

THE CANADIAN CHILDREN OF THE COLD.*

BY J. MACDONALD OXLEY.



ESKIMO KINDLING FIRE.

AFTER centuries of seclusion and neglect, broken only by the infrequent visits of ambitious seekers for the North Pole, or mercenary hunters for the right whale, and by the semi-religious, semi-commercial ministrations of the Moravian missionaries, the Eskimo of the Labrador and Hudson's Bay region suddenly had the eyes

of the world turned inquiringly upon them.

The shocking story was published far and wide that a winter that did not change to spring in the usual way had cut off their supply of food, and that in consequence they were devouring one another with the ghastly relish of a Fiji cannibal. Although this report happily proved untrue, the Eskimo are sufficiently interesting to arrest attention at all times, and are little enough known to furnish an adequate excuse at this time for a brief paper upon them.

To aid me in presenting the earliest glimpses of the Eskimo, I am fortunate in having before me a manuscript prepared by the late Robert Morrow, of Halifax, Nova Scotia, an accomplished student of the literatures of Iceland and Denmark.

That to the Norsemen, and not to the Spaniards, rightfully belongs the credit of first discovering America is now settled, and

*Abridged, with the Author's kind permission, from an admirable article in *The Cosmopolitan Magazine*.