

harvest was reaped by the more ingenious. Models of sledges, and of household furniture, pipes, and toys of ivory, among which were ducks, seals, dogs, etc., made for the children, and evidencing great taste and variety, were eagerly purchased."

The hatchets are made of a thick piece of copper, about five or six inches long, and from one and a-half to two inches square, beveled away at one end like a mortise-chisel, and fastened at the other to a wooden handle about twelve or fourteen inches in length, so as to resemble an adze; but they have neither weight nor sharpness to act like an adze or hatchet, and are generally applied in working like a chisel, being driven into the wood with a heavy club.

The Tuski understand the art of tanning, and are able to produce very fair specimens, but practise it principally with sealskin, which is dressed in all colors; the white is very delicate, and much prized. Deerskins are dressed with ammonia, red ochre, and other materials. They are rendered very soft and pliable, but the mode of curing gives them an exceedingly unpleasant odor, which is only imperceptible in cold weather.

Amulets or charms seem to be very common among the Esquimaux. Parry speaks of them in the Hudson Bay tribes; and here, in North-West America, they are very similar. The *amber* is said to be "frequently found in the pools inland, or floating on the sea, to which it has been carried in the summer by the floods."

The Esquimaux women deserve more notice even than the men, for they are more intelligent, and more capable of becoming civilized. Like most of their sex; however, in wild regions, they are considered of secondary importance by the men, Indian and Esquimaux alike. One of the chiefs, Matonabee, once said, in explanation: "When all the men are heavy laden, they can neither hunt nor travel to any considerable distance; and, in case they meet with success in hunting, who is to carry the produce of their labor? Women," added he, "were made for labor; one of them can carry or haul

as much as two men can do. They also pitch our tents, make and mend our clothing, keep us warm at night; and, in fact, there is no such thing as traveling any considerable distance, or for any length of time, in this country, without their assistance. They are maintained at a trifling expense, for, as they always stand cook, the very licking of their fingers, in scarce times, is sufficient for their subsistence."

As regards their appearance, we cannot say they are beautiful, though there is a winning charm about them that attracts. Before marriage they are generally well-behaved and modest; afterward it too often occurs that they become what we should term shameless, especially when strangers are near. The husbands, however, are to blame, as they usually contract all such bargains. Even among themselves, it is common to loan each other one's wife.

Their stature is short, and, when old, they look very miserable, with their long matted gray hair and bow legs. They have a dress sometimes very tasteful and peculiar, and one that displays much skill and ingenuity in the make, with generally much vanity, if not coquetry, in the wear. This dress differs from the men's, in the moccasins and breeches forming a single close-fitting garment tied round the waist, as well as in being more uniformly striped, and the coat in being longer, reaching to below the knees, in a rounded flap before and behind. The back of the coat and hood are also made large enough to contain a child, whose weight is chiefly sustained by the belt. For common use, and among the poorer people, the inner one is made of bird-skins, and among those better off, of deerskin.

The hair of the western Esquimaux women is worn parted in the middle from the back to the front, and plaited on each side behind the ear into a roll, which hangs down the bosom and is wrapped round with small beads of various colors. Length of hair generally accompanies softness of its texture, and is considered a point of female beauty. The ears are, with very few exceptions, pierced to support, with ivory or copper hooks, four or five long strings