



THE GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF THE ESKIMO PEOPLE.

(This map, at the best, can only claim to be approximately true, owing to the nomadic character of many of the tribes, the migration of the animals on which they subsist, and other causes. Were all the places marked where old Eskimo ruins have been found, it would cover nearly all the great Arctic Archipelago and extend the other coast-line limits considerably. Their sea-coast abiding character is well shown in following their habitat, although a very few tribes live inland and seldom visit the sea. It should be noted also that some few hybrid types of the Eskimo race are found on the Asiatic coast of Bering's Sea.—THE AUTHOR.)

died, and his joy on being carried to the deck of the Arctic-bound ship when the first iceberg was sighted, is as pathetic as any ever told of the return of Arctic refugees to their land of flowers and forests; and clearly shows that patriotism and love of home is circumscribed by no parallels of latitude nor influenced by climatic conditions. Wherever the Indians and Eskimo have come in contact in an aggressive way, the northern nomads have steadily pushed back their copper-colored neighbors, and the only places where they—the Eskimo—have penetrated far inland to reside, is along the Yukon and Kouskoquim Rivers of Alaska. Here they have elbowed out the Indian for some hundreds of miles, and find a luxuriant living on the swarming fisheries of these streams.

It has been urged by some scientists, with no small degree of ingenious reasoning that the prehistoric cavemen of Europe were the progenitors of the present widely dispersed Eskimo race. At that time much of Europe was overspread by a huge sheet of ice (the glacial epoch of geology) and along its edges a hardy race of people hunted the reindeer and lived in caves. Being a cold-climate-loving race they followed the ice-sheet as it retreated northward until the Arctic Ocean stopped their polar pilgrimage. Then they followed its flat coast east and west until they came to mountainous

country where elevation gave them the cold denied by northern migration, and they stopped in the hilly land of the northern Scandinavian peninsula where the Lapps live, and in the Arctic coast of America, much of which is high and precipitous.

The Eskimo, the Lapps, and ancient cavemen, have many points in common. They are nearly all small in stature, while, more important from a scientific standpoint, their crania are so similar as to point to a common origin. The Eskimo are noted for their love of rude sculpture with and drawing on walrus ivory, reindeer horns, and such materials as their lone land furnishes, and this primitive art is found among the relics of the European cavemen; one engraving on a reindeer horn of the prehistoric mammoth exciting a deep interest as showing that that huge animal was contemporaneous with man before history was begun, except by such fragmentary links as this very engraving recorded.

While the Eskimo undoubtedly are a short-statured and small race of people, a two years' residence with them on the Atlantic side and a summer's experience among them on the Pacific coast has convinced me that they are not of such a pygmy growth as popular belief pictures them; and this has been spoken of before by some who have had extended contact with them. One tribe I saw, in fact,