

and other implements of the chase, and practise with one another in throwing at a mark. Girls have their dolls and as with girls of civilized parents they delight in playing house; nor do they tire of this until they are married, for often groups of girls of all ages might be seen sitting in some sheltered spot in summer each having a house formed only of a ring of stones a few inches in diameter in which some short pieces of stick were lying while other pieces were propped upright. These pieces of stick represented people, and they were made to visit one another's houses while the owner kept up a continuous flow of conversation for them.

Unlike the Indian the Eskimo is nearly always laughing, and even in times of great distress it is not hard to make them smile. On one occasion, with the intention of building a beacon in the shape of a man, I procured the assistance of an Eskimo, and cutting out the shape of a large head in wood I got my assistant to carry it to the hill upon which I proposed to build the beacon. Without asking a question he assisted me to build the man and place head and arms upon it, nor did he understand its meaning when a model of a gun was placed between the arms. Finished it stood about nine feet high and when the last stone was put up I led my assistant about a hundred yards away and then turned him round to look at it. Slowly his eyes opened widely, and then suddenly he burst into such a fit of laughter I was almost afraid of him for he rolled upon the ground. This beacon was built for the guidance of the relief ship.

As we find among civilized beings men much more conversant with nature than their fellows so we find it with the Eskimo, and while some know many of the stars, and other objects in the heavens by name, others can hardly tell one from another. On the whole, however they may be said to be keen observers of nature, for in making collections of the birds, insects, and plants they were of great assistance, and if an insect was shown them they could usually take me where more of the same species might be found.

On the approach of summer they watched with interest its signs, and often would bring to me insects which they believed were the first of the season. The first snow bunting that appeared in the spring was hailed with great joy, and in great haste they came to inform me of its arrival.