

# PLEASANT HOURS

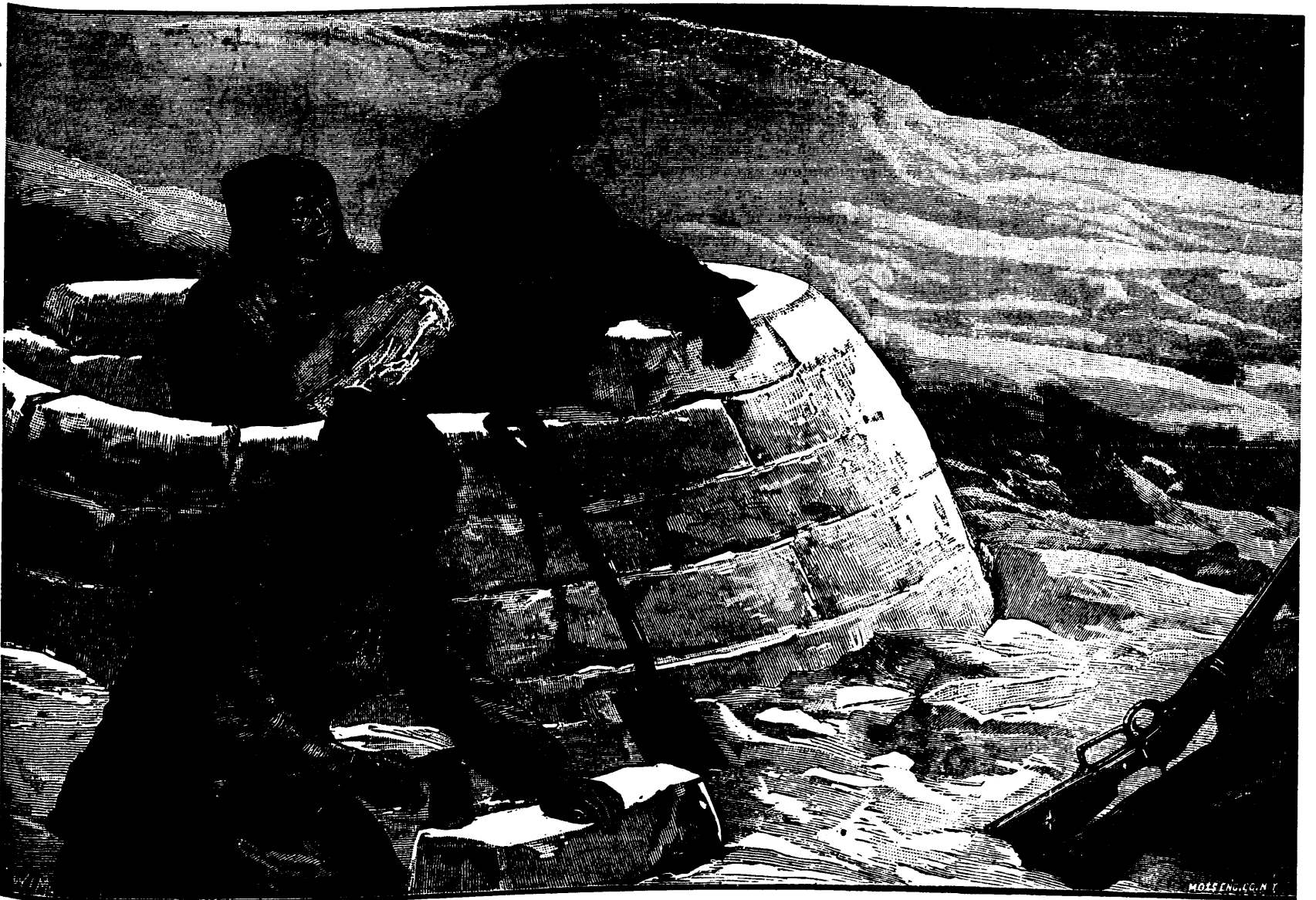
A PAPER FOR OUR YOUNG FOLK

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BUILDING A WINTER RESIDENCE.

## THE ESKIMO.

In no part of the world is that amazing capacity possessed by man for adapting himself to the circumstances of the position in which he is placed more strikingly apparent than in Arctic climes; similarly, there is no greater evidence obtainable of the goodness and love of God, which he shows towards the bodies as well as the souls of his people, than in the bountiful and wise provision he has made for the wants of the comparatively small and insignificant population of the Arctic regions. Because fat and other greasy substances are the best protection, in the way of

food, against snow, frost and cold, God, in his boundless wisdom, has provided that the Arctic regions shall be the natural home of the seal and whale and other fat producing animals, and also that the inhabitants shall eat with avidity and relish that food without which they could not subsist. So, likewise, because fur clothing is more effectual in resisting cold than that made from any other material would be, he has provided that all the animals of those regions shall be heavily furred, and also that the inhabitants shall possess, as they undoubtedly do, the highest skill in drying and dressing their skins,

preparatory to forming them into the warm, neat garments which they wear. Again, the skill and ingenuity exhibited by the Eskimos in the construction of their snow houses, which has created such a profound impression on the minds of missionaries and explorers of the Arctic climes, is unmistakably and directly a gift from God, and, like the poet, the Eskimo house builder *nascitur non fit*.

The dwellings of the Eskimo during the summer are deer-skin tents, and in the autumn wooden huts, partly underground and covered with earth; but his principal abode is on the ice, where he passes half the year in his

comfortable and symmetrical snow hut. Bishop Bompas, of Mackenzie River, whose honoured name will ever be associated with the welfare, spiritual and otherwise, of the Eskimos, amongst whom he has lived so long and laboured so faithfully, gives such an interesting, and I am sure, accurate description of the erection of his snow tenement by the Eskimo, that I make no apology for introducing it to the notice of the reader. He says, "In building his snow house the Eskimo shows a wonderful readiness, which I can compare to nothing but the skill of a bee in making its honeycomb. In the Eskimo country, the fallen snow on