

the Danish trading settlements. To the north of them are the Eskimo of the west coast, north of Melville Bay, styled, by Sir John Ross, the "Arctic Highlanders." But their extreme northern limits have yet to be determined. The most advanced arctic explorers have either come in contact with the natives, or found traces of their habitation; and their habits and indifference to the extremest rigor of the climate, justify the assumption that only the absence of game will restrict the limits of their habitat. They occupy the whole coast regions of Behring Strait; and extend beyond that to the islands and neighboring continent, westward even to the shores of northeastern Siberia. The collection formed by Professor Nordenskeold in his Vega expedition — part of which was exhibited at Edinburgh during the present year,— includes an interesting series of implements used by the Chukches of Siberia and the Asiatic Eskimo in fishing and hunting. They employ the same kind of harpoon for hunting the walrus; use a long spear of nearly the same fashion, generally furnished now with an iron head, for hunting the bear; while their arrows are still pointed with walrus ivory. Such traces alike of community of arts and of race, within the arctic circle of the Asiatic and American continents, and even extending to Europe, show that, whatever may have been the ancient lines of migration, the overflow in later centuries across Behring Strait has been from the American continent westward into the Old World.

This widely scattered race, though corresponding in ethnical character, is broken up, by the exigencies of their rigorous climate into small tribes and isolated bands, dispersed for the most part over a coast line extending from Labrador to Behring Strait upward of 5,000 miles, and migrating with the animals on which they depend for subsistence. They are hunters and fishers. The deer, the polar bear, the wild goose, swan, and other birds that resort to arctic breeding grounds, are alike objects of the chase; but they primarily depend on seals and cetaceous animals, the blubber of which furnishes food calculated to beget the animal heat which enables them to brave the severity of an arctic climate. *Eskimantzik* appears to be an Abenaki term signifying "eaters of raw flesh;" and as such indicates the surprise with which even the Indian nomads of New England viewed the strange habits of the hyperborean hunters with whom they were occasionally brought into contact. The Eskimo, however, is neither igno-