

We soon had a large assemblage of canoes alongside our floe, and a most noisy but merry barter instantly took place : all of us being as anxious to purchase Eskimaux curiosities, as they were to procure iron and European toys. In less than an hour we had thirty canoes round us, and five of the women's large boats, or "Oomiaks : " all exactly agreeing with the description which Crantz gives of the boats of the Greenlanders. As we are now entering on the natural territories of these people, I need not give a full description of their vessels until a farther experience enables me to do so with confidence. An old man steered each woman's boat by an oar, and appeared to have a kind of authority over the ladies. Some boys were also in the boats ; but no men, except the steersman. In the largest of the Oomiaks I counted twenty-one persons. It is quite out of my power to describe the shouts, yells, and laughter of the savages, or the general confusion which existed for two or three hours. The females were at first very shy, and unwilling to come on the ice, but bartered every thing from their boats. This timidity, however, soon wore off, and they, in the end, became as noisy and boisterous as the men.

The cast of countenance of these Eskimaux perfectly resembles that of the Greenlanders, as far as I could judge from Crantz. A first interview does not authorize my attempting to describe their features ; but I may safely say, that I could not, even in a dozen visits, have discovered the regular colour of their skin ; from its being so covered with blood, grease, and dirt, as to baffle all attempts to trace its natural hue. Its artificial dye was of a dull copper or brown colour. Amongst some of the young girls we occasionally could discover a deep purple tinge of health on the cheeks ; and the skins of both sexes were very soft and greasy to the touch. The hair of the women was confined in a knot on the top of the head, or, on the forehead in some ; but others, like men, wore it in glorious confusion all over their necks and faces. Whichever way it was arranged not a curl was to be seen, and the jetty black

these  
ch. cou  
ards, a  
xes we  
peared  
at their  
ry curi  
e, and  
zzling  
On the  
ite lep  
r, when  
covere  
aimed p  
ght year  
w, and  
he poor  
owing n  
en ; on  
put him  
It is sca  
ly or di  
omen ; v  
eth, and  
arcely co  
ded their  
pearance  
y be p  
es as A  
ch ; of  
lors supp  
to see  
y and de  
n were  
The dre  
seals' sk  
those of  
sewed in  
ews of a