



LOG CHURCH AT LAKE TALON.

(See page 58.)

A small oil lamp serves for fire and light. The lamp is a shallow dish made of stone. Moss serves for a wick. A lump of fat or whale blubber is suspended over the dish, and as it melts from the heat it drops into the moss and keeps the flame alive. When we consider the length of time it would take to melt the snow, boil the water, and cook the food over such a small fire, we can understand how it is that the trouble of cooking is often dispensed with. It is a curious fact that the people who live in the coldest part of the world use very much smaller fires than those who reside in more temperate climes. Nature, however, has provided them with a layer of fat underneath the skin as a protection against the cold, and they eat a large amount of fatty food, which keeps up the animal heat.

Their food consists of the flesh of the whale, walrus, and seal, which, as above intimated, is often eaten raw. Fish, reindeer, musk ox, goats, and wild fowl are also obtained in their season. Whale fins, when somewhat putrid, are considered a great delicacy, as are also the intestines of all animals, especially when stuffed with fat and frozen!

Both sexes are immoderately fond of tobacco, which they smoke differently from other people, in pipes of peculiar shape manufactured by themselves. The bowl of the pipe, in shape, is something like an empty cotton reel with one end cut off, the other end being uppermost. Into this a little tobacco is pressed, two or three whiffs are taken, the smoke is swallowed, and a transient intoxication is produced.

Travelling is performed in winter by dogs and sledges. From five to ten dogs are attached, each by a single trace, to the sledge, which is set on runners; the runners being coated with ice to make them glide the more smoothly over the snow. In summer the

sledges are packed away, and skin boats or canoes are made use of. The men go ahead in their little light *kyacks*, using a double-bladed paddle. The women follow in the larger boat, called a *romiack*, which is propelled by oars or sail. Sometimes the whole family, men, women, children, dogs, and all the household effects, are stowed away in one of these, and long voyages are taken; and they are used by the men in hunting the whale, walrus, and seal. In springtime, before the ice has cleared away, both sledges and boats are used. The boat is packed on the sledge when ice blocks the

way, and the sledge is put in the boat when open water is reached; and so on.

They are expert at making things for their own use, such as bows and arrows, spears, knives, needles, fish-hooks, canoes, etc. The fish-hooks are sometimes made of bone; others are made of walrus ivory, in the shape of a fish, with a piece of bent iron let in near the tail. Needle cases and small ornaments are also made of ivory. Fishing nets are made of split whalebone, as well as of the bark of willows; and the roots of trees are split and woven into baskets capable of holding water. These used to be used as kettles for cooking their food, hot stones being put into the water to heat it.

Cleanliness is *not* a characteristic of these people, and godliness still less so. Many of their habits are such as to make it almost impossible for a white man to live amongst them. They are, however, hospitable, and, in their way, kind, and even courteous, to visitors, civil and obliging. Their religious belief is very vague, and they seem to have little or no knowledge of a future life. They possess a tradition of the creation, of the descent of mankind from a single pair, and that in the first family in the world one brother killed the other, and had afterwards to wander from his home and was lost. When they first saw Europeans, they thought these were the descendants of the long lost fratricide! Various superstitious practices are observed to drive away sickness, avert calamity, obtain success in hunting, propitiate the evil spirit, etc. Their only idea of a good spirit is connected with the sun as a source of warmth and life.

(To be continued.)

MANY people are willing to give the cup of cold water, provided they can have their own name engraved on the cup.