

occasion, they use dry moss for a wick. With this fire they not only light the jurt, but warm themselves, by taking it under their coats, and closing the opening, so that the heat cannot escape. In this manner they can make themselves as hot as if they were in a sweating-bath. The stone of which these lamps are made is very soft, and may be hollowed out with others of greater hardness, not merely for this purpose, but also for deep pots, in which they boil their fish. They use them however, but seldom, preferring mostly the iron and copper kettles, which they procure from the Russians.

The wooden utensils of these islanders are water-vats, made of split planks. The fat of the whales and the seals they preserve in bladders; the other dry provisions, in baskets, or sacks of braided grass.

Knives and axes they procure from the Russians; but they are not well acquainted with the use of the latter, to which they fasten a wooden handle, so that they can chip with them as with a hatchet, but neither split nor hew; they rive their large trees therefore by means of wooden wedges.

Nothing is more tedious and fatiguing, than their carpenter's and joiner's work, in making their baskets, their arrows, and the hulks of their baidars. One whole year and more is spent in building such a small boat, on which account they prefer purchasing it at a dear rate. The bare collecting together as much wood on the shore as is requisite for a baidar, is attended with infinite toil and trouble. The main part is the keel, 21 feet in length, which is always composed of two or three pieces. To this they fasten, by means of split whale-bone, ribs of willow and alder-branches, on the upper extremities of which they place a frame with cross-bars; which in the middle is a foot and half broad, and binds the whole baidar together. Over the whole they stretch the hide of a sealion, or a large sea-dog, leaving on the top a round but smallish opening, in which the rower sits. This baidar is so light in all its parts, that altogether it does not weigh much above thirty pounds. The paddles are very long, and have shovels at both ends. They are held by the rowers in such a manner, that they can row alternately with one shovel on the one side, and another on the other.

The weapons of the islanders consist merely of darts and spears, which, as they use them for different purposes, are of various sizes. The first sort, which are used against men and animals, are four foot long, having a bit of lava affixed as a point, which is an inch and half long, and three quarters of an inch broad. The second sort is smaller than the first, and is only used against animals; points of bone instead of lava are tied on them