

by a retrograde descent of about five miles, we reached the Aleutian village of Illuluk.

Illuluk lies on the eastern part of Captain's-bay, at the mouth of a brook. It contains four large jurts, or huts, constructed of mud, and logs of wood, which are driven hither by the currents of the sea. They are covered with grass and mud, and instead of a door have an opening, which is too low to enter without stooping. From this opening you ascend by a beam, that serves for stairs, into the interior of the hut; where, close by the walls, divisions are set apart for each family, and the floors are covered with rush-mats, which serve for beds. Every female occupies a distinct division, and is mostly busied in making mats, sacks, or baskets, which task she executes with amazing dexterity. These baskets, &c. are made of the longest blades of grass previously dried, and for the finer works, split into slips. In this process, she uses no other instrument but her fingers: with the nail of her fore-finger, which she suffers to grow to a great length, until it is as sharp as a lancet, she not only parts the blades of grass, but also the sinews of animals, which she twists with her fingers alone into a beautifully fine and even thread for sewing their clothes. Their needles they make of the bones of fish, large or small as the work requires, and fasten their thread to them by tying. Whenever they get a steel needle, they immediately break off the eye, and rub it on the edge of a stone, till they have made a notch, where they can tie the thread in their usual way.

It is worthy of remark, that the stomachers of these women are as beautifully shaped and decorated, as if they had been the workmanship of a European embroiderer. The stomacher is made of the skin of a bird's neck, stretched and prepared for the purpose, and ornamented with silk, or the hair of goats and horses interwoven with that of the reindeer, which latter appears like rows of small pearls. In a similar manner they decorate the holiday dresses, girdles, and caps of their husbands. The dress of the men resembles a waggoner's frock, with a high round collar of elk's skin; it is neatly ornamented with goats hair, bordered with a strip of sea-bear's skin.

The common dress of the women differs but little from that of the men. It has a standing collar, about two inches broad, enamelled in various patterns. The front of the dress, and the opening of the arms, is trimmed with a row of pearls or coral. Their festival dress is similar in shape, but more enamelled, and bordered with rows of coral, bird's beaks, and goat's hair. When they go on the water, they draw over their common dress another, made of the entrails of animals sewed together,