

The Eskimo had compelled the Basques to give up their whale fishery in the strait, and kept up a continual and savage warfare with the French and Montagnais. The unknown writer mentioned above, who has left a quaint and charming description of the life of the French settlement, gives it as his opinion that "they (the Eskimo) fly from Europeans because they have been maltreated, fired on, and killed, and if they attack and kill Europeans it is only in way of reprisal."

Courtemanche was succeeded in 1717 by his son-in-law Brouage. His reports are an account of continual strife with the Eskimo. Brouage learned the Eskimo language from a woman taken captive in Courtemanche's time, and relates some marvellous tales which he obtained from her. He speaks of one tribe who were dwarfs, 2 or 3 feet high, but remarkably fierce and active. Have we to do here with the Agdlit, or dog-people, of Eskimo mythology? Another tribe had white (?) hair from the time of their birth (possibly the Bear-people); another tribe had one leg, one arm, and one eye (the Illokoq, "longitudinally split person" of Eskimo myths?). On Brouage's death, the post was abandoned. About the same time Labrador, together with the rest of Canada, fell into the hands of the English.

During the English occupation of Labrador, the Eskimo continued their depredations in the Strait of Belle Isle. Bands of them came down each summer, ostensibly to trade, but in reality to carry off everything they could lay hands on. Their system of attack was to creep up on the unsuspecting fishermen in a dense fog, and so terrify them with their unearthly yells that they would abandon their property and flee. At other times, when a party presented a bold front, the Eskimo would advance and engage in trade, but when they had thrown their adversaries off their guard for a moment, they would attack them and kill the whole crew. They told the Moravians that they used to carry knives and arrows for such purposes¹ concealed in their clothing and kayaks.

The fishermen were not behind in retaliation, and shot and plundered small parties of Eskimo at sight. There was probably

¹ Courtemanche, writing in 1716, mentions seeing firearms, probably plunder, in possession of the Eskimo; but it is doubtful if they knew how to use them.