

that this trust had to be imposed upon him. We all had duties away from the house, so we left it in his charge. Now, I wish to give every scrap of credit to the Eskimo dog that could be claimed for him by any possible admirer of his here, so I will admit that the *house* was all right on our return to it, but everything within his reach—excepting, of course, the coal-stove, which, with all articles of the same difficulty of substance were intact—but such trifles as one's boots, stockings and wearing apparel, had been mutilated. I did not so much mind his eating the men's boots or clothing; what I did object to was the depravity that must be contained in the organism that indulged in such promiscuous feeding. If he wanted boots, why not eat a pair? Not the tops off three or four. After this, when we had to go abroad, we divided our forces; we kept our surplus clothing inside the house and the "organism" outside. When we at last got to know the Eskimo by experience, we found that he was far more to be trusted than his dog.

Having given you some of the characteristics of his dog, let me give you some of those of the Eskimo himself, as we observed them. In appearance he is not altogether pleasing, being very short and almost as broad as he is long, an effect that is largely produced by the quantity of clothing that the severity of the climate obliges him to wear. The average height for the men is within a small fraction of 5 ft. 3 in., whilst the women barely average 5 ft. The temperature of their bodies is somewhat higher than that of ours, owing entirely to the warmth-producing nature of the food that they eat. I should have gone further into this and similar questions whilst out amongst them, because of the interest attached to such facts, had it not been for the extremely limited supply which I had

of their language during the earlier part of my stay; afterwards sickness prevented my doing so. You can perhaps imagine the difficulty of explaining, in a terribly foreign tongue, that your approach, with a glittering thermometer in your hand, which you wish your subject to take into his mouth and hold under his tongue, will be unattended with any danger, but nothing other than the most lavish expenditure of tobacco, which he must hold in his hand to occasionally receive assurance from, at moments when you gaze intently at the column of mercury to see whether it has reached its highest point, and which he suspects are crises of a totally different nature, would induce him to undergo the ordeal. This you can perhaps imagine, but I defy you to picture the terrified look, or the intenseness of the way in which he watches you for the first signs of a suspicious movement on your part. I am afraid that they concluded that I was not quite in my right mind, and that on this account was to be very much respected, and at all times to be consulted on matters connected with the chase. My reputation in this respect suffered some little damage, as I did not know a great deal about what the following year's food supply was likely to be, or where to get the necessary information, so that for a long time I was content to explain that I did not know anything about the matter; but there was no use in any such assertion, as they believed that the individual who was familiar with the uses of the somewhat complicated-looking meteorological instruments which we had, must be withholding his information for a higher price, so that finally they undertook to bribe me; then had to give way, and by giving the information that each seemed to expect, have no doubt that even yet they have not quite found out whether I was most certain or uncertain in my