

3. *Houses, Tents, and Feasts*] These people change their habitations according to the season, living in houses in winter, in summer in tents. Their houses are built with stones and sods; these are roofed with beams and rafters, and small wood between them; over these are laid bushes and turf, and fine earth on the top; they have neither door nor chimney; the use of both these is supplied by a vaulted passage, four or six yards long, entering the middle of the house in the front; this is so low that they must nearly creep on their hands and feet, especially when they first step down into the passage, either from within or without. The walls are hung on the inside with old skins, to keep out the damp; the roof on the outside is covered with them also. From the middle, all along one side of the house, there is a bench of boards raised about a foot high, and covered with skin; this is divided into small apartments, resembling horses stalls, by skins stretching from the wall to the posts that support the roof in the middle; each family has a stall, and the number of families in one house are from three to ten. On these floors they sleep upon pelts, they also sit on them all day long; the men foremost with their legs hanging down, carving their tackle and tools; the women behind them minding their sewing, these also cook the victuals. Opposite to them on the front of the house are windows, made of seals guts and halibut's maws, and sewed so neat and tight, that the wind and snow are kept out while the light is let in. A bench runs along under the windows, the whole length of the house, on this the strangers sit and sleep.

By every post is a fire place, of a curious and simple kind, for the use of each family; it is nothing more than a lamp hewn out of a kind of chalk or soft marble, they fill it with train of seals, and use fine moss instead of cotton: over this they boil their meat in a sort of kettle of the same substance with the lamp; over all they fasten a wooden rack, on which they lay their wet clothes and boots to dry. During their dark and tedious winter the lamps sufficiently enlighten the house, and warm it more equally than a German stove-heated room.

On the coming on of spring when the snow begins to melt and threatens to run through the roof, they move out of these huts, rejoicing to spend the summer in tents. Their tents are framed with poles, and covered with skins; the order of their tents is much the same as that in their houses, but they are much more cleanly; and in these they endeavour to display some finery and taste. On occasion of a visit,* the guests or visitors are welcomed with singing and presented with a lost pelt to sit upon; the men talk very gravely and considerably of the weather, of hunting and fishing; the women first mutually bewail their deceased relations with an harmonious howl, and then divert themselves with all manner of little stories, mean

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* The following is a catalogue of the dishes at one of their most sumptuous feasts: 1. Dried herrings. 2. Dried seal fish. 3. Boiled ditto. 4. Half raw and rotten ditto, mikiak. 5. Boiled willocks, a kind of birds. 6. A piece of half rotten whale's tail, a dish in as high repute, as the haunch of venison is here, when kept till it has got the epicurean relish or goût. 7. Dried salmon. 8. Dried reindeer venison. 9. A desert of crow-berries, mixed with the chyle out of the reindeer. 10. The same, enriched with train oil.