

along the north and east coast of Greenland, two families being met with by Captain Clavering in 1823, north of  $74^{\circ} 30'$ . Captain Holm recently found them on the southeast coast between  $65^{\circ}$  and  $66^{\circ}$  north latitude. These are said to profess ignorance of any natives north of them. On the west coast of Greenland they extend to about  $74^{\circ}$  north latitude. General Greeley found indications of permanent settlements in Grinnell Land, near Fort Conger, at  $81^{\circ} 44'$  north latitude.

Mr. Henry G. Bryant, in his "Notes on the most northern Eskimos,"<sup>1</sup> says:

As is well known, the most northern Eskimos were first visited by Sir John Ross in 1818, and he first applied to them the term "Arctic Highlanders." As the appropriateness of this appellation seems quite questionable as applied to a tribe living wholly on the seacoast, I have preferred to use the term "most northern Eskimos," as being more descriptive and appropriate in its character. This tribe inhabits that rugged strip of indented coast in northwest Greenland which extends for about 550 miles from Cape York to a point somewhat south of the southern edge of the Humboldt glacier. It is a fact well known that the impassible ice walls which occur at both of these points have thus far served as effectual barriers to any extended migrations of this tribe. It is owing to this enforced isolation that at this late day we find here the most typical of the Eskimo family groups—a primitive tribe who are but just emerging from the Stone Age, whose members still dress in skins, eat raw flesh, and pursue their game with the same sort of rude weapons that their forefathers used in prehistoric times.

Doctor Kane, in 1855, noted this tribe as numbering 140, while Mr. Bryant remarks that Lieutenant Peary places the census at fully 250.

On the Labrador Coast the Eskimo extend southward to Hamilton Inlet at about  $55^{\circ} 30'$  north latitude, though it is not so long since they were located at the Straits of Belle Isle.

On the east coast of Hudson Bay these natives reach southward to James Bay; while northward it is on Ellsmere Land and around Jones Sound that Doctors Boas and Bessels place the northernmost groups of the middle Eskimo. Several of the northern Arctic islands present evidence of former occupancy, but for some unknown cause the natives migrated thence. The western part of the central region of the continent seems unoccupied, and from the Mackenzie westward the coast seems to have no permanent villages between Herschel Island and Point Barrow. This strip of country is no doubt hunted over in summer, as the natives of the latter locality do not penetrate far into the interior for game.

The Alaskan Coast from Point Barrow to the Copper River on the south is practically occupied by Eskimo of various villages or bands, as will hereafter be more fully described.

The Aleutian Islands are occupied to a certain extent by a branch of the same linguistic family, though the dialects are unintelligible to the Eskimo proper. Their distribution has been very materially

<sup>1</sup> Reprinted from Report of the Sixth International Geographical Congress, held at London, 1895, p. 3.