

watch all day, without a move, awaiting the seal's necessity and his own opportunity. If the seals have not made holes for this purpose, the Eskimo will make them for him, and trust to their being convenient to the seal's purpose and his own. He generally finds that the seals have one or two in use in each of these large bays spoken of, but it shortly happens that the seals, missing their companions through this means of exit from the watery world, become too timid to use so apparent a trap, and seek either the outside waters, or some other bay. The Eskimo then goes in search of a position where the seals are likely to have to pass quite frequently, and where, being passengers, the abstraction of one of their number will not raise alarm amongst the others who will be coming later. He therefore chooses some strait between an island and the mainland, of considerable length, so that the passing seal will find the hole he has cut in the surface of the ice sufficient of a convenience to permit of his running the risk in any attempt at appearing out of his element. This hole is cut by the Eskimo by means of a spike which he has on the end of his spear. Having made it, he throws a slight covering of snow over the surface of the water within to prevent the seal catching a glimpse of him before he has come within spearing distance. Then crouching about arm's-length away from the hole he waits, without a move, which may be made at the very instant when a seal is approaching and so give a warning which would lose him his game, till he hears the scratching of the seal's flippers as he works his way up through the ice to breathe or sun himself; then the swiftly descending and unerring blow. I have never seen this blow actually given. I have kept company with him in his watching till intense excitement gave place to freezing in-

difference and I had to leave. I have watched him from the shore where this indifference was counteracted by occasional excursions for warmth, but have always returned to find apparently the same undiminished patient expectancy.

The seal, in winter-time, lives in the snows on the shores, just above high-water mark. Into his house, or hollowed-out cavity, he comes, at or about the time of high-water, the tide having by its increase raised the ice so that the seal's passage beneath is possible; he can therefore enter or go out during the few hours that cover the period of high-water—between these conditions of the water he must either stay within or without. An Eskimo, with a dog suitably trained, will follow along the shore, at suitable times, till he comes to the locality of one of these houses, the position of which is indicated by the dog's instinct; then the Eskimo spears, knowing that the seal cannot escape, till he has been successful in his aim.

I have shown how economical the Eskimo is in the use of his powder and ball; so is he with his gun-caps. It is true that a gun-cap can be used but once as a whole, but then the Eskimo uses it in part several times by dividing the fulminating powder within it into three or four pieces, one of which at a time he uses by placing it within the head of an already used cap. So with his matches, he divides most of them in two, lengthwise, by very carefully cutting through the composition at the end with his knife, an operation that would puzzle the ordinary individual.

Of their ceremonies and religious beliefs they are very reticent about speaking to any one, having probably in recollection the want of sympathy shown by the rough sailor for the subject, and, not caring to risk a repetition, we could get very little information out of them. They believe