



*Mother and Child with Fish, green and orange stone and ivory, from Port Harrison.*

elsewhere. It is probably from their accounts that most of the children's stories about Eskimos spring.

The most important influence on the Canadian Eskimos in the nineteenth century was not, however, the explorer but the whaler. There were two types of whalers, the Scottish whalers who normally sailed each year from Scotland and who worked in Baffin Bay, and the American whalers who for the most part worked in Hudson Bay and did not go home until their ships were full of oil and baleen, which might take two or three years. The whalers, particularly those in Hudson Bay, saw a great deal of the Eskimos and used them as crews on their whale boats. The Eskimos probably suffered a lot from this contact, particularly from the diseases that were introduced, but they also learnt much that was useful to them. At the same time the resources on which they depended were greatly depleted. Whales were virtually wiped out; many walrus were slaughtered and they became scarce where they had been plentiful, and the muskox was eliminated from the coastal regions. In the west it was not until the end of the nineteenth century that whalers penetrated into the Canadian Arctic. They were there for only a few years before the whaling industry collapsed, but their effect appears to have been much more disastrous than in the east. As whaling declined in the twentieth

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century, the fur trade gradually took its place. Trading posts had been established by many of the whalers and these were gradually taken over by the great fur trading companies, particularly the Hudson's Bay Company. The life of the Eskimos underwent a very great change. From being hunters, depending on the north for everything, they became largely trappers, who had to trap foxes in order to obtain the southern goods they had come to rely upon. This change in occupation did not, however, have much effect on their customs and social life. It is only since the Second World War that the full force of civilization has begun to be felt.

Many changes have taken place in the north in recent years. Defense activities, such as radar stations and airfields, have been followed by mineral exploration. Schools, nursing stations, and wooden houses have been built. The Eskimos have been encouraged to move from their small hunting camps into fewer, larger settlements. Such rapid changes cannot fail to create severe strain in any race whose pattern of social, economic, and intellectual life has been based on quite different conditions. The time of adjustment is difficult, but the Eskimos are a resilient people. In learning to survive in the Arctic environment, they proved their capability to live within constraints that must have been much more formidable than many of the pressures that face them today. A new and different Eskimo culture will evolve and the world will not be poorer but richer.

*Comb with Face, ivory, from Maxwell Bay.*

