

NORTH AMERICA.

LABRADOR: THE ESKIMOS.

ON the shores of Labrador and Greenland, and along all the northern shores of America, are found the northernmost family of the human race:—men and women, who spend their whole lives in a condition which, to most Englishmen, would seem scarcely bearable for a single fortnight:—families, who pass their time, from childhood till old age, in almost perpetual snow.

With the Eskimos, or Esquimaux, fish, and the flesh of the seal or the walrus, constitute almost the only articles of food upon which they subsist. The annexed engraving shows at once their winter-habitations, and their chief employments. In the summer, such as it is in these wintry climes, the Eskimos can dwell in tents, can gather wood for fuel, and catch and dry the salmon for winter stores. In winter, when seal-hunting must be their chief occupation, they raise in a few hours, near the sea, snow-houses, built of solid blocks of snow, in the manner shown in the illustration. So adroitly is this done, that the dwellings are both comfortable, air-tight, and lasting. Even windows are provided, by cutting large round holes in the walls, and inserting therein plates of ice, carefully fitted, and securely fixed in their places.

Sir W. E. Parry says, of the temperature of one of these snow-houses:—"A thermometer placed on the net over the fire indicated a temperature of 38° —placed close to the wall it fell to 23° ;—while in the open air the temperature at the same time was 25° below zero."

In their light canoes, or kayaks, one of which is shown in the engraving, they venture forth on the ocean, to attack and spear the