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THE ESQUIMAUX INDIANS.

[Concluded from page 96.]

From the narratives of recent voyagers, we will select one passage, descriptive of the Esquimaux, to which late events have imparted a new interest. The passage occurs in Sir John Franklin's account of his first Polar expedition, published in London in the year 1829.

"We arrived," wrote Sir John, "abreast of Upper Savage Island early in the morning, and as the breeze was moderate, the ship was steered as near to the shore as the wind would permit, to give an opportunity to the Esquimaux Indians of coming off to barter, which they soon embraced.

"Their shouts at a distance intimated their approach some time before we descried the canoes paddling towards us; the headmost of them reached us at eleven: these were quickly followed by others, and before noon, about forty canoes, each holding one man, were assembled about the two ships. In the afternoon, when we approached nearer the shore, five or six large ones, containing the women and children, came up.

"The Esquimaux immediately evinced their desire to barter, and displayed no small cunning in making their bargains, taking care not to exhibit too many articles at first. Their principal commodities were oil, sea-horse teeth, whalebone, seal skin dresses, caps, and boots, deer skins and horns, and models of their canoes; and they received in exchange small saws, knives, nails, tin kettles, and needles.

It was pleasing to behold the exultation, and to hear the shouts of the whole party when an acquisition was made by any one; and not a little ludicrous to behold the eagerness with which the fortunate person licked each article with his tongue on receiving it, as a finish to the bargain, and an act of appropriation. They in no instance omitted this strange practice, however small the article; the needles even passed individually through the ceremony.

The women brought imitations of men, women, animals, and birds, carved with labor and ingenuity, out of sea-horse teeth. The dresses and figures of the animals were not badly executed, but there was no attempt at the delineation of the countenances; and most of the figures were without eyes, ears, and fingers, the execution of which would, perhaps, have required more delicate instruments than they possessed. The men set most value on saws; *kuttee-sua-bak* (saws), was a constant cry. Knives were held next in estimation.

An old sword was bartered from the Eddystone, and I shall long remember the universal burst of joy on the happy man's receiving it. It was delightful to witness the general interest excited by individual acquisitions. There was no desire shown by any one to over-reach his neighbor, or to press towards any part of the ship where a bargain was making, until the person in possession of the place had completed his exchange and removed; and if any article happened to be demanded from the outer canoes, the men nearest assisted willingly in passing the thing across. Supposing the party to belong to one tribe, the total number of the tribe must exceed two hundred persons, as there were, probably, one hundred and fifty round the ships, and few of these were elderly persons or male children.

Their faces were broad and flat, the eyes small. The men were in general stout. Some of the younger women and the children had rather pleasing countenances, but the difference between these and the more aged of that sex bore a strong testimony to the effects which a few years produce in this ungenial climate.

Most of the party had sore eyes, all of them appeared of a plethoric habit of body; several were observed bleeding at the nose during their stay near the ship. The men's dresses consisted of a jacket of seal skin, the trousers of bear skin, and several had caps of the white fox skin. The female dresses were made of the same materials, but differently shaped, having a hood in which the infants were carried. We thought their manner very lively and agreeable. They were fond of mimicking our speech and gestures; but nothing afforded them greater amusement than when we attempted to retaliate by pronouncing any of their words.

The canoes were of seal-skin, and similar, in every respect, to those used by the Esquimaux, in Greenland; they were generally new, and very complete in their appointments. Those appropriated to the women are of ruder construction, and only calculated for fine weather. They are, however, useful vessels, being capable of containing twenty persons with their luggage. An elderly man officiated as steersman, and the women paddle; but they have also a mast which carries a sail, made of dressed whale-gut.

When the women had disposed of all their articles of trade, they resorted to entreaty; and the putting in practice many enticing gestures was mingled with so much address, as to procure them presents of a variety of beads, needles, and other articles in great demand among females.

It is probable these Esquimaux go from this shore to some part of Labrador to pass the winter, as parties of them have been frequently seen by the homeward-bound Hudson's Bay ships in the act of crossing the strait.

They appear to speak the same language as the tribe of Esquimaux who reside near to the Moravian settlements in Labrador; for we perceived they used several of the words which had been given to us by the missionaries at Stromness.

Towards evening, the Captain being desirous to get rid of his visitors, took an effectual method by tacking from the shore; our friends then departed, apparently in high glee at the harvest they had reaped. They paddled away very swiftly, and would doubtless soon reach the

shore, though it was distant ten or twelve miles."

On another occasion, it must be confessed, Sir John Franklin's interview with the Esquimaux was not so agreeable. They displayed very considerable ingenuity in stealing articles from his boats, and he came near being compelled to resist their efforts by a volley of musketry. As a general thing, however, the Esquimaux are honest and amiable. They are passionately fond of music, and value few things more than a Jew's harp. A musical snuff-box throws them into ecstasies of delight. On one occasion, a hand-organ and a musical snuff box were exhibited to a party of Esquimaux, and they concluded at once, that the smaller instrument was the offspring of the larger. Dancing is an amusement of which, as far as we can learn, the Esquimaux are not fond.

Captain Budington, in the fall of 1852, was mate of the bark McLellan, off the coast of Greenland. The season had been unfavorable for whaling, and little oil had been obtained. Mr. Budington proposed to some of the crew to remain with him during the winter with the Esquimaux, and employ their time in catching whales in the Esquimaux manner, and accumulating oil against the opening of navigation in the spring. The project was carried out. The party was treated with great kindness by the Esquimaux, and five hundred barrels of oil were obtained. The ship, however, was wrecked, and the crew were obliged to take passage in an English ship, and reached home by way of England. Nothing daunted, Captain Budington sailed again for Greenland, in 1853, in command of the bark Georgiana, and after a few months' cruising, returned to New London with a thousand barrels of oil, and a live Esquimaux.

From Captain Budington we obtained some information respecting the habits of the Esquimaux, of the most interesting character, and not previously published.

Their manner of whaling, says the Captain, is very simple and ingenious. They skin some seals whole, and blow up the skins like bladders. These are attached to the barb of the harpoon by a strong seal-skin line. They paddle up to a whale and drive the harpoon home. The whale immediately disappears beneath the surface, but the floats make it impossible for him to sink more than a few feet, and he soon rises exhausted with the efforts, and is dispatched with lances; or, to use the Captain's expressive language, "they work around him until they kill him."

The Captain mentioned a pleasing fact illustrative of the good feeling of the Esquimaux.—They frequently stand six or eight hours over a seal-hole without success, and a whole settlement will be hungry from a general run of ill luck. In that case, if one seal is caught, it is immediately divided among all the hunters in proportion to the number of persons dependent upon each.

The women, added Captain Budington, do all the covering of the boats, after the men have constructed the frame. The frame is made of the ribs of the whale and such pieces of wood as they can pick up; it is lashed together with shreds of black whale-bone.

The women make the summer tents, and do all the rowing in the large boats.

When a woman is about to become a mother they make a hut on purpose to receive her, in which she stays until she is ready to come out, which is usually about twelve days. During that period no one is permitted to enter the hut; but a hole is left in the side, through which provisions are passed. They have no medicines, no medicine-men, no head-men nor chiefs, no government of any kind, no worship; but all are upon an equality, and live quietly and peaceably together. Crime is unknown among them. They have no forms of marriage; but when a man has obtained the parents' consent, he takes the girl whether she is willing or not.

The woman's dress is very similar to that of the men. The hoods which they wear on their heads are made large enough to admit a child, which they carry in the hood over the shoulder. The women wear seal-skin trousers like the men. They nurse their children five or six years, because they have no other food suitable to young children. The men rarely live longer than forty years; the women fifty or sixty years; and the reason why the women live longer than the men, is, because they are less exposed to the cold and the dangers of the sea.—Thus, there are always more women than men in a settlement, and a man generally has to support the family of a deceased comrade or relative, besides his own. They are all exceedingly industrious. To strangers they are very kind and hospitable.

With regard to the health of the Esquimaux, Capt. Buddington stated, that they are subject to consumption and to dropsy; though not to an extensive degree. They have an instinctive aversion to medicine, and if a ship's physician should administer any thing to one of their sick, and the patient should die, nothing could shake their belief that he died in consequence of the medicine—an opinion from which some of their civilized friends would not be inclined to dissent.—Their teeth are good, but worn down, owing to their practice of chewing seal skin.

When a woman dies in the winter season, the family merely vacate the hut, stop up the entrance, and then consider her buried. In the spring when the snow-roof has melted off, the dogs devour the remains. When a woman dies in summer, they take out the sticks which support the tent, and let the seal skin covering fall in a mass over her body, and so let it remain. A man's body is disposed of in a still more summary manner. The moment he has breathed his last, a team of dogs is harnessed to his body, and it is dragged to some crevice in a rock, a

little way from the settlement, where it is immediately devoured by the dogs. 'I have seen,' said Capt. Buddington, 'the children looking on and seeing the dogs eat the bodies of their own parents, and they were apparently elated at the sight.' There is a belief among the Esquimaux, that if the ravens eat the dead bodies, the souls of the departed perish; but not so if their flesh is devoured by dogs.

They have an ingenious plan of 'shoeing' their sleds. Before starting on a journey, they smear the runners with a mixture of seal's blood and water, which immediately freezes into an icy 'shoe.' This will last all day, and the process is repeated every morning.

And thus life goes on in the icy regions of the North. By such expedients life is preserved, amid the cold which would stop its vital currents, amid barrenness which continually threatens in annihilation. Let no one pity the Esquimaux. He is equal to his situation; and nature, that seems his enemy, has given him ample compensation for the apparent dreariness of his lot. Gorgeous is that polar night, with the splendors of the aurora and the frosted silver of the iceburg's towering pinnacles. And the living creatures of the Arctic world, the lordly bear, the frolicsome seal, the kindly man, seem, above all the rest of breathing creation, to be sedately happy, or exuberantly joyous.

Some Account of a Terrible Invasion of Locusts in the East.

We have a trite saying that "a cat has nine lives;" but if an English traveler speaks truly in the following extraordinary account, the locusts of the East are endowed, during their generation, not only with nine lives, but with ninety-times nine. "Markry," spirits turpentine, or Lyon's Magnetic Powder would scarcely settle their stomachs. They must be of the same species of bugs that troubled King Pharaoh in "the olden time."

An Eastern summer is full of wonders; but there is, perhaps, nothing about it more awfully appalling than those vast flights of locusts that sometimes destroy the vegetation of whole kingdoms in a few days, and where they found a garden leave a wilderness.

I am riding along a pleasant hillside—toward the end of May. There is a sharp pattering noise, like that of April rain in Scotland, falling on hard ground. I look attentively toward the earth, knowing that it cannot be a shower this clear, balmy morning, and I see a countless multitude of little black insects no bigger than a pin's head. They are hopping and springing about in myriads, under my horse's feet—along the hard stony road, which is quite black with them, and far away among the heather, which is turned black also. I ride miles and miles, yet the ground is still darkened with those little insects, and the same sharp pattering noise continues. They are the young of the locusts, who left their eggs in the ground last year. They have just come to life. Three days ago there was not one to be seen. A little later and I am passing through a Greek village. The alarm has spread everywhere, and the local authorities have bestirred themselves to resist their enemies while still weak. Large fires are burning by the river-side, and immense cauldrons full of boiling water are streaming over them. The whole country side has been out locust hunting. They have just returned with the result of their day's exertion. Twenty-three thousand pounds weight of these little insects, each, as I have said, no bigger than a pin's head, have been brought in already in one day.

They have been caught in a surface of less than five square miles. There has been no difficulty in catching them. Children of six years old can do it as well as grown men. A sack and a broom are all that is necessary. Place the open sack on the ground and you may sweep it full of locusts as fast as you can move your arms. The village community pay about a farthing (half a cent) a pound for locusts. Some of the hunters have earned two or three shillings a day. As the sacks are brought in they are thrust into the cauldrons of boiling water, and boiled each for some twenty minutes. They are then emptied into the rapid little river swollen by the melting of mountain snows.

It is said that they seldom remain at one place long, but that, in the fourth generation, the race dies out unless it is recruited from elsewhere. In ten days they have increased very much in size; they are now as long as cockchafer, only fatter. They seem to be of several distinct species. Their bodies are about an inch and a half long, but some are much larger round than others. They have six legs. The hind-legs of the largest kind are nearly three inches long, or twice the length of the body. They have immense strength, and can spring four or five yards at a time. The legs are terminated by sharp, long claws, and have lesser claws going about half way up at the sides of them; their hold is singularly tenacious. Their heads and shoulders are covered with a kind of horny armor, very tough. Some are of a bright green color all over, some have brown backs and yellow bellies with red legs, and are speckled not unlike a partridge. Some are nearly black all over, and have long wings. The largest species have immensely long feelers projecting out near the eyes. I noticed some of these feelers twice the length of the rest of the body. The bite of the largest kind is strong enough to bend a pin. This locust has immense sharp tusks, furnished with saws inside. His mouth opens on all four sides, and closes like a vice. His eyes are horny, and he can not shut them. The largest kind have two short yellow wings and a long pointed fleshy tail, the smallest have four long black wings and no tail. The head is always large in comparison to the body, and not unlike that of a lobster. In moving, its scales make a noise like the creaking of new leather.

The locusts are on the wing, they have risen from the ground into the air. They darken the

sky in their steady flight for hours, and they make a noise like the rushing of a mighty wind. Far as the eye can see over land and water broods the same ominous cloud. The imagination refuses to grasp their number. It must be counted by millions of millions. Count the flakes of a snow storm, the sands by the seashore, the leaves of summer trees, and the blades of grass on dewy meadows. For days and days the locust storm and the hot south wind continue. At night the locusts descend on the gardens and cornfields. They crawl and hop loathsomely on fruit and flower. They get into eggs and fish, which become uneatable in consequence. They eat holes in my bedding; they get into my pockets, and into my hair and beard. The Greek women are obliged to tie their trowsers on above their gowns as a protection against them. You tread upon them; they blow against you, they fly against you, they dine off the same plate, and hop on a piece of food you are putting into your mouth. Their stench is horrible, and this lasts for weeks.

I noticed, however, that in the years the locusts appear there is no blight or smaller insects about. Perhaps, therefore, they are mercifully sent to destroy the smaller and more dangerous insects when they have multiplied exceedingly under the prolific suns of the East.

But they are a dreadful visitation. They ate holes in my clothes as I walked about. They got among my servant Hamet's arms. They choked up the barrels of his pistols, and fed upon his sash of silk and gold. They ate away the tassel of his cap and the leathern sheath of his sword. My French dressing gown might have been taken for a recent purchase at Rag Fair. They ate the sole of my slipper while I was asleep on a sofa. They ate my shirts in the wardrobe, and they ate my stockings. They eat the back hair off women's heads while washing at the fountain, and the mustaches of gardeners while they sleep in the noonday shadow. They strip trees till they look as if struck by lightning or burnt by fire. I see the plants green and gay in the moonlight. In the morning their freshness and their beauty have departed.

Families sit wailing in their fields over the ruin of their little all. There is a story that the locusts have eaten a child while its mother was away at work. There is a tradition that they once ate a drunken man who fell down in the kennel. Neither event is improbable. I saw a locust draw blood from the lips of an infant in its mother's arms.

They will not die. They can swim for hours. Hot water, cold water, acids, spirits, smoke, are useless. I plunged one in salt and water. He remained four minutes, and sprung away apparently uninjured. I recaptured him, and smoked him for five minutes. Two minutes afterward he had revived, and was hopping away. I recaptured the same locust, and buried him as deeply in the ground as I could dig with a pocket knife. I marked the place, and next morning I looked for my friend, but he was gone. Nothing will kill them but smashing them to a jam with a blow, or boiling them. There is no protection against them. They despise and eat through the thickest cloths, or sacking, or matting, and glass coverings for a large extent of ground would be of course too expensive.

Yet another three weeks, toward the end of July, and the cloud which has hovered over the land so long is clearing away. And there arises a great wind, so that the locusts are swept off in countless armies to the sea, and so drowned. It is impossible to bathe for days, or to walk by the sea shore, because of the stench of them. But they are gone, and their bodies float over the sea like a crust, extending to the opposite coast of Asia Minor.

It has been noticed that they appear, invariably, about the middle of May, and that they die or depart in August. They are most mischievous during the month of June. They have an objection to damp or marshy grounds. The females bury themselves in the earth when dying, probably to conceal their eggs. The males die above ground, where the ants and smaller insects speedily devour them. Neither rain nor cold, however severe, appears to destroy or injure the eggs, which lie in the ground like seed during the winter, and burst forth into life in the first warmth of summer. Each female is understood to have about fifty young, which, in some measure, accounts for the astounding increase of the tribe. They require about twenty days to attain their full growth; sometimes longer, if the weather is unfavorable.—[Ex.]

Interesting Facts concerning the Vegetation of the Sea.

The botany of the sea is not less interesting than other phenomena of the great world of waters. The plants which grow at the surface in the cooler regions, are found at great depths nearer the equator; and as in going up a mountain we find the vegetation of different latitudes at different heights, so do we find the alga (the botanical name of sea-weed) of different latitudes as we descend in the ocean; the lowest depth corresponding with the highest latitude.

Judging from appearances, sea-plants are more liable to break loose from their place of growth than land-plants. The quantities drifted with the great currents are prodigious. Beds of alga 15 or 20 miles long, and about 200 yards wide, float in parts of the British Channel and the North Sea, with no other change of place than that caused by the action of the tides.

But the most remarkable example of floating weed is that called the Sargasso Sea, in the Atlantic, off the Azores, where a bed of alga, equal in extent to the whole of France, rests upon the water. Owing probably to the action of currents, it remains always in the same place. Columbus fell in with it in his first voyage to America, and it has not been known to shift its position since his day. The early Spanish navigators had such confidence in its steadiness, that