



ESKIMO VILLAGE.

and fastened round his waist. The machine is then completely watertight." In these frail vessels the intrepid natives of the Polar regions pursue seals and whales, and even attack the walrus in his native element. In addition to the kayak or men's canoe there is also the oomiak or woman's canoe, which is a much larger and clumsier construction than the kayak, and somewhat like a boat. It is open above and can hold a large family of women and children. Like the kayak, it is a framework of wood covered with seal skin, and it is propelled by means of short spoon-formed paddles.

The weapons principally used by the Eskimo in hunting the seal are what may be conveniently termed the longer and shorter harpoon. To the former, which is used for the largest seals, a long, stout line is attached, at the end of which is fastened a "drogue" or bladder which most effectually prevents the escape of the prey when wounded. The latter is known as the bladder-arrow, and is a small harpoon without a line, and with a small bladder at the end to buoy up the weapon should

it miss its mark. Professor Brown tells us that this weapon is also employed in the "halloo hunt," which consists in a number of Greenlanders driving a flock of seals into a narrow inlet or bay, and slaughtering them in this confined place. Remembering the keen scent of the seal, a hunter is always most careful to keep the prey to windward of him; to do otherwise is to destroy every chance of success. The writer has found it an excellent plan in summer seal hunting with the rifle to whistle softly immediately the seal rises to the surface of the water. This attracts his attention and frequently keeps him above water for a long time, during which he may be effectually covered by the deadly firearm, and ultimately secured. During the winter and early spring months seal hunting is prosecuted under very different conditions; but it is not a whit less exciting. They are killed either in the holes of water which appear

amongst the ice, or on the ice itself in the vicinity of these holes. In the former case the Eskimo hunter takes up a favorable position somewhere near the edge of the hole, either behind an ice hummock or a white screen which he sometimes uses. He holds in his hand the bladder arrow spoken of above, and waits with the most amazing patience for the appearance of the seal. Suddenly a little black snout shows itself, the hand of the Eskimo is uplifted, at the same instant the harpoon is poised; it has buried itself in the breast or side of the seal and his death is but the question of a few moments. If, on the other hand, the seals are discovered on the ice, the Eskimo crawls in a wonderfully seal-like manner, now rolling over and over, now tossing a little snow into the air and frisking about, until he arrives within an easy distance of his unconscious prey, which has been so outwitted. This mode of encompassing the death of seals is as safe as it is ingenious in the Polar regions, but when it is adopted by isolated Eskimo living in the midst of Europeans it is, of course, just as ingenious, but decidedly unsafe. My friend,