ESKIMO OF HUDSON'S STRAIT.

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MUCH has been written of the Eskimo by navigators and travellers in Arctic and sub-Arctic Regions, and yet we find in almost every writing at least something new to interest us. In a short paper such as this it would be useless attempting to describe all the customs and habits common to the whole race that have so often been described before, I shall, therefore, endeavour to confine myself as much as possible to a description of the more interesting parts of the modes of life of those met with on the shores of Hudson's Strait, and more especially those at Cape Prince of Wales, many of whom had not met white men before, and with whom I lived during a period of thirteen months.

During the winter months the Eskimo, or Inuite as they call themselves, are found occupying the ground at prominent points along the the coast. Here the ever changing tides flowing and returning break up the ice and here the seals, on which they mainly subsist, are found. The prevailing winds during these months being from the north-west, snow is drifted to a great depth on the south-eastern sides of the hills. This they take advantage of and soon after building their igloos many of them are completely burried and are thereby well protected from the wind. On visiting a village after a snowstorm I was struck with its resemblance to a lot of mole hills. Nothing could be seen but a little snow thrown up on each side of a hole by which a passage led to the igloo ; on a near approach, however, windows were seen a little below the surface from which the snow had been removed. Upon entering some of those igloos, passage ways were found cut through the drifted snow thereby connecting several of them, making it appear much like an underground village.

In these villages they live as long as possible, and will not leave until they are compelled to do so through scarcity of food, but at this time, when a report comes in from another part of the coast that seals are plentful they will sometimes leave in a body, and where an hour