

they perform this at once by their often described descent to the goddess *Arnakuagsak* who resides on the bottom of the ocean and is able at her will to keep the animals imprisoned or set them free to the benefit of the sealhunters.

Now tradition tells that Arnakuagsak was the daughter of a mighty angakok who travelling with her in an umiak (skinboat) was overtaken by a gale and in order to save himself threw her overboard. As she would cling to the sides of the boat he by and by cut off her fingers and hands. But these parts of her body were then converted into seals and whales, and she herself entrusted with the sway over them in connection with her submarine residence to which she was taken on going to the bottom. On the opposite side of Davis Strait we recognise the same myth among the traditions collected by Dr. Boas. He gives an interesting version of it in which Sedna (Sana?) is treated by her father as just described and in dying also becomes a demon or spirit but somewhat differing from Arnakuagsak. According to Petitot the latter is unknown at the Mackenzie R.; should it be affirmed, that the Greenland myth is also unknown in Alaska, we must suppose that it has been invented under the migration to Greenland, most likely by the angakoks and founded on elder traditions.

The main material of which the traditional tales are composed consists of what we may call ELEMENTS OF THE FOLK-LORE, namely events, animate beings or persons, properties of the same etc., more or less reiterated in different tales. They are combined in various ways, and such compilations can be taken out of one story and inserted in another. Finally these elements or parts are filled out and cemented by what tends to form a new story. As these tales can serve only through indirect inferences to indicate the former homesteads and migrations of the tribes, their historical value will be essentially increased by having collections of them from different localities for comparison. Contributions of this kind have lately com-