

oldest and most trustworthy on the lead, the others in pairs on either side of his line; a dozen constituting a full team, and the whole being controlled by a driver who runs beside them, wielding a whip with a lash thirty feet long, which, in his hands, can take a tuft of hair out of the most distant dog, with unfailling accuracy. Where there is no beaten track some one must precede the dogs to show them the way, but on a well-defined route they will trot along merrily by themselves at the rate of five or six miles an hour.



Often, when a pause is made for a rest or to ice the runners of the sledge, a discussion will arise among the dogs as to whether all are pulling their fair share. From barks they soon come to bites, and a scrimmage ensues which would cast the liveliest corner of Donnybrook Fair into the shade; the dancing driver with his cracking whip, the snarling, struggling dogs entangled in their traces, and the overturned sled combine to make up a scene that defies description.

The Eskimos are very good to their dogs, sharing their last bite with them when food is scarce. So fond are they of them, too, that it is exceedingly difficult to purchase a good team. The Hudson's Bay Company employees find these dogs very useful in their work, and there are large packs of them at every fort. They are famous fish-eaters, and great are the rejoicings in dog-town, when a catch of porpoises or white whales is effected; for

then they may gorge themselves to their hearts' content upon the rich and juicy meat of the marine monsters.

The Eskimo language is very soft and pleasing to the ear, but difficult to acquire, principally because of the peculiar use of the accent, and the difference a wrong placing of it makes, as a word incorrectly pronounced seems to be quite unintelligible. Mr. Ashe's first attempts at conversation were so conspicuously unsuccessful that he was much discouraged. For instance, he once said to a young neighbor: "Ibbe nicky tiddleman pickaniminy petuang-a-too," meaning thereby to remark in a friendly way: "Your dog had five puppies—they are dead;" but in reality testing his visitor's self-control by the offensive assertion: "You are a dog—you have not got five children."

Although known to the world as Eskimo or Esquimaux, these dwellers in the far north call themselves



DOGS WAITING TO BE FED.

"Innuits," which means "the people," as if they were the only people in the world. The generally accepted derivation of the term Eskimo, is from the Indian word "Eskimautsic," signifying "eaters of raw meat," but Mr. Ashe suggests another derivation that is at least very plausible, and worthy of notice. The whaler of to-day calls the Eskimo "Huskies," a word that is not far removed from "Husickie," and that again from "Isickie," which is the Innuits word for a male. Now, what seems more probable than that the earliest visitors to those icy regions in seek-