

concerned. The shores of the Straits themselves, then, have the most dismal appearance, being entirely composed of the barren rocks, with, in the sheltered nooks, a very sickly growth of moss; of soil, such as we know it, there is absolutely none, so that the foundations of the world, as we may so call it, are as evident to-day, and the different levels at which the waters of the world have stood, as evidenced by the sandy and pebbly beaches that are seen, as though the waters had but ebbed yesterday and would flow again to-morrow; or, as though it were but the merest interval of time since those masses of granite, or more properly speaking, "gneiss," had undergone the contortions that are so distinctly evident.

Such are the present surroundings of the people we are considering—surroundings that they have accustomed themselves to after fruitless fighting with their old time enemies, the Indians, for a country that extended inland in the directions already mentioned, and which continued southwards along the whole of the Labrador coast, well up into the St. Lawrence, and possessed advantages in climate that seemingly even tradition has ceased to remember; so that it is stated, that, if an Eskimo were brought to live in what is known as civilization, the change in condition would be so great that existence would be impossible, as a few attempts seem to have proved. The Eskimo, then, seem to be fated to live and become extinct in their present situation—an end that seems to be inevitable because of the increasing difficulty of obtaining their food supplies, owing to the encroachment upon their hunting grounds by the whaler and sealer, which has resulted in the wholesale slaughter of their principal food supply—the seal; and the increasing difficulty of approach to the remainder on account of being so constantly disturbed by

these hunters; and, above all, because of the smallness in number of their families, which rarely exceed two, who, having to contend with most of the ills that childhood is subject to elsewhere, in addition to imperfect nourishment through youth, and hardships at all times, are too small a number to fill the gaps that death occasions amongst them.

When we first took up our residence in their country, we were very uncertain as to the sort of people that we had to do with; the general opinion of those who like ourselves were going to live amongst them, was, that they were a particularly treacherous nation, and that every precaution should be taken to guard against deserving their enmity. With such a possibility in prospect, nearly every member of the several parties who were going to stay out there supplied themselves with an Eskimo dog from the first of their settlements that we reached. I have since not ceased to be thankful that the members of my party did not get in their supplies in this direction before the market was bought out. Oh yes, I was in time to get one for myself; even if I had not, some of the parties who had a superabundance, even at that time, would have taken pity on my helpless condition and given me one of theirs, rather than see me left to the mercies of the midnight prowling of the treacherous Eskimo. None of us bought full-grown dogs, as it was to be supposed that their sympathies would be with the prowler and against ourselves. There is nothing specially characteristic about the developing Eskimo dog; all his qualities lie dormant. I thought—we must all have thought—that careful rearing, away from the demoralizing influences of his kind, would develop such an animal as would be faithful to any small trust, such as the care of the house in our absence. It shortly happened