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The hoods of the women's coats are also much larger than those of the men, being for the purpose of carrying their young children stark naked against the back.

The arrangement of the colours of skins, and the formation of their clothing, are very strictly attended to. Thus the dark and mottled part of the seal is placed in the centre of the back or breast, while the lighter shades are on the sides. In the sleeves, the fore and back piece are often of two colours, and the cuffs also of a different hue. As each of the numerous varieties of seal affords a peculiar skin, it may be imagined that these people avail themselves of this in order to arrange the most opposite and glossy colours in the same habit. The women wear no trowsers, or, at all events, very few do so. They have, however, rather a complicated substitute for these indispensables; for round the loins a tight leather girth or girdle is laced, one part of it passing between the thighs. Long stockings, or, more properly speaking, legs of trowsers, are then drawn on, and attached to the hind part of the girdle. Yet, with these contrivances, a portion of the stomach and upper leg is shown naked. The boots were the same as those worn by the men.

It was impossible to distinguish sexes by the dresses of the children; some of their jackets having one tail, others two, and many none at all.

In this short account of the clothing of our visitors, it must be remembered that it is the summer dress I describe: what their winter costume may be is merely conjectural.

A very singular custom prevailed amongst them in concluding the most trifling bargain; for no sooner had they received an article in exchange for their goods, than it was instantly applied to the tongue, and licked several times previous to being put away in security.* Whatever might be the article given, even

* Captain Cook mentions a curious custom at the Isle of Amsterdam which much resembles this.