

try to bore a hole through the roof, big enough, at any rate, for us to crawl through."

9. The two children set to work; and, in the middle of the room, they made a pile of all the fish-bones and rubbish they could scrape together.

10. Having climbed upon it, Arnara found that, by stretching upwards, she could just reach the little hole in the roof which let out the smoke, when a fire was lit within.

11. With a sharp, strong fish-bone she began to cut all round this hole, so as to make it larger. It was hard work; for all the time she had to reach well above her head, and the mud, of which the roof was made, was caked fast and close.

12. At length, however, the hole was big enough to enable the children to creep through. Arnara climbed out first, and then hauled Salick up, and through the hole; for, being smaller, he did not find it so easy as his sister to reach the roof from the mound they had made. But, after a good struggle, he stood safely beside her; and they were now free, but alone in a land where the snow was only just beginning to melt.

13. Around them lay the huts of the village; but there was no sound coming from them, nor any sign of movement. The people had all packed up, and set off on their long march in search of summer quarters.

14. But things did not seem so bad, now they