

effect of some twelve dogs propably fighting for the only morsel they are likely to have eaten for the past two or three days ; then add to this the several twelve strings, the howling Eskimo and the twenty foot whip, and I believe you will have a very fair idea of the picture I would present.

When the dogs are following along a path which they have already been over, no guide is necessary : but when the road is an unknown one, each of the party including the women take turns in running ahead of the dogs to show the way. The dogs follow the easiest way for themselves after the human leader, whilst one of the Eskimos who remains on the front of the kommittick, guides it, by thrusting the kommittick to one side with his foot so as to avoid any lump of ice, or protruding rock, that would destroy the ice-film of the runners. You will understand, from the way that the dogs are attached to the kommittick, that on going down hill, the realization of the hope you have, that you will get safely to the bottom, will depend on several conditions which are not all in your, or the Eskimo's control. First, the dogs must be able to reach the bottom before the kommittick does ; should it overtake them, they will be scattered in every direction, than dragged by their lines in every conceivable position, till the sleigh is either overturned or brought to rest, generally the former. Then, it is a much more difficult thing to steer a twelve foot sleigh such as this, than it would be to guide the movements of one of less length, particularly when rushing at the speeds that they attain ; it therefore quite often happens, that the dogs rush down the hill in the required direction, whilst the kommittick rushes in a slightly different one, so making their attempts to escape only temporarily successful, for shortly the divergence is so great, that, first a strain is put upon their lines by the increasing distance between them, then the kommittick passes them, turning them so that they face up the hill for an instant ; then they are upset and dragged ; then the kommittick is upset, and its contents, human and otherwise find a resting place some little distance further on than the bottom of the hill. The Eskimos do not seem to mind these experiences, principally