

awhile to observe if you are friendly; then, advancing with their hands held up at an angle of 45° over their head, they will slowly lower them and make rapid passes over the stomach as a salutation. If this is returned, they will approach, and fixing the forehead against the visitor's, use it as a fulcrum to *rub noses*—a very expressive, if not agreeable ceremony. Then follows a desire to trade, and it is generally understood that for everything given something must be returned. If a *free* gift is made, wrong is often suspected; and it is always better to bestow or receive an article, no matter how trifling, in return, than to offer or take gratuitously.

The stature of these people is not so dwarfish as supposed. Some are 5 ft. 10 in., and rarely any under 5 ft. 1 in. They are robust, muscular, and active, their chief strength being in the back. Their coarse, sooty black hair is cut in an even line across the forehead, cropped close on the crown, but kept long at the back and ears. The color of the skin is a light yellowish brown, growing darker, and soon weatherbeaten, as age advances. They have remarkably firm and regular white teeth when young, but towards middle age they have lost their enamel, and become black, or are worn down to the gums. In general, they have a good-humored expression of countenance, but tattooing and lip ornaments much disfigure them.

Their dresses are made of the skins of deer and seals. The upper garments are double, the inner one having the hair of the skin next to the body, and the outer one in the reverse direction. The coat or frock has a hood attached to it for drawing over the head, and a skirt hanging down to the calf of the leg in a peak. Their trowsers descend low in the leg, and they often wear two pair of sealskin boots, with the hairy side of both turned inwards. The dwellings of these people are, in summer, good, substantial tents, made with deerskins, and in winter, log-houses, constructed of driftwood, which is generally abundant on the Arctic shores, and collected in large quantities by the

natives. The outline of the house is formed by digging a pit about twelve feet square and ten in depth, and driving vertical piles within these lines. These serve for the support of long spars laid obliquely, and which, resting on their vertical ends, and ballasted with earth on their butts, form a four-sided pyramidal roof, leaving an opening at the summit about eighteen inches square, which serves as a window as well as ventilator. This is closed, when requisite, by a frame, on which the large skin of the paunch of the whale or seal is stretched, excluding the air and cold, and yet affording a pleasant, subdued light, about equal to ground glass. The flooring is formed of split timber, nicely smoothed, the interstices filled or caulked internally and externally with moss. Over all, outside, the hut is coated with bark, fine brushwood and turf.

The entrance to them is constructed on a scientific principle. It is a passage of about twenty or twenty-five feet long, from the south, and from four to six feet below the flooring. This passage is at first six feet high, and descends gradually until about five feet below the surface of the ground, becoming low and narrow before it terminates beneath the floor of the hut. Near its middle, on one side, branches off a recess, ten to twelve feet long, with a conical roof open at the top, forming an apartment which serves as a cookhouse; and on the other side is often a similar place, used as a store or clothes-room. The youst is entered by a round aperture in the floor, so that a person has to descend into the passage, crawling along it, and then ascend into the room, the outer entrance being generally closed by a slab of ice.

On each side the room, bed-places are formed away from the entrance, and on either side is an oil-burner, or "fire-place," having a slender rack of wood suspended over it, on which articles of clothing are placed to dry, also a block of snow to melt and drip into a large wooden vessel. Beneath the last, again, are other vessels for different purposes, some of them frequently containing skins to undergo preparation for being dressed. These vessels