

timately fruitful work among the wild tribes of Alaska, frequently has not the remotest notion of the wonderfully complicated and exact system of ethical philosophy which has been elaborated by his brown brother, and the rendering thereof in his letters to the missionary paper is apt to be more graphic than accurate. I have seen a story in a work of the highest reputation to the effect that a favorite dish of the inhabitants of Kadiak is composed of a mixture of bears' dung. When we consider that the nearest approach to an oath in the native dialect is to tell an adversary to "eat dung," the value of such a statement is evident. It has probably arisen from the habit of the Eskimo of making a sort of salad of the willow bud croppings which, at certain seasons, are found in the anterior pouch or crop of the reindeer, where they are as clean and nearly as dry, as if in a basket. They are eaten for medicinal reasons by the Innuít. In the story a deer has become a bear, and the willow buds dung, but how, it is difficult to imagine. But enough on this topic; the Indian is a man like ourselves with much the same tendencies, and, except where his peculiar ethics bind him, a parallel to his love, hate, appetites and aspirations may be seen not fundamentally modified, in those of our own children.

My classification of 1869¹, somewhat enlarged, was republished in "Alaska and its resources"² and in 1877, an expanded and improved revision, with a good deal of added information and synonymy, appeared in the first volume of Contributions to North American Ethnology.³ It is to the latter that I refer as a standard of comparisons in the ensuing summary of progress.

INNUIT.

Western Eskimo. It was well understood by me in 1870, and has since been fully confirmed, that most of the Arctic Innuít are not separated into tribes in the same sense that the Indians of the United States, east of the Mississippi, were at the time of their discovery, nor even to the same extent as those Innuít, south

¹ On the distribution of the native tribes of Alaska and the adjacent territory, Proc. Am. Assoc. Adv. Sci., eighteenth (Salem) meeting, pp. 262-273, 8°. Cambridge. J. Lov-
ering, 1870.

² Alaska and its resources, by W. H. Dall, xii, 628 pp. 8°. Boston, Lee & Shepard, 1870.

³ On the distribution and nomenclature of the native tribes of Alaska and the adjacent territory. Contr. to Am. Ethn. Vol. I, pp. 7-40, 4°. Washington, Government printing office, 1877. The manuscript was actually prepared for the printer in 1875.