

And so the summer is one long day, for the sun never goes below the horizon in summer. But the long winter night is not so very dreary after all, for it is almost always lighter than our brightest moonlight nights. The moon and stars shine most brilliantly, and, what is far more wonderful, the Aurora Borealis makes it almost as light as day. I presume you have seen this splendid sight, sometimes called the Northern Lights, but we never witness it here like the poor Laplanders do. God seems to give them this beautiful display in the heavens to make up for the loss of the sun. The people of Lapland look more like Asiatics than like Europeans. They are very honest, quiet and industrious, and spend their time in summer in fishing, and in winter in taking care of their herds, making their clothes and their implements for fishing.

The reindeer is the great treasure of the Laplanders. He draws them over the frozen ground in their sledges, and is as docile and obedient as a dog, and nearly as strong as a horse. From the reindeer they are supplied with milk; they eat his flesh, make their garments and shoes of his skin, and indeed are so dependent upon him, that it seems as if they could not endure the hardships of a life in such a country without this noble animal. The Laplanders are called Christians, though they have but few ministers and teachers; and but little knowledge of the Bible. I will tell you a story of a little Lapland girl. You would have smiled could you have seen her short, fat little figure, with black hair combed into her eyes, tight-fitting pantaloons of coarse cloth, and a frock of reindeer skin, with the hair outward. On her head she wore a round woollen cap. Hilga's father owned a large herd of reindeer many miles from the place where he lived, and one day he told his daughter that he was going to take a journey to look after them, and that he would take her with him. Hilga was very glad to go, and you can imagine how funny she looked when seated in the sledge, bundled up in hoods and coats of reindeer skin. The reindeer which acted as their horse, was managed by the voice of his driver, and when he gave the word, away went the sledge over the frozen ground. It was nearly winter, and the sun had been every day getting lower and lower, but Hilga's father thought they would have time to get home before night came. They visited the herd of reindeer, and started to go home. But soon a violent snow-storm commenced, and when they were within a