

some parties, if they did so, he would give them the privilege of using his Bay ; himself and son to help for one-third of the catch, for their pay. His share was only fifteen seals, value about \$60, and did not cover his indebtedness to his partners. Seal carcasses he salted down for food for his dogs for the winter, but they were forced to eat most of them themselves. Such meat he said is tough and rancid and most difficult to digest and made them sick. One little girl, however, managed to eat it. She would cut off a slice, freshen it in water, warm it upon the stove and eat it. This child he called hard times.

He showed his last bill at the traders, to whom he was yet in debt ; there were no other items but those of flour, sea biscuits, a few nails, twine and thread. No pork, tea, sugar, molasses nor tobacco ; these being too great luxuries for them. They charged fifteen dollars per barrel for flour, nine dollars per cwt. for common sailor biscuits, fifteen cents per pound for nails—to be exchanged for fish at a low price. In justice to the traders, I must remark that if their prices appear very high, they frequently loose considerable ; for when a fisherman wont pay or can't pay, they must loose. There is nothing to be got, for they own neither land or other property. This unfortunate family had traded of all their furniture, little by little, and even sold their feather beds to trading schooners. J——s asked me to step outside and he would show me his Bay and describe the mode of catching seals. In doing so, we passed a small lot which had once been handsomely enclosed, and was the burying-ground of the family, in which were three or four handsome marble tombstones, marking the last resting place of some of the family, who had died in their better days. I greatly feared, said J——s, speaking of them, that several more graves would have been added to the number last Winter, or may before next Spring, but there will be no marble tombstones to mark them. From an elevation, he pointed out to me the Bay, horse-shoe