

if satisfied therewith, a more important feature follows, to wit: a foot-race between the contracting parties. This ancient primitive custom, so absurd in appearance at the first blush, is really excellent in its wisdom and effect, tending, as it does, to prevent forced or unequal marriages. The distance to be run must be agreed upon by the bride-to-be, and she has the advantage of a start equal to one long pace for each year of difference between her age and that of her aspirant's. Thus, if the young girl were 17 years old, and the young man 23, she would start from a point six paces in advance of him. The extent of the race-course is marked by men with harpoons stationed at each end of it. The young man must catch her before she reaches the goal, or he loses both the girl and his sealskins. If he is successful, the race is followed by the "*Kan-y-uk*" dance, in which the young man is the chief participant. Should the

V. "*Katititak*," or marriage, then be celebrated, the young girl is reconducted to her mother's igloo, where she is dressed in the marriage garments peculiar to married women. From her home she is taken to that of her husband, accompanied by the tribe chanting the wedding songs. Arrived there, each one present congratulates the bride and groom; which formality accomplished, the day is closed with feasting, games and dances.

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