

through the ice to breathe or sun himself ; then the swiftly descending and unerring blow. I have never seen this blow actually given : I have kept company with him in his watching till intense excitement gave place to freezing indifference, and I had to leave ; I have watched him from the shore, where this indifference was counteracted by occasional excursions for warmth, but have always returned to find apparently the same undiminished patient expectancy.

The seal, in winter-time, lives in the snows on the shores just above high-water mark ; into this house, a hollowed out cavity, he comes at or about the time of high-water, the tide having by its increase, raised the ice so that the seal's passage beneath is possible ; he can therefore enter or go out during the few hours that cover the period of high-water ; between these conditions of the water, he must either stay within or without. An Eskimo, with a dog suitably trained, will follow along the shores, at suitable times, till he comes to the locality of one of these houses, the position of which is indicated by the dog's instinct ; then the Eskimo spears, knowing that the seal cannot escape, till he has been successful in his aim.

I have shewn how economical the Eskimo is in the use of his powder and ball : so is he with his gun-caps. It is true that a gun-cap can be used but once as a whole — but then the Eskimo uses it in part several times, by dividing the fulminating powder within it into three or four pieces : one of which, at a time, he uses by placing it within the head of an already used cap. So with his matches, he divides most of them in two lengthwise, by very carefully cutting through the composition at the end, with his knife, an operation that would puzzle the ordinary individual.

Of their ceremonies and religious beliefs, they are very reticent about speaking to any one, having probably in recollection the want of sympathy shewn by the rough sailor for the subject ; and, not caring to risk a repetition, we could get very little information out of them. They believe in a future existence, with plenty as the reward, and bury with the deceased his knife, and, once upon