

interruption until the numbers of the natives became decreased, so that we were much pleased to see them in a state of forwardness. On July 4 they commenced leaving, and continued to follow for three successive days.

Each party halted to sleep near the ship to have an opportunity of begging from us till the last moment, and as I had prepared some printed papers for them to distribute among the eastern Esquimaux at Barter Island, they were treated with every indulgence; and those intrusted with the printed papers received a present of tobacco, some buttons, prepared in England, bearing information concerning the arctic search, and some other small trifles to keep them reminded of their charge, which they faithfully promised to pass on. I redeemed a long-made promise to the chief, giving him some gunpowder. I think it had a good effect, by showing we had no fear of them; and I was fully aware he had a sufficient quantity for mischievous purposes, as his gun, when in our possession, we found well loaded with ball-cartridge.

I accompanied one party a short distance on their journey to see if I could gain any useful hints for our own boats. The u-mi-aks were secured on small sledges, and seemed to be easily drawn by three people. The principal part of their barter (whale-blubber and seal-oil) was carried on small truck-sledges, drawn by the women and dogs, the men seeming to confine themselves to the charge of the boats; but at lanes of water and different passes they mutually assist each other. The rate of travelling whilst moving was expeditious, but they made frequent halts to smoke; and before I left them, although near their place of encampment, they ate a hearty meal.

Between the 4th and 7th of July, as many as twenty-seven to thirty u-mi-aks, accompanied by 150 people, passed to the eastward, much to our satisfaction, as it left us with comparatively few to trouble us in our preparations for sending away the boats.