

with sinews. The third sort, which is used for killing birds, is equal to the first in size, and provided with four barbed bone-points. The fourth sort is nine feet long, and also used against animals, having at one extremity a bony point, to which is tied a thong made of sinews, that is wound twice round the middle of the spear. The other extremity is adorned with a bush of eagle's feathers. The fifth sort is four feet four inches long, having a bony point, and in the middle an inflated bladder, to keep the mortally wounded animal from sinking. The boards with which these darts were thrown are about a foot and half long; one end is fitted for a handle, and at the other end a bone is fastened in like a nail, on which the dart is placed for being thrown.

The darts and boards are dyed with a red stuff, collected from the sides of the rocks, and dissolved in water secreted from blood, by which it is made proof against rain or salt-water.

The blood for this purpose they get from their noses, which they prickle with a blade of grass, until they have procured a sufficiency. On any excursion to sea, they fix their darts behind and before them, in thongs fastened to the baidar.

The darts, which the Aleutian always endeavours to get again, he throws with his right-hand, while with his left he manages the baidar.

He is so dexterous in the government of his bark, that the lightest sloop would certainly not be able to overtake him; for we had the experience of the Aleutians coming up with our vessel in their baidars, when it was going at the rate of four leagues an hour.

Mearns says in his Travels, that the Aleutians could turn themselves over in their baidars, and regain their position at pleasure; but this is not the case. Whenever they are so unfortunate as to be overturned, their death is inevitable, if no one be at hand to assist them; on which account they take the precaution of going in companies, and put in stones for ballast when they have no other load. When they have occasion to stop for any purpose, they bind all their baidars close together; and if they wish to land safely in a violent storm, they must have assistance from the shore to draw their baidars to land.

Expert as these islanders are in the management of their baidars, they are incapable of swimming; and, from what I observed, are not in the habit of bathing, which may be owing to the severity of the climate.

Respecting the appearance, dress, and labours of the Aleutians, nothing is to be added to what has already been said on that subject in the first chapter of this volume. It now remains to mention the different opinions relative to their origin, and