

might be added as a curiosity that the Eastcoast of Greenland can boast of one or two improvements unknown on the West-coast. Small as certainly they are when compared with the whole equipment one of them nevertheless deserves to be mentioned. It consists in having the large bladder replaced by two smaller ones closely bound together. Besides the security it otherwise affords; the usefulness of this contrivance may be perceived when we consider the critical circumstances under which the capture of a seal is performed, and especially the fact taken into account that the several operations of throwing the harpoon and at the same time getting rid of the bladder and line, killing the animal with the lance, fastening it for being towed and finally restoring and duly fixing the instruments used — have all to be done with one hand, while the other must keep hold of the paddle, ready to avert the dangers which at the same time may arise from the sea. Experience has probably shown that the double bladder is easier to handle and especially to catch hold of than the large one. It must, as a matter of course, be understood that here, as well as in the following pages we speak of natives and especially Greenlanders as they were before their primitive habits were influenced by contact with Europeans.

This might be sufficient so far as sealhunting from kayak is concerned. It is well known that the same animal is hunted also by other means, some of which in certain regions more or less supplant the kayak. This is the case, where the winter ice hinders its use for too long a period of the year. Moreover whalefishery is carried on by the Eskimo in different places with great expertness, and for this kind of chase as well as in pursuing other large cetaceous animals and seals the open skin-boat is made use of as much as, or even more so than the kayak. But when SEALHUNTING MUST BE PERFORMED ON THE FROZEN SEA, the methods practised do not seem to have been subjected to the same kind of changes which we have seen in the operations