

and others visited and described, and who seem not to have molested Franklin's fated band, and, indeed, aided when they could, other arctic expeditions in time of their direst need, deserve no such treatment at our hands.

The early voyagers called them "Skraelings;" the Indians proper ("Abenaki") of inland southeastern Labrador called them "Eskimo," meaning "raw fish eaters;" the early French voyagers to the gulf, Esquimaux, from the Indian word, and by these latter names they are generally known to-day, their own proud title of "Innuït"—the people—being seldom heard save among themselves.

It will be in order after their name or names, to describe briefly the country they occupy within and without the Dominion of Canada. Our Canadian Eskimo may be said to occupy a country about two thousand miles long by eight hundred miles broad, while the "Innuït" nation extends along the Asiatic coast four hundred miles west of Behring Straits, along the northern coast of Alaska, and down the Asiatic and American coasts of Behring Sea for some distance, where, however, they have become mixed with the coast Indian tribes, the east and west coast of Greenland, and down the Labrador coast to latitude sixty, occupying also both shores of Hudson's Bay down to about the same latitude. Throughout this vast region they have never shown any inclination to leave the sea-coast of the continent or the islands off of it, and when they do so, it is merely a summer excursion to supplement their diet of seal, whale, walrus, mussels and sea fish with the flesh of the reindeer and the salmon of districts not far from their favourite arctic haunts, and to procure the reindeer skins to provide the lighter part of the dress of the winter and summer months. The seal is to the Eskimo what the buffalo once was to the Indians of the western prairie; food, clothing and material for his house. Indeed, it is more, for the fat is his winter fuel and without the seal there would be no Innuït nation, as no savages, less well fed on oleaginous foods, could possibly resist and face, as the Eskimo have to resist and face, the intense cold of an arctic winter: eating quantities of it, as well as of whale's blubber, which we would doubt the tales of were they not vouched for by arctic voyagers and missionaries whose accuracy cannot be impugned; they tell us that a successful hunter will lie on his back and devour twelve or fourteen pounds of blubber in a day, and an Eskimo boy is described by a painstaking and doubtless wondering arctic voyager, as eating, in twenty-four hours, eight and a-half pounds of seal meat, half frozen and half cooked, one pound two ounces of bread, one pint and a-half of thick soup, and washing all this down with three wine-glassfuls of schnapps, a tumbler of grog and five pints of water. To use an old expression "All seems fish that comes to their net," and the arctic fox, hare, wolf and leeming are used as food, cooked slightly, if where drift wood or twigs can be found, or frozen or half putrid if a little train oil may be had as a sauce for these rather "high" dainties.

In their extensive habitat the physical conditions do not vary much; in nearly all cases they are far beyond the tree line of the continent, and while, no doubt, the extensive deposits of driftwood brought to the icy sea by the rivers of Siberia, and our own great Mackenzie supply them in some parts with the coveted lance handles and sled-runners, summer fuel and material for their houses, yet these drifts seldom occur where other conditions are favourable to a full food supply, and as the seal is his principal food, furnishing him as well with light, warmth, clothing, implements of the chase, harness for his dogs, material for his canoe and his summer as well as part of his winter house, all other considerations give way before it. The appearance of the Eskimo along their extensive coast line