

cavated in the rocks, on a slope of somewhat less than 45°, and from one to two hundred feet above the sea." In the distance it might be taken for a colony of sea-fowl, of some of those species which choose for their breeding-places the lonely islands of the North. That human beings should locate themselves in such a dreary spot may seem wonderful. The explanation is to be found in the one word—*walrus*. These animals abound in the surrounding seas, and in large numbers make their appearance on the ice-packs and the island rocks. As the voyagers clambered up the rocky ascent to the Eskimo settlement, they saw one or more walrus-skins and portions of the entrails stretched to dry in front of nearly every house. Men were busily engaged in cleaning the white ivory tusks, women in splitting the fresh skin, unconscious of, or undisturbed by, the greasy stench that polluted the air.

The interior of the houses, or caves, is spoken of as being "rank, greasy, and stuffy beyond description;" as something which to the perceptions of our fashionable *æsthetes* would be terribly repulsive. The furniture consists of furs, skins, fishing and hunting tackle, and walrus meat. The decoration is reduced to the simplicity of "unpleasant odours;" or, to put