readily understand, this poor heathen was converted to the faith of Christ, and having been baptized by Br. Drachart on his sick-bed, departed happily on the 4th of October in the same year,—being the first fruits of the Eskimo nation. (See "Retrospect," p. 6.)—*Ed.*

† See "Retrospect," Periodical Accounts, Vol. xvi. pp. 7, 10.

Greenland missionary, Lawrence Drachart. Having been solemnly commended to the grace and protecting care of God in a meeting of the congregation, held on the 5th of May, in the Brethren's Chapel in Fetter-lane, they sailed from the Thames on the 8th of the same month. After a tedious voyage of thirteen weeks, by way of St. John's, Newfoundland, they reached the place of their destination, Nunengoak or Unity's Bay, on the 9th of August. During the latter portion of the voyage, they encountered many perils, being often obliged by storms to run into bays, between numberless islands and sunken rocks, and being surrounded at times by vast mountains of ice and icefields, threatening momentary destruction to the vessel. Here they were received with great joy by the Eskimos, and in a short time proceeded to the settlement of Nain, the oldest missionary station of the four now existing in Labrador, and ordinarily the residence of the superintendent of the Mission. The *Amity* returned to London in safety on the 26th of September.

The details of the expedition to the northward, undertaken in August, 1774, by the Brn. Brasen, Lehman, Haven, and Lister, for the purpose of fixing on a suitable place for a second settlement, do not fall within the scope of this article. It is well known to the readers of our missionary history, that the small sloop in which they performed it was totally wrecked on their return near the rocky promontory of Kiglapeit, and that the Brn. Brasen and Lehman lost their lives in the attempt to reach the shore.\* The establishment of Okak, in the course of the following year (1775), of Hopedale, in the year 1782, near the spot where Erhardt first landed in 1752, and near which he lost his life, and at Hebron, in the Bay of Kangertluksoak, in 1831, however interesting in themselves, are events connected with the history of the Mission rather than with that of the ships, which is the proper object of this paper. We therefore return to the *Amity*, which we left at anchor in the Thames, on her safe arrival from her first visit to Labrador.

On her second voyage in 1772, she proceeded first to the banks of Newfoundland for the purpose of fishing, the hope being entertained, that, by the profit derived from the fishery, a portion of the very large expense attendant on the new undertaking might be defrayed. Owing to this arrangement, the *Amity* did not reach Nain till the end of October, the little missionary colony at that place having meanwhile nearly given up all hope of her arrival, and consequently of obtaining any additional supply of provisions. They had but two pieces of butcher's meat left, and very little food of any kind. They had therefore sought and gathered all the black and red berries growing upon the neighbouring hills,† dried them, and laid them carefully by. Thus circumstanced, their distress was turned into the greater joy, when the ship at length appeared in Unity's harbour on the 28th of October. "Had you seen the joy that reigned among us," writes one of

\* See "Memoir of Br. Jens Haven," Periodical Accounts, Vol. xvii. p. 458.

† The *Empetrum nigrum*, and the various species of *Vaccinium*, found in these regions.

the Missionaries, "when we heard that the ship was really arrived, you would never forget it, for we had given her up, and had resigned ourselves to the extremest poverty. I cannot say that a dejected spirit prevailed among us; but we were resolved to submit to whatever might happen, hoping and believing, that He who had sent us hither, who had numbered our very hairs, and without whose permission not one of them could fall to the ground, would mercifully preserve us." In another letter it is remarked, "the ship's staying away so long had two effects—first, it convinced us that nothing is too hard for the Lord, and that He can command the seas to remain open even to this late period of the year, so as to allow the approach of the vessel sent for our relief. In the second place it made us all the more thankful for the provision sent us." It was late in December before the ship returned to her moorings in the Thames.\*

Of the voyages performed by the *Amity* in the years 1773 to 1776, inclusive, nothing of interest appears to be on record. In 1777, a sloop of seventy tons, called *The Good Intent*, took her place in the service of the Society, and retained it till the year 1780. It was on the return of this vessel from her second voyage, in the autumn of 1778, that she had the misfortune to be captured by a French privateer. In this instance, however, as in so many others, the Lord was pleased mercifully to interpose for the prevention alike of serious loss to the Society, and of material inconvenience to the Mission in Labrador. The vessel was re-captured by a British cruiser before she could reach a French port; and, though the captain and crew were carried into Dunkirk, together with the letters and journals of the missionaries, the latter were immediately given up to the Society, (for the most part unopened) on the application of its President, Br. James Hutton, to the French Minister of Marine; and the former were exchanged, in the course of the ensuing spring, by means of the "cartel" which was at the time in course of negociation.† In one important particular, the occurrence just referred to proved a positive benefit to the Society. It was the occasion of a safe-conduct being granted to the vessel by the King of France, and by the American Minister at the Court of Versailles, the celebrated Dr. Benjamin Franklin, empowering her to pass unmolested by the cruisers of both nations, on her voyage to and from the coast of Labrador.‡

\* "Brief Account of the Mission among the Esquimaux on the coast of Labrador," by Benj. La Trobe, London, 1784.

† "Minutes of the Society for the Furtherance of the Gospel," of February 16th and March 16th, 1779.

‡ The interesting documents by which this privilege was conferred, and which do so much honour to the benevolent feelings of the parties by whom they were respectively issued, are herewith subjoined. They are derived from manuscript copies in the archives of the Society.

#### "PASSPORT FOR AN ENGLISH VESSEL. BY THE KING.

"To our dear and well-beloved cousin, Louis Jean Marie de Bourbon, Duke of Penthièvre, Admiral of France; to the Vice-Admirals; Lieutenant-Generals of our naval forces, commanders of the fleet, captains in command of our vessels, and to

Between the years 1780 and 1786 inclusive, the *Amity* was again employed in the service of the Labrador Mission ; the command of the vessel being, however, resigned in 1782 by Captain Mugford in favour of Br. James Fraser, who had acted as mate during several voyages. In April, 1787, the first *Harmony* was launched at Bursledon, near Southampton, having been built there under the friendly superintendence of Mr. Thomas Mitchell, one of the deputy surveyors of the Navy, and an honorary member of the Society. She was a brig of 133 tons, and proved an excellent ship throughout the whole of her service of fifteen years.

The first six voyages performed by the *Harmony* appear to have been attended with no circumstances deserving particular notice ; but the seventh, in the year 1793, is remarkable, as having been the longest recorded in the annals of the Society. This is in part attributable to her detention of above two months at Okak, while an attempt was being made by the people on board to catch whales in the neighbourhood of that settlement, but in part also, to the perils of the seas, which she encountered on her passage thence to the Orkneys. The following is the report of the voyage home, contained in the eleventh number of the Periodical Accounts :—

those of our subjects who are engaged in cruising ; to the commanders at our ports, coast guards, governors of our maritime towns and stations, mayors, consuls, sheriffs, lieutenants of the Admiralty, and to all our other officers and subjects whom it may concern, GREETING :—

“ Whereas we have permitted Captain Mugford, commander of the English vessel, ‘*The Good Intent*,’ about 60 or 66 tons burthen, and manned by six sailors, to go from London to the coast of Labrador, and to return from Labrador, with a cargo of provisions, the destination of which is known to us : We will and command you, to allow said vessel to pass safe and free, going from London to Labrador, and returning from Labrador to London, provided she be not laden with any other merchandise but as above mentioned, nor carry any other person but the ship’s crew. This present passport is to avail for one voyage only.

“ This is our pleasure. Given at Versailles, 15th of April, 1779.

“ By order of the King,

“ LOUIS.

“ DE SARTINE,

“ To all Captains and Commanders of vessels of war, Privateers, Letters of Marque, belonging to the United States of America.

“ Gentlemen.—The religious Society, commonly called the Moravian Brethren, having established a Mission on the coast of Labrador, for the conversion of the savages there to the Christian religion, which has already had good effects in turning them from their ancient practices of surprising, plundering, and murdering such white people, Americans and Europeans, as for the purposes of trade or fishery happened to come on that coast, and persuading them to lead a new life of honest industry, and to treat strangers with humanity and kindness :

“ And it being necessary for the support of this useful Mission, that a small vessel should go there every year, to furnish supplies and necessaries for the missionaries and their converts, which vessel, for the present year, is a sloop of about 70 tons, called ‘*The Good Intent*,’ whereof is master, Captain Francis Mugford :

“ This is to request you, that, if the said vessel should happen to fall into your hands, you would not suffer her to be plundered, or hindered in her voyage, but on the contrary, would afford her any assistance she may stand in need of : wherein I am confident your conduct will be approved of by the Congress and your owners.

“ Given at Passy, this 11th day of April, 1779.

“ BENJ. FRANKLIN,

“ Minister Plenipotentiary, from the United States at the Court of France.”

" The *Harmony* left Okak on the 22nd of November, with the  
" missionaries David Kriegelstein and William Turner, and their  
" wives, on board. Their passage to the Orkneys was remarkably  
" boisterous, and for several days and nights it blew so hard, and  
" the sea ran so high, that the captain and seamen were under great  
" apprehension for the safety of the ship. However, through the  
" kind providence of God, they arrived safe, on the 25th of Decem-  
" ber at Stromness, from whence we received the first account of the  
" ship's return on the 13th of January. The Society had suffered  
" some uneasiness, on account of the unusual delay of her return,  
" which led to various conjectures. As we naturally supposed, that,  
" by going with the Hudson's Bay convoy in May, she must arrive  
" rather too early on the coast to find an easy entrance into any of  
" our harbours, on account of the great quantity of drift-ice at that  
" time of the year, some feared that a misfortune might have befallen  
" her among the ice; or, supposing her safely arrived on the coast,  
" that she was blocked up by the ice entering the bay of Okak in  
" autumn, which had been nearly the case last year; or that she had  
" met with some accident in returning home at so late a season, in  
" the late severe storms. Though we did not lose that confidence in  
" God, with which we are justly inspired, when we consider that He  
" has graciously averted all harm from the ship and company, now  
" above twenty years, yet we must own that the prospect appeared  
" rather gloomy; and we frequently joined in the prayer that He  
" would bring the ship and our brethren safe to us. He answered  
" our prayers, and our fears were put to shame. From Yarmouth  
" Roads, we received on the 18th, the painful account, that Br.  
" Kriegelstein had departed this life on the passage thither, by oc-  
" casion of an inflammatory disorder in his lungs. He had been on  
" shore at Stromness, where the company went to church. Both at  
" church and in returning on board, after walking a good deal for  
" exercise, he appears to have caught a violent cold, which at length  
" brought on an inflammation, and hastened his dissolution. He  
" expected it himself, and expressed his resignation to the will of the  
" Lord, to whom he had devoted himself in life and death. The  
" letter, which brought the account of his departure, mentioned,  
" at the same time, that the rest of the passengers, and almost the  
" whole crew, were ailing; upon which, two members of the Society  
" went down the river to meet them, and to administer some comfort  
" and assistance, especially to the widow of our late brother. They  
" met the ship in Long Reach, and arrived with the passengers in  
" London, on the 20th of January. The corpse of our late Br.  
" Kriegelstein was also safely brought on shore, and interred, on the  
" 22nd, in our burial ground at Chelsea."

In 1797, the *Harmony* was mercifully preserved from capture on her passage home. Having sailed from Hopedale on the 22nd of September, she reached Stromness, in the Orkneys, on the 10th of October. Here she found the Apollo frigate, Captain Manley, destined to convoy the Hudson's Bay ships home. Two of the latter arrived on the 11th at Stromness, but the third being still missing, and not

arriving up to the 25th, the Apollo proceeded in quest of her; and, after some days, fell in with a French frigate, cruising for the Hudson's Bay ships, which she attacked and compelled to strike. This frigate had been discovered by the *Harmony*, in a moonlight night, some days previous to her arrival at Stromness, a few miles to the south, and it is to be considered as a merciful interposition of God's providence, that she was not perceived by the enemy and captured. During the Apollo's absence, the third ship arrived; and, on the 23rd of November, the whole convoy left Stromness, and reached the Thames in safety. Captain Manley, of the Apollo, honoured the missionaries with a visit, and showed them every kind attention.

At Stromness, they were very cordially received by a gentleman belonging to the Edinburgh Missionary Society, who took every opportunity of conversing with them and introducing them to his friends. He also presented them with a copy of the numbers of the Missionary Magazine, published by the Rev. Mr. Ewing, by the perusal of which they were much pleased and edified during the voyage home.\*

The most striking deliverance of the vessel from hostile attacks was, however, that which marked the year 1803, and which cannot be better described than in the language of the Periodical Accounts.† The following notice of the voyage was appended, by the editor, to the letters received from the missionaries in Labrador, in the autumn of that year:—

"The *Resolution*‡ left London on the 7th of June, and proceeded  
 "as usual in times of war) with the Hudson's Bay convoy to the  
 "Orkneys, from whence she made the best of her way to Labrador,  
 "but was three weeks detained by the ice on the coast, before she  
 "could reach Okak. After transacting the usual business at the  
 "three settlements, Captain Fraser hastened back to the Orkneys,  
 "to meet the convoy taking the Hudson's Bay ships home, which,  
 "during the whole of the last war, he never failed to effect. But,  
 "this year, it pleased God to put our faith and patience to some  
 "trial; for the convoy arriving in the river without him, and no  
 "tidings whatever reaching us till the 23rd of December, we began  
 "to entertain great apprehensions for the safety of the ship; more  
 "especially as there had been, about the usual time of her arrival  
 "at Stromness, some very violent storms in the northern seas, which  
 "proved the total destruction of many vessels. At length a letter  
 "from Captain Fraser, dated at Stromness, December 5th, relieved  
 "us from our fears, and created within us the most lively sense of  
 "gratitude to God for the merciful preservation granted to him on  
 "his passage. He left Hopedale on the 10th of October, and in  
 "sixteen days was within about three days' sail of the Orkneys,

\* Periodical Accounts, Vol. ii. p. 138.

† Periodical Accounts, Vol. iii. p. 256.

‡ This vessel, a Spanish prize, had been purchased by the Society, on the sale of the *Harmony* in 1802.

" when strong easterly gales drove him back, and kept him three weeks longer at sea. But the very storms we dreaded, proved, by God's great mercy, the means of his deliverance from the enemy. On the 18th of November he was chased by a French frigate, brought to, and forced to keep her company. But the sea ran so high, that it was impossible for the frigate to get out a boat to board the *Resolution*, and continued so during the night and the following day. The second night proving extremely dark and boisterous, the captain, setting as much sail as the ship would carry, ventured to attempt his escape, and in the morning saw no more of the frigate. But two days after, he had the mortification to meet her again, and to be chased and brought to a second time. Again the Lord interposed in his and our behalf. The wind was so violent, that the frigate could not put out a boat, and during the following night, the captain, crowding all sail, escaped again, and saw no more of the enemy. On December 2nd he reached Stromness. During the tremendous storms in this month he lay there in safety, and arrived in the river on the 15th of January, 1804."

In the year 1808 the *Resolution* was exchanged for the *Hector*; and this vessel, before two months had elapsed, gave place to the *Jemima*, a much better ship, which performed the voyage to Labrador in the summer of the following year. It may be safely asserted, that no vessel employed by the Society, during a period of fourscore years, has encountered such dangers, been so roughly handled, or experienced protection and deliverance so marvellous as this little brig of 180 tons, which having been purchased, and not built like the four "*Harmonys*," expressly for the Arctic service, was less fitted to encounter its peculiar perils.

On her third voyage in 1811, she sailed from the Thames on the 7th of June, but was unable to leave Yarmouth Roads till nearly a month after that date, owing to some circumstance connected with the convoy. Her passage across the Atlantic was unusually boisterous, and it was the 8th of September before she arrived at Hopedale, six weeks later than in the year preceding. In this very delay, the providential care of God was however plainly manifested, as there was not only an unusual quantity, but also a long continuance of drift-ice upon the coast. Even had she reached it earlier, she could not have attempted, without the greatest risk, to force a passage through it. On her subsequent voyage from Nain to Okak, the weather was severe in the extreme, and the mercy of God in her preservation was thankfully acknowledged by all on board. The cold was so intense, though it was only September, that the running rigging could not work through the blocks, and the sails once set, could not have been furled, had it been needful. Indeed, the sails themselves were rendered so stiff by the frost as to be quite unmanageable. But it pleased the Lord to grant wind and weather so favourable, that nothing further was required than to steer the vessel. On reaching Okak on the 29th of September, the sailors were obliged to go aloft, and strike off the ice, before they could furl the sails. Another circumstance attending this tedious and perilous voyage is deserving of notice, viz. that her late arrival at Okak afforded time for the return

of the Brn. Kohlmeister and Kmoch to that settlement, from their adventurous voyage to Ungava-bay, and for the consequent transmission to London of their interesting journals.\*

The year 1816, as is well known, was marked by a calamity, similar to that which befel the Mission to Labrador, in 1853, though happily affecting only one out of the three stations then existing, viz. Hopedale, the most southern. What cause of thankfulness to our gracious God is afforded by the fact, that the failures referred to are the only ones on record during more than one hundred years!

The report of the voyage of 1816, contained in the Periodical Accounts,† is prefaced with the remark, that the elements seemed to have undergone some revolution in Labrador as in Europe, during the summer of that year. On reaching the drift-ice on the 16th of July, Capt. Fraser found it to extend to a distance of full 200 miles from the coast, and after attempting in vain to find a passage through it, first to Hopedale, then to Nain, and lastly to Okak, he found himself by degrees completely enclosed by the ice. For six days and nights the vessel was in the most imminent danger of being crushed to pieces; nor was it without great and continuous exertions, that she was at length brought to the outer edge. This conflict with the frozen element lasted forty-nine days, at the close of which the *Jemima* reached Okak in safety, to the astonishment of the Eskimos as well as of the missionaries. The very next day, August 30th, the whole coast, as far as the eye could discover, was entirely choked up by the ice, which presented such obstacles to the navigation, that Capt. Fraser was twice driven back by it, on his passage from Okak to Nain. On the 3rd of October he attempted to proceed to Hopedale; but, though the weather was fine, he had himself but little expectation of reaching that settlement. This feeling of his, which he mentioned to the missionaries at Nain, did not however prevent Br. and Sr. Kmoch and the Brn. Christensen and Körner, from going on board the ship, in pursuance of the appointment to Hopedale which they had received. On the very evening of their departure from Nain, it began to blow exceedingly hard, with an immense fall of snow and very thick weather. Being unable to see a ship's length, and being within half a mile of a dangerous reef, the captain was obliged to carry some sail to clear it, which he did but just accomplish. The gale subsequently increasing, and the wind being right on shore, he could not venture to carry sail any longer, and was obliged to lay the ship to, although the sea broke continually over it. After contending for two successive days with the furious elements, he was at length compelled, on the 5th of October, to abandon the attempt to reach Hopedale, and bear away for England. On the homeward passage a gale resembling a hurricane was encountered on the 8th, 9th, and 10th of October, which in the night, between the two latter days, was so violent, that the captain expected the ship

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\* Periodical Accounts, Vol. v. p. 135. See also "Journal of a Voyage from Okak on the coast of Labrador to Ungava Bay," by the Brn. B. Kohlmeister and George Kmoch, missionaries of the Church of the United Brethren, p. 33. London, 1814.

† Periodical Accounts, Vol. vi. p. 270.

would have foundered. At one time she was struck by a sea that twisted her in such a manner that the very seams on her larboard side opened, and the water gushed into the cabin and the mate's berth, as from a pump. The Lord was, however, pleased to protect both ship and company from serious injury, and to bring them in safety to the Thames, on the 28th of October.

After spending the winter in England, Br. and Sr. Kmoch returned to Labrador the following year, accompanied by the Brn. Körner and Beck. They were, however, destined to encounter perils on their passage out, exceeding in number and in magnitude even those which had rendered the voyage of 1816 so memorable. As a lively and correct account of the dangers, which are more or less attendant on Arctic navigation, even in latitudes much lower than those which have recently witnessed the achievements and endurance of our gallant countrymen, and as a record of the wonderful help and protection vouchsafed by the Lord to His feeble servants, the following extracts from the Journal of Br. Kmoch cannot fail to be acceptable to our readers.\* Graphic in themselves, and exhibiting considerable power of observation and description, they afford a pleasing insight into the character of the writer, who, as the patriarch of the Labrador Mission, at the age of more than fourscore years, entered the heavenly rest.

After describing the voyage of the *Jemima* to Stromness, whence she sailed on the 14th of June, and the favourable passage across the Atlantic, up to the close of the month, Br. Kmoch proceeds :—

" Between the 4th and 5th of July, we heard and saw many ice-  
" birds. This bird is about the size of a starling, black, with white  
" and yellow spots, and is met with about 200 English miles from the  
" Labrador coast. When the sailors hear it, they know that they  
" are not far from the ice. It flies about a ship chiefly in the night,  
" and is known by its singular voice, which resembles a loud laugh.

" 7th. The morning was cold and rainy. In all directions, drift-  
" ice was to be seen. In the afternoon it cleared up a little, and we  
" entered an opening in the ice, looking like a bay. The continual  
" rustling and roaring of the ice reminded us of the noise made by the  
" carriages in the streets of London, when one is standing in the  
" golden gallery of St. Paul's cathedral. The mountains and large  
" flakes of ice take all manner of singular forms, some resembling  
" castles, others churches, waggons, and even creatures of various  
" descriptions. As we or they changed positions, the same objects  
" acquired a quite different appearance; and what had before ap-  
" peared like a church, looked like a huge floating monster. Sitting  
" on deck, and contemplating these wonderful works of God, I almost  
" lost myself in endeavouring to solve the question,—' for what pur-  
" pose these exhibitions are made, when so few can behold them, as  
" they so soon vanish, by returning to their former fluid and unde-  
" fined state.' But surely everything is done with design, though  
" short-sighted man cannot comprehend it. Having in vain exerted

" ourselves to penetrate through the ice, we returned at night into  
" the open sea.

" 14th. Land was discovered a-head. It was the coast of Labrador,  
" sixty or eighty miles south of Hopedale. We were close to the  
" ice, and as a small opening presented itself, the captain ventured  
" to push in, hoping, if he could penetrate, to find open water between  
" the ice and the coast. For some time we got nearer to the land,  
" but were obliged at night to fasten the ship with two grapnels to a  
" large field. This was elevated between five and six feet above the  
" water's edge, and between fifty and sixty feet in thickness below it.  
" It might be 300 feet in diameter, flat at the top, and as smooth as  
" a meadow covered with snow. The wind has but little power  
" over such huge masses, and they move very slowly with the cur-  
" rent. There are small streams and pools of fresh water found in  
" all those large pieces. Our situation now defended us against the  
" smaller flakes, which rushed by and were turned off by the large  
" field, without reaching the ship. We were all well pleased with  
" our place of refuge, and lay here three whole days, with the  
" brightest weather, and as safe as in the most commodious haven ;  
" but I cannot say that I felt easy, though I hid my anxiety from  
" the party. I feared that a gale of wind might overtake us in this  
" situation, and carry fields larger than that in which we lay, when  
" the most dreadful consequences might ensue ; and the sequel  
" proved that I was not much mistaken.

" On the 17th, the wind came round to the south, and we con-  
" ceived fresh hopes of the way being rendered open for us.

" 18th. The weather was clear, and the wind in our favour ; we  
" therefore took up our grapnel, got clear of our floating haven, and  
" again endeavoured to penetrate through some small openings.  
" Both we and the ship's company were peculiarly impressed with  
" gratitude for the protection and rest we had enjoyed, and the  
" warmth of a summer's sun felt very comfortable among these  
" masses of ice. The clearness of the atmosphere to-day caused them  
" to appear singularly picturesque. It seemed as if we were sur-  
" rounded by immense white walls and towers. In the afternoon,  
" we had penetrated to the open water, between the ice and the  
" land, but we durst not venture nearer, as the sea is here full of  
" sunken rocks, and the captain knew of no harbour on this part of  
" the coast. Having found another large piece of ice convenient  
" for the purpose, we fastened the ship to it. In the evening, a  
" thick fog overspread us from the north-east, and we were again  
" quite surrounded by ice, which, however, was soon after dispersed  
" by a strong north-west wind.

" In the night, between the 19th and 20th, we were driven back  
" by a strong current to nearly the same situation we had left on the  
" 17th, only somewhat nearer the coast. On the 20th, the morning  
" was fine, and we vainly endeavoured to get clear, but towards even-  
" ing the sky lowered, and it grew very dark. The air also felt so  
" oppressive that we all went to bed, and every one of us was troubled  
" with uneasy dreams. At midnight we heard a great noise on deck.  
" We hastened thither to know the cause, and found the ship driving

" fast towards a huge ice mountain, on which we expected every moment to suffer shipwreck. The sailors exerted themselves to the utmost, but it was by God's merciful providence alone that we were saved. The night was exceedingly cold with rain, and the poor people suffered much. We were now driven to and fro at the mercy of the ice, till one in the morning, when we succeeded in fastening the ship again to a large field. But all this was only the prelude to greater terrors. Deliverance from danger is so gratifying, that it raises one's spirits above the common level. We made a hearty breakfast, and retired again into our cabins. At one o'clock the cook, in his usual boisterous way, aroused us by announcing dinner, and putting a large piece of pork and a huge pudding upon the table, of which we partook with a good appetite, but in silence, every one seemingly buried in thought, or only half awake. Shortly after, the wind changed to north-east and north, increasing gradually, till it turned into a furious storm. Top-masts were lowered, and everything done to ease the ship. We now saw an immense ice-mountain at a distance, towards which we were driving, without the power of turning aside. Between six and seven, we were again roused by a great outcry on deck. We ran up, and saw our ship, with the field to which we were fast, with great swiftness approaching towards the mountain; nor did there appear the smallest hope of escaping being crushed to atoms between it and the field. However, by veering out as much cable as we could, the ship got to such a distance, that the mountain passed through between us and the field. We all cried fervently to the Lord for speedy help in this most perilous situation, for if we had but touched the mountain, we must have been instantly destroyed. One of our cables was broken, and we lost a grapnel; the ship also sustained some damage. But we were now left to the mercy of the storm and current, both of which were violent; and exposed likewise to the large fields of ice, which floated all around us, being from ten to twenty feet in thickness. The following night was dreadfully dark, the heavens covered with the blackest clouds driven by a furious wind, the roaring and the howling of the ice as it moved along, the fields shoving and dashing against each other, were truly terrible. A fender was made of a large beam, suspended by ropes to the ship's sides, to secure her in some measure from the ice; but the ropes were soon cut by its sharp edges, and we lost the fender. Repeated attempts were now made to make the ship again fast to some large field; and the second mate, a clever young man, full of spirit and willingness, swung himself several times off, and upon such fields as approached us, endeavouring to fix a grapnel to them, but in vain, and we even lost another grapnel on this occasion. The storm indeed dispersed the ice, and made openings in several places; but our situation was thereby rendered only still more alarming, for when the ship got into open water, her motion became more rapid by the power of the wind, and consequently the blows she received from the ice more violent. Whenever therefore we perceived a field of ice through the gloom, towards which we were hurried, nothing appeared more probable,

" than that the violence of the shock would determine our fate, and " be attended with immediate destruction to the vessel. Such " shocks were repeated every five or ten minutes, and sometimes " oftener, and the longer she remained exposed to the wind, the " more violently she ran against the sharp edges and spits of the " ice, not having any power to avoid them. After every stroke, we " tried the pumps, to find whether we had sprung a leak; but the " Lord kept His hand over us, and preserved us in a manner almost " miraculous. In this awful situation, we offered up fervent prayers " to Him, who alone is able to save, and besought Him, that, if it " were His divine will that we should end our lives among the ice, " He would, for the sake of His precious merits, soon take us home " to Himself, nor let us die a miserable death from cold and hunger, " floating about in this boisterous ocean.

" It is impossible to describe all the horrors of this eventful night, " in which we expected every approaching ice-field to be fraught " with death. We were full ten hours in this dreadful situation, " till about six in the morning, when we were driven into open " water, not far from the coast. We could hardly believe that we " had got clear of the ice; all seemed as a dream. We now ven- " tured to carry some sail, with a view to bear up against the wind. " The ship had become leaky, and we were obliged to keep the " pump a-going, with only about ten minutes rest at a time. Both " the sailors and we were thereby so much exhausted, that whenever " any one sat down, he immedately fell asleep.

" During the afternoon, the wind abated, and towards evening it " fell calm. A thick mist ensued, which, however, soon dispersed, " when we found ourselves near a high rock, towards which the " current was fast carrying us. We were now in great danger of " suffering shipwreck among the rocks, but by God's mercy, the " good management of our captain succeeded in steering clear of " them; and after sunset, the heavens were free from clouds. A " magnificent northern light illumined the horizon, and as we were " again among floating pieces of ice, its brightness enabled us to " avoid them. I retired to rest, but, after midnight, was roused by " the cracking noise made by the ice against the sides of the vessel. " In an instant, I was on deck, and found that we were forcing our " way through a quantity of floating ice, out of which we soon got " again into open water. The wind also turned in our favour, and " carried us swiftly forward towards the Hopedale shore. Every " one on board was again in full expectation of soon reaching the " end of our voyage, and ready to forget all former troubles. But " alas, arriving at the same spot from which we had been driven " yesterday, we found our way anew blocked up with a vast quan- " tity of ice. The wind also drove us irresistibly towards it. We " were now in a great dilemma. If we went between the islands, " where the sea is full of sunken rocks, we were in danger of strik- " ing upon one of them, and being instantly lost; again, if we ven- " tured into the ice, it was doubtful whether the ship would bear " many more such shocks as she had received. At length, the for- " mer measure was determined on, as, in case of any mishap, there " might be some possibility of escaping to shore."

After encountering a succession of further perils and disappointments for three additional weeks, the *Jemima* was brought safely into Hopedale harbour on the 9th of August.

To the foregoing narrative the following remarks are appended by the Editor of the Periodical Accounts:—"The captain and mate report, that though, for these three years past, they have met with an unusual quantity of ice on the coast of Labrador, yet, in no year, since the beginning of the Mission, has it appeared so dreadfully on the increase. The colour likewise of this year's ice was different from that usually seen, and the size of the ice-mountains and thickness of the fields immense, with sand-stones imbedded in them. As a great part of the coast of Greenland, which for centuries has been choked up with ice, apparently immovable, has, by some revolution, been cleared, this may perhaps account for the great quantity alluded to."

In the year 1818, another vessel, a brig of 176 tons, was built for the service of the Mission in Labrador, to which the name of "*The Harmony*" was again given. She proved an excellent ship, and continued in the employment of the Society for a period of thirteen years. The first voyage in 1819, proved difficult and hazardous, and she did not reach Okak, the station first visited, till the 20th of August. The missionaries wrote: "The coast was everywhere choked up with ice, and the wind, blowing continually from the sea, and forcing it directly into every bay and inlet, it seemed impossible for the ship to approach the coast. Yet the Lord of heaven and earth commanded, and provided a passage for her through every obstacle, and we had the inexpressible joy to see her arrive without any damage."

The year 1821, memorable for the celebration of the fifty years' jubilee of Nain, the first missionary settlement formed in Labrador, was rendered additionally so by the visit of the *Clinker* sloop-of-war, commanded by Capt. W. Martin. This officer, having been commissioned by Sir Charles Hamilton, Governor of Newfoundland, to make a survey of the coast, and afford the missionaries of the Brethren residing upon it any assistance which their circumstances might call for, arrived at Okak in the middle of August, and thence proceeded to Nain, which he reached on the 21st of the same month and where he gave a feast, consisting of boiled peas and biscuit, to the Eskimo congregation, as an after celebration of the jubilee. The entertainment was opened by the singing of the hymn, "Now, let us praise the Lord," and concluded with "Praise God for ever;\*" and was conducted throughout with great decorum—several short but appropriate addresses being delivered before its close. The *Clinker* was meanwhile decorated with fifty flags of different nations. From Nain to Hopedale she had the benefit of being accompanied and piloted by the *Harmony*, the navigation being in the highest degree intricate and dangerous. This unlooked-for visit afforded great

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\* A hymn of the ancient Brethren's Church, with a very fine tune adapted to it. See Hymn Book, No. 761.

pleasure to the missionaries and their Eskimo flocks. The demeanour of Capt. Martin, in his intercourse with both, was such as became a Christian officer; and nothing occurred to disturb the peaceful and orderly course of the several congregations. The report which he made to the Governor on his return, was highly favourable to the character of the Mission, and of all engaged in it, and may therefore be considered to have done a real service to the cause.\*

The voyages of the *Harmony* in 1826 and 1829 were rendered very difficult and dangerous by the quantity of ice which beset the coast of Labrador; in the former year, to a distance of nearly 400 miles from the land. In 1829, Capt. Fraser ventured, in passing from Hopedale to Nain, to try a new channel between the islands and the coast; and though the attempt was a somewhat hazardous one, it succeeded completely, through the blessing of God, on the skill and care of the Eskimo pilots. The passage outside the islands would probably have occupied several weeks, owing to the accumulation of ice on their eastern shores. It had been intended, that the ship should proceed as far as the Bay of Kangerluksoak (where Hebron is now situated), but the lateness of her arrival at Okak frustrated this design.†

In 1830, the *Harmony* was accompanied by the *Oliver*, a vessel chartered by the Society for the purpose of assisting in the transport of stores to the Bay of Kangerluksoak, where it had been determined to establish a fourth settlement. The voyage proved a successful one, both ships entering the bay, and delivering their cargoes without accident, though the access was by no means easy, and the navigation previously unknown. Her last voyage in 1831, with the *Venus* for her consort, was attended with somewhat greater hazard, but, through the mercy of God, with no serious injury to either vessel.

It being considered necessary, in prospect of the establishment of a fourth station, to provide a ship of larger dimensions for the use of the Mission, another *Harmony*, the third of the name, was built at Yarmouth during the autumn and winter of 1831 and 1832, at an expense of about £3500. Br. Taylor superintended the building, as in the case of her predecessor. She was a brig, or rather a snow, of about 230 tons burden, and proved herself well adapted to the performance of the service to which she was destined. Her first voyage, performed in the year 1832,‡ a year remarkable as being the centenary of the Brethren's Missions, was marked by conflicts

\* Periodical Accounts, Vol. viii. pp. 95—104. It may not be altogether out of place to refer to the fact, that the first offering to the British and Foreign Bible Society from the Arctic race, was made in 1821, by the Eskimos at Nain. To show their gratitude for the New Testament in their own tongue, which the Society had printed for their use, they begged to be permitted to contribute a quantity of seal-oil to its stores. "Having neither silver nor gold, they gave such as they had," and the gift was kindly accepted.

† Periodical Accounts, Vol. xi. p. 164.

‡ In the "Retrospect of the Origin and Progress of the Society for the Furtherance of the Gospel," the date of the first employment of the *Harmony* is given by mistake as 1831.

with the ice, more continuous and more alarming than had been experienced since the year 1817. The following extract of a letter from Capt. Taylor to the Treasurer of the Society, describing the peculiar hazards encountered by the *Harmony* on her outward passage, will prove an interesting supplement to the particulars of Arctic adventure, already given :—

“ On the 6th of July (about five weeks after leaving the Thames) “ we first fell in with the ice, but, the weather being very hazy, we “ stood off and on, till the 11th, when it cleared up a little, and the “ land appeared in sight. We now steered for the shore; but, the “ light failing us, we made the ship fast to a field of ice. We sup- “ posed that we were at this time not more than twenty-five or “ thirty miles distant from Hopedale. The next morning the fog “ returned, and was so thick, that we could not see any object two “ ships’ length from us. Meanwhile the ice closed about us in such “ dense masses, that there was not water enough to dip a bucket “ into on either side of the ship. We remained in this state till “ the 13th, about noon; when the fog partially clearing away again, “ we beheld, to our no small alarm, an immense iceberg aground “ right in our way, our course being at this time in a direction to “ the S.S.E. It was not till about 3 p.m. that we could at all suc- “ ceed in our attempts to move the vessel; and even then our utmost “ exertions, continued without interruption during the space of six “ hours, only brought her forward about three times her own length. “ Our object at this time was to get round the point of the ice-field “ to which we were moored, and thus place it between us and the “ iceberg, which was towering above us to the height of nearly twice “ the mainmast. Our position was indeed a fearful one; and I “ believe most on board were ready to give up all hope of saving “ either the ship or their own lives. The Lord, however, was better “ to us than our fears; He heard and answered the supplications we “ offered up to Him, and sent us deliverance in a way we least ex- “ pected. May we never lose the remembrance of His great mercy! “ As soon as the field of ice to which we were attached came in con- “ tact with the berg, it veered round, and dragged us after it without “ the least injury, the distance between the ship and the latter being “ scarcely greater than a foot. Had we not succeeded in getting “ round the point in the way we did, we should probably have been “ crushed to pieces in an instant. We continued exposed to the “ same kind of perils till the 22nd instant, and, during the greater “ part of this time, the frost was so intense, that our ropes were “ almost immovable. Even the small ropes were coated with ice to “ the thickness of four or five inches; so that we were obliged every “ morning to send up some of our people to the mast-head, to strike “ off the ice with sticks, that the ropes might pass through the “ blocks. On the 23rd we succeeded, by dint of great exertion, and “ under press of sail, in getting clear of the ice and reaching the “ open water, and on the 24th, arrived at Hopedale in safety.”\*

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\* Periodical Accounts, Vol. xii. p. 247.

It may here be observed, that, up to this date, embracing a period of more than sixty years, the ship had always proceeded to Labrador by way of Stromness, though, in returning home, she had generally taken her passage through the Channel. The reasons for the northward course having been so long preferred, were various. In the first place, as the latitude of the Orkneys very nearly corresponds with that of northern Labrador, the portion of the Atlantic to be traversed was somewhat smaller by this than by the southern passage, especially in the alternate years, when Okak had to be first visited. Again, the danger from hostile cruisers was less imminent by taking this course, a convoy being ordinarily provided for the Hudson's Bay and Davis' Straits ships. This was a consideration of some importance in time of war, and led to its being generally preferred, also on the passage home, up to the year 1815; and lastly, it has so happened, that nearly all the successive commanders of the vessel have been natives of the Orkney Islands, and the greater number of the crew likewise. It was natural, therefore, that they should prefer a course which brought them, at least twice a year, into personal contact with such of their relatives and friends, as were still residing in those islands, not to mention that the annual visit of the ship tended to excite and keep alive a very warm interest in the Labrador Mission, in the minds of not a few of the Christian people of Stromness and neighbouring islands, and to call forth their active and sympathising benevolence.\*

On the establishment of a fourth Missionary settlement on the coast of Labrador, an alteration took place in the Society's practice in this particular. It being found necessary to send the ship to Hopedale first, as the most southern, and consequently, under ordinary circumstances, the most accessible of the four stations, the Channel passage was for some time preferred in going out as well as in returning. The voyage of the *Harmony* in 1832, was the first in which this course was taken.

According to the testimony of the captain, the weather, that year, was more severe, and the hardships experienced by himself and his crew greater, than he had ever before known, in the twenty-eight voyages he had made in the service of the Society.†

The year following, the ship was exposed to imminent danger, from a violent storm which she encountered while lying off Hebron. For some hours, the captain, who with two boys happened to be the only persons on board, the remaining hands being variously occupied on shore, expected almost every moment that the ship would part

\* Among the departed friends of the Society in the Orkneys, two deserve to be especially remembered. The one, the Rev. Mr. Clouston, the parish minister of Stromness, a truly faithful servant of Christ, whose affection for his Moravian Brethren, and interest in the Mission in Labrador, continued unimpaired till his decease. The other, Mr. David Ramsay, of Kirkwall, a tradesman of moderate means, but of a large heart and liberal hand, whose attachment to his own particular community, that of the Congregationalists, was far outweighed by the unfeigned love which he bore to all Christ's disciples of whatever name.

† Periodical Accounts, Vol. xli. p. 454.

from her cable and be driven upon the rocks ; but, by God's mercy, she rode out the gale, without sustaining any serious injury.

In 1836, the *Harmony* fell in with the ice, as early as the 24th of June, after a speedy and prosperous voyage to within 200 miles of the coast of Labrador. "According to the statement of the captain, it was not merely the immense quantity of ice, that rendered the navigation difficult and dangerous, nor yet the number of icebergs that crowded the narrow channels, and of which he, on one occasion, counted no fewer than seventy ; but more especially the character of the frozen masses, consisting chiefly of what seamen call bottom-ice,\* and the violent swells by which they were frequently agitated. The undulations hereby produced, exceeded, on one occasion, 100 feet in perpendicular height ; a spectacle which, however sublime, could not be contemplated without the most lively sensations of alarm ; for though the *Harmony* was at the time beyond the reach of the most violent agitation, the striking of the ice against the ship's side was sufficiently severe to cause the utmost apprehension for her safety. It was, in fact, only by the constant use of fenders of tow, or cable-junk, let down beneath the surface of the water, and interposed between the vessel and the advancing masses, that the sailors were enabled, with the Divine help, to prevent her receiving serious, and perhaps, irreparable injury from their sharp and rugged edges. For eight days subsequent to this anxious period, the vessel remained completely entrenched in the ice, not a drop of water being visible on any side of her as far as the eye could reach. At length, however, the Lord sent deliverance from these accumulated perils, and opened for her a safe, though toilsome passage, through the ice to the coast of Labrador. On entering Hopedale harbour, on the 4th of August, the captain learned, that it had become clear of ice only two days before ; a circumstance, which led him to consider, as peculiarly providential, the many obstacles which had hitherto opposed his progress, having every reason to believe, that, had the ship been obliged to contend with similar ones, in the narrow and rocky channels between Hopedale and the islands, the destruction of the vessel would, humanly speaking, have been inevitable."

It was on returning from this voyage that Captain Taylor had the privilege of rescuing from a watery grave the nine survivors of the crew of the *Superior*, Captain Dunn, bound from Miramichi to Cardiff, which had been thrown on her beam ends, during a furious gale, on the 28th of September, and had become a total wreck. Eight of these poor mariners, including the captain, were brought in safety to England.†

In 1837, the vessel encountered dangers of another kind. In the attempt, justified apparently by the state of the wind and weather, to enter the bay of Hopedale by a new channel, she struck three

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\* Ice of great thickness, concealed either wholly or partially beneath a covering of water too shallow to allow a vessel to pass with safety.

† Periodical Accounts, Vol. xix. pp. 6, 7.

times on a sunken rock, which, however, she eventually cleared without sustaining any material damage. A similar accident befel her in 1840, on leaving the same harbour, though, in this instance, the channel was one with which the captain and mate thought themselves perfectly familiar. As she was going at the rate of six miles an hour, and the shocks were anything but slight, it was matter of thankful surprise to all on board, that no leak appeared to have been sprung, nor any serious injury done to the hull of the vessel.\*

The year 1841, the centenary of the Society for the Furtherance of the Gospel, was marked by a state of the weather on the coast of Labrador, not very dissimilar to that which rendered the year 1853 so memorable. Being prevented by the storms which prevailed, from visiting Hopedale first, the captain steered for Okak, which he was enabled to reach on the 18th of August. Thence he proceeded successively to Hebron and Nain, where he delivered a portion of the stores destined for Hopedale, feeling very doubtful as to the practicability of reaching that settlement, owing to the lateness of the season and the continued prevalence of adverse winds. After a trying and difficult passage the *Harmony* reached Hopedale on the 20th of September, and, while lying in the harbour of that settlement, rode out a furious tempest, which at one time threatened to tear her from her moorings and drive her upon the rocks. Her return to Horselydown was on the 23rd of October.

The year 1845 was again a year of icebergs and ice-fields, by which the progress of the ship was greatly impeded, both on her approach to the coast and on her passage from one station to the other. That Captain Sutherland was compelled by the quantity of ice which he encountered on leaving Hopedale for Nain, and, by the prevailing dense fogs, to put back to the former settlement, he had afterwards reason to consider a very providential circumstance, as it would have been scarcely possible for the ship to have weathered the storm which shortly after ensued, in a channel encumbered with ice and abounding with sunken rocks. Before the *Harmony* took her departure from Hebron, on the 8th of September, the weather was so severe, that the snow lay 18 inches deep on her decks, and the mountains encircling the bay, raised their white summits high above the surrounding vapours. The sea outside the bay, was studded with icebergs, some of them of the largest dimensions.

In 1849, the *Harmony* was favoured to be the means of restoring to their families and friends the eight survivors of the crew of the barque *Graham*, Captain Froud, who, after enduring extreme hardships and sufferings, had found their way to Okak, from the entrance of Hudson's Straits, where the vessel had been wrecked, by coming into contact with a field of ice. The circumstances attending the rescue of the poor sufferers were such as to do great credit to the humane and generous feelings of the Christian Eskimos, who were the instruments of effecting it, and to afford a striking testimony to the value of the instruction they had received, and the influence of the Gospel upon their hearts and lives.

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\* Periodical Accounts, Vol. xv. pp. 208, 306.

In August 1851, the *Harmony* was again preserved from the serious injry which might have been the result of her violent collision with a sunken rock, as she was entering the bay of Hopedale. In September of the following year, the Divine protection was not less manifestly vouchsafed on her approach to Hebron.

In 1853, the voyage of the *Harmony* was marked by a very serious and distressing failure. The vessel sailed on the 10th of Jnne, and, on her voyage down the Channel and across the Atlantic, was much impeded by contrary winds, so that she did not enter Hopedale Bay until the 25th of August. On the 3rd of the following month she left for the north ; but, within twenty-four hours from quitting Hopedale, she was assailed by a violent storm from the N. and N.N.W., and driven nearly 400 miles out to sea. An attempt to reach Okak was frustrated by a second violent storm, accompanied by a heavy fall of snow. At length, the ship having sustained serious injury from the violence of the weather, and several of the crew being disabled by sickness, the captain was reluctantly compelled to bear away for England, leaving the three northern stations unvisited. Happily, the European letters for all the stations had, as usual, been landed at Hopedale, whence those destined for the other stations were forwarded by post-kayaks, while of the most needful articles of consumption there was a sufficient stock on hand to avert absolute want in the mission-families at the northern stations.

The voyage of 1858, especially the homeward passage, was marked by circumstances of a peculiarly trying character. The outward passage was rendered longer than usual by the large number of icebergs, and, subsequently on the coast, by calms and dense fogs. Yet the *Harmony* could sail from Hebron on her homeward voyage on the 25th of September. "For five or six days," states the report issued at the time ;\* "the weather was favourable ; but when to the south of Cape Farewell in Greenland, she encountered a heavy gale from the eastward, which continued several days ; and from the first week in October there followed a succession of violent storms with short intervals of calm, quite sufficient to retard the progress of a vessel like the *Harmony*,—firmly built, and well fitted to bear the shock of the waves and the crash of the ice, but bearing up indifferently against a head-wind. On the 18th of October, she was, nevertheless, almost within soundings, when another easterly gale sprung up, which drove her back, the sea breaking over the deck, and carrying away the stern boat. Between the 18th of October and the 22nd of November, the ship was driven into the Atlantic three successive times,—her course varying from 46° to 52° N. lat., and from 9° to 16° W. long., often exposed to imminent peril from the fury of the waves. After making Dursey Island, north of Bantry Bay, on the last-mentioned day, she came in sight of the Lizard on the 30th, and thence had a favourable run up Channel,—passing Dungeness on the 2nd of December, and reaching Horselydown on the morning of the 5th. Her homeward voyage of ten weeks, from port to port, is one of the longest recorded in the annals of the Society. To customary

\* Periodical Accounts, Vol. xxiii. p. 47.

trials were added those arising from a partial failure of provisions, the supplies of more than one article of food running short during the last month or six weeks. The greater cause is there for thankfulness to the Lord, who visibly gave His blessing to the use of such as were left, suffering none of the passengers, whether adults or children, to want any real necessary of life, and preserving them in health, strength, and spirits, till the hour of their reaching the desired haven."

In the following year, the *Harmony* brought home the survivors of the crew of the *Kitty*, a vessel in the employ of the Hudson's Bay Company, which was wrecked in September of that year. Happily for them, these men, after enduring terrible sufferings, fell into the hands of Christian Eskimos, by whom their immediate wants were supplied, and they were conducted in safety to Okak.

As time advanced, it was found that the *Harmony*, after her long service, required very considerable repairs to enable her to endure the wear and tear of continued arctic navigation. A somewhat larger vessel, having the advantage of modern improvements in construction, in many respects appearing desirable, it was resolved, after mature deliberation, to build one to meet the special requirements of the service. On the 24th of April, 1861, she was launched from the yard of the builders, Messrs. Fellows and Sons, at Yarmouth, in the presence of several members of the Committee and many Christian friends. W. Leach, Esq., the Vice-President of the London Association, gave to the ship the same time-honoured name, which had been borne by three of her predecessors. "Shortly afterwards, a considerable number of Christian friends assembled on the deck, to dedicate the new vessel to the service of the Lord. Various ministers of religion took part in the devotional portion of the service, and the Secretary of the Society delivered an address containing an account of the ships employed by the Society since the commencement of the mission in Labrador, directing attention to the gracious protection afforded to them through so long a series of years, and commanding the present vessel to the prayerful remembrance of the friends of Christian Missions."\*

On her very first voyage, under the command of Captain Henry Linklater, the new vessel met with an accident which excited much alarm at the time, but was happily unattended with any serious results. Leaving the river, she struck with considerable force on a sand-bank; but, on the rising of the tide, was got off without injury.

The voyages since performed by the vessel, though marked by a continuance of the protection so long graciously vouchsafed, do not present any striking feature worthy of special mention.

For the sake of the numerous friends of the Labrador mission who have never seen the ship, a few descriptive particulars may be here given. The *Harmony* (the fourth of the Society's ships which have borne that name), is a barque of about 250 tons register. She

has a slightly raised quarter-deck, by which additional height is gained for the cabins. The latter, though small, are neat and commodious, and the sleeping-places are comfortable. Though furnished with every additional protection required in case of contact with the ice, the outline of the ship is elegant, while the materials and style of construction are good. The figure-head represents an angel with a trumpet, with the appropriate words of Scripture on an ornamental scroll : "Glory to God, Peace on Earth." On the stern are carved representations of various arctic animals, together with the Society's monogram, S. F. G. All these simple though characteristic decorations are in white and gold. For many years the Labrador ship had a berth in the river, but owing to some new harbour-regulations, she now lies at the West India Dock. Her usual crew consists of twelve hands, besides the captain.

In the year 1870 the development of the cod-fish trade in Labrador, which for the sake of the natives it was most desirable to encourage, as a substitute for the decreasing supply of seals and foxes, required far more space than could be supplied by the *Harmony*. Hence the Society was obliged to purchase a second vessel, the *Cordelia*, a schooner of 160 tons register, which has made annual voyages to Labrador since the year of her purchase, always under the command of Captain J. Linklater, a near relative of the master of the *Harmony*. Her usual course is from London or Bristol to Cadiz, where she loads salt, thence to Newfoundland for mixed stores, and thence to Labrador; she is expected to reach that coast before the *Harmony*. Occasionally she has taken passengers out or home, but for this purpose the accommodation is very limited. From Labrador she returns laden with salt-fish, via Newfoundland, to some British port. The first return voyage across the Atlantic was marked by the only fatal accident which has ever occurred in the Society's vessels. During a violent storm a terrific wave broke over the ship, carrying away a portion of the bulwarks and the wheel, and killing two men on the spot. With this exception the *Cordelia* has been privileged to enjoy the same Divine protection in many perils as the *Harmony*; this the Society desires to acknowledge with deep gratitude to the Lord.

A small steam-launch has now (1877) been added to the Labrador vessels. She is 30 feet long by 7½-feet beam, is furnished with engines of about 7-horse power, and is intended, during the summer, to convey letters and passengers, especially the superintendents along the coast, besides towing rafts of timber for firewood from distant bays, and occasionally the *Harmony* or *Cordelia*, when becalmed: in winter the engine can be utilized for sawing wood on shore. We trust that this little craft will prove of great convenience and advantage to our brethren on the Labrador coast in meeting the varied exigencies of the work entrusted to their care. A considerable portion of the cost of the steam-launch is provided by the liberality of the pupils in our Boarding Schools in England, who form together a Juvenile Missionary Association.

In reference to those on whom the important duties of com-

manders of these vessels have devolved, the following remarks are still appropriate:—"The Society cannot forbear a grateful acknowledgment of the goodness of God, in providing a succession of faithful, experienced, and able seamen to take the superior and subordinate charge of the vessels, in whose safety their missionary brethren and dear Christian friends, as well as themselves, are so deeply interested. In Captains Mugford, James Fraser, Thomas Fraser (no relation to his predecessor), William Taylor, James Sutherland, and John White, a degree of confidence has been placed, which could only have been inspired by the belief that they considered themselves the servants of the cause rather than of the Society,—that they acknowledged their entire and continued dependence on that Lord whom winds and waves obey, and that they were disposed at all times, and especially in seasons of difficulty and peril, to seek His counsel, help, and blessing." To these remarks it may be added, that Captain White, whose acquaintance with all the landmarks on the Labrador coast was particularly valuable, retired from the service in 1862, in consequence of advancing age and the failure of his bodily powers. He, however, manifested his abiding interest in the cause he had so long served, by successfully navigating on her voyage to Labrador in 1866, the *Meta*, a small vessel which had been purchased for service on the coast. He was succeeded in command of the *Harmony* by Captain Henry Linklater, who fills his important post in such a manner as to enjoy in the highest degree the esteem and confidence of his employers. To him may without doubt be applied in its fullest sense the language used with reference to his predecessor sixteen years ago:

"The worthy captain of the *Harmony* will, it is hoped, be more than ever prepared to admit, in practice as well as theory, that it is 'under God' that 'he is master for the present voyage,' and that it is 'by the grace of God that he is bound to the coast of Labrador,' the friends of the Mission on that coast, and of the Society to whom he is more immediately responsible, will not fail to support him by their fervent prayers, and to unite in the utterance of the heartfelt wish—'And so God send the good ship to her destined port in safety.'"<sup>†</sup>

Such aspirations will arise on behalf of the missionary vessel and those who navigate her, on the conclusion of a century of voyages. And surely, humble yet confident hopes for the future are abundantly justified by the experience of the past. Time indeed brings changes to all that is sublunary, and it cannot be expected that the mission in Labrador, and the arrangements found necessary for its welfare, and even its continued prosperous existence, will form an exception to the general rule. But there is One who changes not. He surely will not forsake the work of His own hands, but will, in His love and wisdom, perfect that which concerneth the dwellers in dreary Labrador. Nor need the hope be expressed with less confi-

\* Periodical Accounts, Vol. xxi. p. 132.

<sup>†</sup> See the ancient form of "bills of lading," which the present age has allowed to fall into disuse.

dence, that all who are concerned with the carrying on and the management of the Labrador mission, whether here or beyond the ocean, may continue to be favoured with the pardoning grace, the loving kindness, and the tender mercy, which have so abundantly been experienced through the century now drawing to its close.

The following stanzas, by the skilful hand of the greatest master of English sacred song whom this generation has known, the late Br. Jas. Montgomery, will, it is hoped, be considered to form no inappropriate sequel to the foregoing narrative. They form part of a beautiful hymn, composed in 1841, for the centenary of the Society for the Furtherance of the Gospel, of which the writer was an esteemed and faithful member :—

To-day, one world-neglected race,  
We fervently commend  
To Thee, and to thy word of grace;  
Lord, visit and befriend  
A people scatter'd, peel'd, and rude,  
By land and ocean-solitude  
Cut off from every kinder shore,  
In dreary Labrador.

Thither, while to and fro she steers,  
Still guide our annual bark,  
By night and day, through hopes and fears,  
While lonely as the Ark,  
Along her single track, she braves  
Gulps, whirlpools, ice-fields, winds, and waves,  
To waft glad tidings to the shore  
Of longing Labrador.

How welcome to the watcher's eye,  
From morn till even fix'd,  
The first faint speck that shows her nigh,  
Where surge and sky are mix'd !  
Till, looming large, and larger yet,  
With bounding prow, and sails full set,  
She speeds to anchor on the shore  
Of joyful Labrador.

Then hearts with hearts, and souls with souls  
In thrilling transport meet,  
Though broad and dark the Atlantic rolls  
Between their parted feet;  
For letters thus, with boundless range,  
Thoughts, feelings, prayers, can interchange,  
And once a year join Britain's shore  
To kindred Labrador.

Then, at the Vessel's glad return,  
The absent meet again ;  
At home, our hearts within us burn,  
To trace the cunning pen,  
Whose strokes, like rays from star to star,  
Bring happy messages from far,  
And once a year, to Britain's shore  
Join Christian Labrador.

## THE "HARMONY."

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Captain HENRY LINKLATER.

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Length (Extreme)	.	.	.	120	ft.
Breadth	.	.	.	27½	"
Depth	.	.	.	15	," 4 in.
Length of Mast	.	.	.	87	"
Tonnage	.	.	.	251	tons.

*Launched, April 24th, 1861.*

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The average duration of the *outward* voyage with the present vessel has been  $41\frac{1}{4}$  days, including a short stay at Stromness in the Orkneys. The *homeward* voyage has been accomplished on an average in 23 days, including the course up channel to the West India Dock. The whole voyage, including the stay on the coast and visit to six stations there, has averaged  $117\frac{3}{4}$  days.

## THE TEMPERATURE OF LABRADOR.

At Hopedale, the most southerly of our mission stations, thermometrical observations during several years give  $+86^{\circ}$  Fahrenheit as the greatest heat (July 26, 1871),  $-104^{\circ}$ , or  $72^{\circ}$  below freezing point, Fahrenheit, as the greatest cold (February 2nd, 1873). The average temperature for the year is  $-5^{\circ}$  F. For four years the month of July was the only one in which there was not a fall of snow. The average temperature of Edinburgh, which lies in about the same degree of latitude as Hopedale, is  $+47^{\circ}$  F. At the Hospice of St. Bernard in the Alps, which is situated at an elevation of 7192 feet above the level of the sea, the average temperature for the year is not quite  $-3^{\circ}$  F. There winter and spring are much less cold, summer and autumn much less warm than in Labrador.

