

THEIR HABITATIONS AND MODE OF LIVING.

The majority of my readers, no doubt, labor under the popular idea that these people live in ice and snow houses. I can assure you that is all fiction in respect to their permanent places of abode. When they are traveling, they do sometimes build snow houses ; but they do not last long, as the dampness from the breath turns the inside into ice after they have been in it a few days. Then it becomes extremely cold, and they have to move out and build another; but they prefer, when it is not snowing, to sleep out in the open air in their sleeping bags, which they always carry when traveling. This bag is made of seal-skin, lined with reindeer skin : made, as a rule, six feet long, with a lap at the end to cover over the head. They can crawl into this bag, with a double suit of furs on, and sleep in the open air when it is sixty degrees below zero, ordinary winter weather in the northern part of Labrador.

Their houses in their villages are built of logs and sods to the thickness of two feet, the roof being the same as the walls. Then they are lined with furs, to make them as warm as possible. It is cold enough in that country in the open air, without going into an ice house to live ; and now for what they live on.

We have been told that they live entirely on the oil and blubber of the walrus, whale and seal ; but this is also wrong to a certain extent. Labrador abounds in game of many different kinds, there being plenty of reindeer, bear and porcupine (considered a delicacy), and in July, August and September an abundance of wild geese, wild ducks, partridges and others too numerous to mention.