

with their legs crossed. The husband's time is employed in making or repairing his hunting and fishing implements, while the woman attends to her cooking and sewing. In the front wall are several windows, about two feet square, netted with the intestines of seals and the integuments of fish maws, of so close and compact a texture that they exclude the wind and snow, while admitting a good deal of light. A bench runs the whole length of the room under the windows, and is used for strangers to sleep and sit on. Near each pillar there is a place for the lamp. A block of wood laid on a hearth of stones supports a low three-legged stool, and on this stands the crescent-shaped lamp, a foot in diameter, hewn out of soft stone, with an oval bowl of wood under it to catch the oil that may run over. In this lamp, which is filled with seal oil they place filaments of moss instead of cotton wick, which burns with a flame so bright that the house is not only illuminated, but warmed by its several lamps. Over the lamp an oblong kettle of stone (now, of course, of metal), an utensil of the greatest importance, is suspended by four cords from the roof. It is a foot in diameter and various lengths, and every kind of food is cooked in it. Still higher is a wooden rack on which they spread their wet boots and clothes to dry. There are as many lamp-places in a house as there are families, and more than one lamp is frequently kept burning day and night in each, so that the temperature is kept warm and even. No steam or smoke is perceptible, and they are perfectly secure from accidents by fire. The smell, however, from so many train-oil lamps with such large quantities of fish and flesh boiling over them, and particularly the fumes from the vessels in which the skins are steeped for dressing, are extremely offensive to unaccustomed nostrils, though habit, it is said, soon renders the effluvia bearable. In other respects their housekeeping may well excite admiration, whether we consider the ingenuity with which all their necessities are crowded into so small a space, or their contentedness in a poverty which appears to them the height of abundance, or the remarkable order and quietness with which they move in their contracted dwellings.

Adjoining their dwellings stand their storehouses, built of stones in the form of a baker's oven, containing their fall stock of meat, blubber and dried fish. What they catch during the winter is buried in the snow, and the train-oil is preserved in seal-skins. Close by, their boats are suspended, out of reach of the dogs, on long poles, with the hunting apparatus under, and tied to them. In September, the building of houses, or the repairing of those whose roofs have fallen in during the summer, occupies the women, for the men do not engage in any kind of domestic labour, except wood and bone work. They move into their houses during the early part of October, and in March, April or May, as soon as the snow disappears and the crumbling roof threatens to fall in on them, they gladly move into their tents. In the erection of these tents they pave a quadrangular area with small, flat flagstones, round which they fix from ten to forty poles, coming together in a point at the top, and resting on a framework about the height of a man. Over these ribs they hang a double covering of seal-skins, lined by the more wealthy with reindeer-skins with the fur side inward. The lower edge of this covering is kept down on the ground by heavy stones, and the interstices are stuffed with moss to prevent the wind from overturning the tent. A curtain, neatly woven of seals' gut, hangs before the entrance, bordered by a hem of red or blue cloth and embroidered with white. Cold air cannot penetrate this hanging, though it admits a plentiful supply of light, and the tent coverings project considerably on all sides of the tent, making a kind of porch in which the inmates deposit their provisions, etc. It