

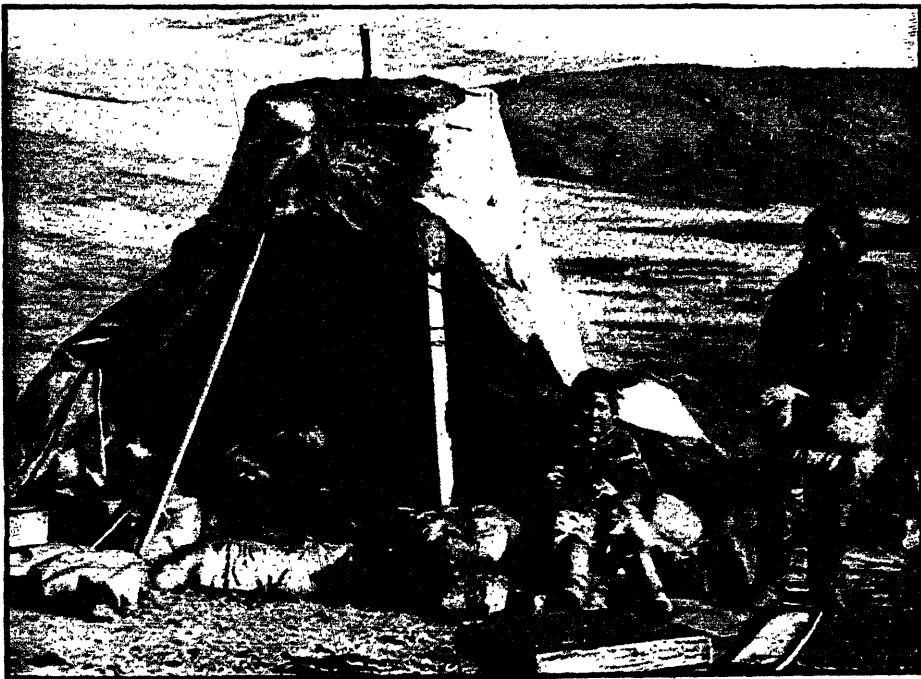
small pieces of wood and bone, all drawn securely together by means of strings of sealskin rawhide, and shod with strips of ivory or bone.

Living isolated from the rest of the world, and struggling against a harsh and difficult environment, these people have developed some strange customs and beliefs. When they were first discovered by Sir John Ross, in 1818, they were much surprised to learn that there were other inhabitants on the globe, for they knew not even of other Eskimos, and thought themselves the only people on the face of the earth. This fact, however, did not make them proud or haughty; they were open to conviction on the evidence of their senses, and so modified their ancient belief. This mania of regarding themselves the only people on the earth is not one that was peculiar to the Arctic Highlanders—it exists still among certain civilized people whom I have visited, who will not accept evidence of their senses, and who are apparently entirely oblivious of the fact that there are others.

The Eskimo interpreter, whom Ross brought with him from South Greenland

soon recognized the Highland speech as his own, and had no trouble in making himself understood and welcome among his distant cousins. In fact, many of their customs were identical with those of the more southern portion of the race. They are separated from their nearest neighbors on the Greenland side by the wide expanse of country that extends from Cape York through the Melville Bay region as far south as Upernavik. But they have no intercourse with, and except from hearsay, know nothing of, their southern neighbors. They are separated from the people on the North American side by Baffin's Bay. The Eskimos on the west side of Davis Strait, however, have in recent years been known to follow up the coast toward Cape Sabine and then to cross over, and there are now two or three Eskimos living among the Arctic Highlanders who came from the American side.

These people are perhaps the oldest race on the face of the globe, and dwell nearer the original habitat of man than any other people. We are told that the earth cooled off at the poles first, thus making possible plant and animal life;



AN ARCTIC HIGHLANDER "TUPIC"