

of the worship of a Supreme Being among them, and they do not appear to have a perfect idea of One; nor have they apparently any religious rites at marriages or burials. An Esquimaux bespeaks his wife while she is yet a child, and when she is of marriageable age she is brought home to him, and there is a feast on the occasion. Their funerals are equally simple: If in winter, the corpse is merely covered over with snow; if in summer, a shallow trench is dug, where it is deposited, and two or three flat stones at top complete the rude sepulchre. They are careful not to allow any stones or weights matter to rest on the body; and seem to think that even after death it may be sensible to the oppression. They appeared to have some crude notions of a future state; but all their ideas on these matters were so blended with superstition, that they hardly deserve to be mentioned. Two-wives were possessed by several of the natives, and one is almost always much younger than the other; yet the co-partners seemed to live on very good terms with one another! The children rarely appear to be more than two, three, or four in a family; though six grown-up brothers and sisters were met with. They live to a good age. Many were about sixty years old, and in one case the great-grandmother of a child of seven or eight years was a healthy old woman at the head of four generations. The stature of the males is about the average of five feet, 4, 5, or 6 inches; and none exceeded 5 ft. 10 in. Their colour is a dirty looking, yellowish white, and their proportions by no means robust.

In the winter of 1822-3, native dwellings or huts constructed of bone were seen. The Esquimaux often eat flesh in a raw state; but it is sometimes cooked, and the women almost invariably submit their food to that process. The utensils are uncommon, though simple. They consist of two vessels of stone; generally the potstone or lapis ollaris, also used in parts of Germany for the same purpose. The lower vessel a good deal resembles an English kitchen ash shovel: the upper one a trough, of a wide coffin form. In the first, which is filled with oil, a number of moss wicks float, and are lighted with the fuel. The oil is gradually supplied from strings of fat hung up above the flames, the heat of which melts them into so many reservoirs of grease. In the second vessel, placed over the fire thus made, the meat is stewed. The natives are filthy in their eating, and hardly reject any thing, from the blubber of whale to the flesh of wolf. When hungry, they devoured the carcasses of ten or a dozen of the latter which were killed by our seamen. Their food, indeed, consisted chiefly of seal and wolves' flesh; but notwithstanding this, they appeared to be perfectly contented, nay, even happy. Their dresses were made entirely of skins, chiefly those of the reindeer.

In the beginning of their intercourse, the Esquimaux were somewhat reserved, and shy of communicating their opinions; but as their reserve wore off, they divulged a number of interesting particulars. The women, especially, were less secret than the men, who (we may here state by the by) had no hesitation in bartering their wives and daughters with the sailors, at first for so poor a bribe as a nail, or two or three beads, and at last for the price of a paltry knife.

These females are not, it is true, the most lovely objects in nature. Their features are disagreeable, and they have long and harsh, but exceedingly black hair. We have been shown a map drawn by one of them, a remarkable instance of intelligence, in which she represents two islands to the north of the second winter's position of the ships, and others in different directions, giving rather sonorous names to them all. The nearest on the north is several days' journey across, and the roaming of the Esquimaux tribes is confined to these islands, as they never venture upon the continent. Every family has a sledge, and generally five or six dogs, with which they travel with great ease, and hunt.

They say that their race, originally, sprung from a beneficent female Spirit; and that from another wicked female Spirit are descended the other three creatures who inhabit the earth, namely, the *Ikali*, or Indians, the *Cablunæ*, or Europeans; and (after long hesitation before they would express it) the *Dogs* which they drive! The *Ikali* they abhor and speak of as murderers, who never spare their tribes. Of the *Cablunæ* they had only heard by report, never having seen a European till they encountered those in the *Fury* and *Hecla*; but it is clear from their clashing them with the Indians and Dogs, that they have no very exalted idea of their virtues.

With their own appellation of Esquimaux they are not acquainted, but call themselves *Enuee*. The other name is understood to be a term of reproach, meaning "Eaters of raw flesh."

From the above it appears that they entertain a belief in certain spirits of superior beings; but their notions concerning them are extremely rude and vague.

From the length of time during which the natives were daily with them, our people were enabled to pick up a rather copious vocabulary of their language. Some of the journals contain from 500 to a larger number of words. Their knowledge of figures is very limited—five and ten being their most obvious enumerations. When they wish to express the former, one hand is held up; the latter, of course, requires both; but when the sum exceeds that number, the Esquimaux calls on a neighbour

to help him out, by holding up one or two hands as the occasion requires. One of our friends related a whimsical anecdote connected with this sort of dumb show. He was conversing with a native alone, who wanted to make the large and unusual sign of thirty. He accordingly held up both hands, and was then sadly puzzled how to go farther. It never occurred to him to break off and repeat the signal in any way; but at length he happily struck upon ten more by getting the officer to raise his digits. Here were twenty; but the ten to be added was the grand *pom acinorum* of Esquimaux numerals! The difficulty seemed insuperable, but again his genius befriended the calculator; he held up one of his feet—twenty-five! What was to be done? Like one of the wise men of Gotham, our clever native tried to hold up the other foot at the same time, and his efforts to have all his limbs simultaneously in the air were the most ludicrous that can be imagined. But it could not be managed; and it was not without an immensity of trouble that the proposed number was finally expressed by the four hands and one foot each of the conversing parties.

Other characteristic traits of these simple people may be told in this place. The wives of two of them, one with a baby suckling (which nutriment they supply for several years), were taken on board the vessel for medical treatment, both being in the last stages of disease. It was indeed too late to save them; and they died. The husband of the mother evinced some distress, and howled a little when she expired; but very soon seemed to forget his loss. Yet he attended very sedulously to the proceedings of the *Cablunæ*. They enveloped the body decently, as is done with sailors, in a hammock, and dug a grave for its reception. To this it was borne, accompanied by the husband, who manifested much uneasiness. At last he made himself understood that he was afflicted by the confinements of the corpse. Having obtained a knife, he was permitted to gratify his own feelings, and he cut all the stitches which held the hammock together down the front, so as to give a kind of liberty to the dead form. The covering in of the grave with earth and stones seemed also to give him pain; but he asked leave to bury the living child with its dead mother. The reason assigned for this horrid proposal was, that being a female no woman would take the trouble to nurse it, as that was never done among them. If it had been a boy, perhaps some one might have adopted and reared it. In fact, the infant, without sustenance, did die on the ensuing day, and was placed at the disposal of its parent, who drew it away in his sledge to a short distance, and raised a small mound of snow over its lifeless corpse.

It is curious to remark, that while they dislike the idea of hurting the dead by putting any thing heavy upon them, they feel no regret at the consequences of their own insufficient mode of sepulture—the dragging of the bodies from their slight snow tombs to be torn to pieces and devoured by dogs and wolves, as was frequently witnessed by our men, who, when the spring dissolved the snow, had to dig graves for the mutilated remains of several of the native corpses thus exposed to view. There was a considerable mortality among them; no fewer than sixteen, old and young, dying within the few months they spent near the Expedition in its second winter.

In the management of the canoe, the Esquimaux are very expert. They are amazingly light, and formed of skin over whalebone. The largest which Captain P. obtained is 26 feet in length; and we observed another, between decks in the *Hecla*, which is 19 feet long and only 19 inches in width, half of which are in the depth.

In these the Native pursues his marine chase, and spears the fish and fowl. The spear is double pointed with bone, about six or seven inches in length, and barbed. The shaft is of very light wood, five or six feet long, and below the handle, or part by which it is thrown, are three other barbed bones, standing out a few inches from the wood, and calculated to strike the prey, should the bifurked point miss. They kill at twenty yards distance. The bow and arrow are also employed in killing game and wild animals. The arrows are pointed with stone, smoothed into a lance-head shape by friction against other stones.

A method of catching seals through a hole in the ice, is one of the most dexterous of Esquimaux contrivances: a line is let down, at the end of which is fastened a small piece of white bone or tooth, above an inch long, cut into a rude fish-form, and having two morsels of pyrites stuck into it to resemble eyes. This bait is drawn through the water, and when seals or other prey approach to examine it, the watchful native spears them from above.

The knives used by the women are curiously constructed, and as cleverly employed in skinning animals and carving victuals as the instruments of hunting are by the men. They resemble a small cheese or sailor's knife; the iron or cutting part being semicircular, and inserted in a bone handle. The whole is three or four inches long, and the edge three or four inches in breadth. With these they carve away underhanded in a very dexterous style.

Spectacles are another of their articles, which struck us as curious and well contrived. They consist of a piece of wood scraped thin, like a bandage, and perforated with two narrow horizontal slits, something like pig's eyes, where we would have glasses; a rim about an inch broad projects in the same direction as that of a hat band; and this simple mechanical process, tied about the head, protects the eyes from the drifting snow and spiculae, and improves the sharpness of the sight.

Having already stated the longitudes, latitudes, and periods of sailing and wintering, we shall not deem it necessary to go much into the details of the Expedition, which have in fact neither added much to geography, nor been able to explore farther than was done by Middleton and preceding navigators. The last year seems to have been so unproductive, that the ships might as well have returned home in the autumn of 1822; but it is not the character of British seamen to desist while the slightest prospect of success can be entertained. Our own opinion is, that there may be many openings into the Polar Sea, and that probably the best, after all, is in Lancaster Sound, and where Capt. Ross showed the way, but did not pursue it. Certainly the course taken upon the present occasion does not appear to have answered the expectations formed, or to promise any advantageous results for future attempts, should such be persevered in.

The inlet where the second winter was spent, presented a solid mass of everlasting ice. It is about ten miles in breadth: its length of course, not having been traversed, is uncertain. The ebb tide is from the South-west, and the flood from south-east; small channels ran through it, but not wide enough to work a ship. In one instance, we were informed, a field of ice coming down at the rate of about two miles an hour, almost lifted the *Hecla* out of the water, and snapped five of the strongest cables and ropes by which she was moored.

The absence of the sun was experienced for about a month. In June (the 9th) the first flower was seen: a small but richly coloured blue or the *Saxifraga* genus.

To beguile the tedious time, our countrymen occasionally lived in tents on shore, and hunted, shot, and fished, for the general consumption. Reindeer were sometimes killed; the carcass of the largest weighed (without offal) 150 lbs. These were very acceptable to the ships' companies; but their fresh provisions were not always so daintily as venison. The hearts, livers, and kidneys of whales and walrus (brought by the Esquimaux) were not irre-

conciliable to European palates; and many a hearty meal was made on these, not very delicate, dishes. According to the report of the natives, there were reindeer on the large island towards the north. No musk oxen were seen in any part; and from the same authority it was gathered that they only appeared to the westward of the longitude to which the Expedition penetrated.

Of birds there were prodigious numbers; but their flesh was of a fishy and unpleasant taste: it was made nevertheless to serve at times, to vary the Arctic cuisine.

Gardening was another expedient for occupying the time, and supplying the table. Mustard and cress were grown as on the preceding voyage, and served out to the men in considerable quantities, to the great benefit of their health. Indeed, the looks of the crews bear testimony to their careful treatment in this respect; for we never saw a set of more healthy and well-conditioned fellows set out on, still less return from, a long sea trip. Their loss, as has been mentioned, amounted to five men in the two years and a half. The first two died in the *Fury* within 24 hours of each other, in 1822, the one of internal inflammation, and the other of a consumption of long standing. They were consigned to one grave; and a tumulus of stones placed over their bones; their names, &c. being engraved on one of the largest. Soon afterwards, a sailor of the *Hecla* fell from the mast, and dislocated his neck. He died on the spot. Last spring, another sailor died of dysentery in the same ship; and about six weeks ago, Mr. Fyffe, the master, fell a victim to the scurvy, while on the passage home.

It does not appear that any far excursions were attempted from the ships, overland, in any direction. The chief journey was performed by Lieut. Hoppner, and a party under his command, in consequence of news brought by the Esquimaux that two ships had been wrecked last year (1822) five days' journey to the north-east, where the wrecks still remained. The truth of this report was confirmed by the staves, cask-heads, and iron, in their possession. They represented that the crews had gone away in boats; whither, no one could tell. To ascertain who the sufferers were, Lieut. Hoppner and his party set out, accompanied by the natives as guides; but after travelling a few days, the latter declared they would proceed no farther. They pointed to the line in which they said the ships would be found, and told their associates they might go without them; but the risk of following this counsel was too great, and the Europeans returned, after a fruitless march.

In these journeys, and their continual migrations, the value of the Esquimaux dog is witnessed. These strong and hardy animals draw the country sledges at the rate of five miles, and more, an hour. Nor is this performed with a light weight attached to them. Eight in harness will draw three or four persons with ease and speed in this manner. On one occasion an anchor and stock, weighing about a ton, was dragged to its destination by fifteen or sixteen of them; and generally speaking, they are fully equal to a load of one hundred weight per dog.

They are also bold and vigorous in the chase. With them the Esquimaux hunt the great white Polar bear; and some of those brought to England carry the scars of their prowess in this way. They seize their adversary by his long shaggy hair, and worry and detain him till their masters come up with spears to end the conflict.

Those in the ships, twelve or fourteen in number, are large creatures of various colours, tan, grey, but mostly black with white spots, over the eyes and on the feet and tip of the tail. They are exceedingly fierce, and more like wolves than dogs. They do not bark, but snarl, growl, and howl in a savage manner. A good many died in consequence of the heat, on their way to England; and though Wednesday was a cold October day, the survivors were panting as if they had exhausted themselves with running. In the *Hecla* was one dog bred between the Esquimaux dog and a former taken out from this country. She had six female pups, and the specimen is now a fine powerful animal, and quite tame. It gave a singular proof of its sagacity in the river:—a lighter came alongside with some casks of fresh water, into which it immediately leapt over the side, and ran from cask to cask, trying to get its head into a bung-hole. This being impossible, one of the men good humouredly drew a bowl full for it, which it despatched with evident delight, and then begged for another draught. This it also obtained, drank it nearly all, and with signs of gratification and thankfulness made its way back into the ship.

On their native soil, however, these ferocious animals are often destroyed by the still more ferocious wolves. The latter hunt in packs, and even drag the dogs from the huts to devour them. Attracted by the scent, they were always prowling about our vessels, and daringly carried off whatever came in their way. Thirteen of them were seen in one pack; all of which were trapped and slain. It was at these the hungry Esquimaux made their dinners. At one time they bore away a dog from the *Fury*, in spite of the pursuit of the men.

The animals which may be enumerated besides are, bears, foxes, reindeer, hares, lemmings, the white ermine, and the marbot.

The birds are, the swan, the beautiful king duck, the eider duck, the long-tailed duck, the silver Arctic duck, &c. &c. Gulls of every kind, the Arctic diver, the loon, the red-throat, guillemots, the snow bunting, the ptarmigan; ravens, snowy owls, and hawks; birds of song, with a short low chirping note, the Siberian lark and the Lapland finch.

The insect creation is very limited. There are about six species of flies; the mosquito, very troublesome, but existing only about one month; the wild bee, *i. e.* the large black and not our live-bee; the spider; the butterfly, a small kind of the golden; and the white moth.

The water teems, as we have stated, with mollusca, the food for the enormous whale and other species of fish. There is also another minute creature in extraordinary abundance: we mean the small shrimp, which is known by the name of the Sea louse. These performed a very curious office to the naturalists in the Expedition, and their usefulness was very drolly discovered. An officer one day was desirous of preparing a Solan goose for cooking, and in order to reduce its saltiness he plunged it through an ice-hole into the water; but alas! next morning, when the goose was to be drawn up for spitting, nothing but the skeleton appeared. The sea lice had picked its bones as clean as any anatomist could have scraped them, and thus finely prepared it for any collection of natural history which might want such a specimen! The hint was not lost, for, after this time, whatever skeletons or bones required polishing, were submitted to the lice operators, and so diligent were they in executing the task confided to them, they would eat a sea-horse's head clean in a couple of nights!

In the Botanical department is the *hortus siccus*, of which hardly one of the plants exceeds two or three inches in height, and the flowers are all small. Yet some of them are very pretty; and they bloom in such profusion as entirely to enliven their wild and drear locality, for a season of two or three months. The most remarkable which we observe among the specimens, beside the early blue saxifrage, is the *andromeda*, of which the natives make their beds; and the *potentilla*, or wild tansy, the roots of which they eat. This we believe is also done in some of the most northern Scottish Isles: it is a very minute plant, not more than two inches in height, and the root not larger than that of a single corn-stalk. The *andromeda* is wiry, like heath. All the flowers are

yellow or blue; and we find the poppy, one resembling a cowslip, one with a curious berry seed, several of saxifrage, grasses, a beautiful bright yellow moss, &c. &c. among the specimens.

There are also eight or ten specimens of fossils and minerals. A dark piece of iron pyrites is that with which the natives strike sparks among dry moss, to light their fires. A part of the yoke of a sea-bird's egg, as prepared by the Esquimaux to keep for food. It is as hard and transparent as amber, for which it might readily be mistaken. A model of a canoe, ingeniously made by a native, and only fourteen inches long, is also among the stores. It does credit to their skill; but not so much as a female's reticule (if we may call it) made of ducks' feet, curiously disposed in a neat circular shape, and the toes hanging out like tags or tassels. This is a very singular piece of workmanship, and looks well. Small bottles of matted woolen closely, and of an elegant form, are among their manufactures; and the stringing, or threads of fish fibres, of the teeth of foxes, wolves, &c. for female ornaments, does not always betray a bad taste, however common the materials are. Images of bone, an inch or an inch and a half long, afford no high notion of the native talents for carving in ivory—they just so far resemble the human shape as to show they were meant to represent it.

One petrification of the backbone of a fish is in the collection, and extremely curious. On the voyage home, the ships touched at Winter Island, and were surprised to find their garden vegetables thriving. Whether the plants had resown themselves or sprung again from the roots, could not be ascertained, but the singular fact of salads and peas growing spontaneously in the arctic circle was exhibited to the wonder of the visitors.

On leaving the Esquimaux, some muskets of small worth were given them; and one native and his wife were willing to have come to England, but the trouble and uncertainty of restoring them to their own country prevented their voyage. An axe, and still better a saw, would console them for any disappointment.

We have now related, we are persuaded, nearly all the principal occurrences which attend this interesting Expedition, which may be relied upon as accurately embracing nearly all the leading features of a Voyage, than which none ever excited stronger public feelings.

## The Subscriber

LEAVING the Province for a short period has empowered Mr. B. HACKETT to adjust all accounts due from and to his Concern.  
Jan. 9. 1824. J. LYONS.

## Final Notice to Debtors.

THE Subscribers being fully authorized to receive all debts due to either of the late Firms of THOM, SALTER & CO, JAMES THOM & CO, or SMITH & THOM, do hereby give Notice to all persons who are indebted, in any way, to any of the above late Concerns, that unless they come forward and pay, or give security for the payment of the respective amounts due by them, between this date and the 1st day of June next, suits at Law will then be commenced for the recovery of the same.

James B. Franklin,  
John Fraser,  
Robert Noble.

N. B. The Books, Notes, and other documents, being still in the possession of Mr. ROBERT N. H. E., at the Store lately occupied by Thom, Salter & Co. he will receive all monies, and to whom communications may be directed.  
Halifax, 2d Jan. 1824.

## I. MANSFIELD & SON,

HAVE received from LONDON, LIVERPOOL, and GREENOCK, their usual supply of FALL GOODS; consisting of superfine, second and common Cloths; Flannels;—swansdown Vestings; rose and point blankets; Flannels; Bombazines; Cambric for gentlemen's Cloaks; printed Cottons; Homespuns; Checks; Irish linens; Cambric; Cotton and Linen Bedtick; Candlewick; Duck, Osnaburgh, Brown Hollands; a variety of Shawls and Hdkfs, good East India INDIGO, &c.

They have also on hand, Boxes Tin, Sheet Iron, Iron and brass Wire; a variety of SLOP CLOTHING; with many other articles which they offer for sale at a small advance.  
Oct. 5.

## Stationery, Paper Hangings, Playing Cards, &c.

Just imported in the brig Industry, from London, by W. MINNS, viz.—PAPER of various descriptions, from finest hot pressed Drawing paper, to com. Pot. Very good Foolscap at twenty four shillings per Ream.

Orderly Books, with or without clasps; Account, Receipt, and Copy do. Best and com. Quills, Pens, Pencils, Wax, Wafers, Ink Powder and Japan Ink.

Fashionable and com. PAPER HANGINGS, with without Borders.

Very best Mogul, Henry VIII and Highlander PLAYING CARDS.

Every Man his Own FARRIER—or, the causes, symptoms, and most approved method of cure for every disease to which the Horse is liable; with a Practical Treatise on the most prevalent diseases of Dogs—by Francis Clater, 24th edition. Every Man his Own CATTLE DOCTOR—or, A Practical Treatise on the diseases incident to Oxen, Cows and Sheep, with the most simple and effectual method of curing each disorder in its various stages—by F. Clater.

A Practical Treatise on the Breeding, rearing and fattening all kinds of Domestic Poultry, &c.—by B. Mowbray, Esq. Park on Marine Insurance—2 vols. 7th edition. Forms of Practical Proceedings; by W. Tidd, Esq. 5th edition. Blackstone's Commentaries on the Laws of England, 4 vols.

Burn's Justice—5 vols. Hutchinson's Xenophon; Simpson's Euclid; Francis Horace; Ferguson's Astronomy; Davy's Chemistry; Norrie's Navigator; Morrison's Book-Keeping; Bonnycastle's Arithmetic; Key to ditto Buchanan's Medicine;—Low priced Chap books. Dream books, Song books, &c. &c.  
Oct. 10.

## Hides.

JUST received per brig Irene, (John Findlay may see) from Bahia—700 dry salted HIDES—for sale by  
Nov. 7. GEORGE P. LAWSON.