

The next morning I received invitations from the tenants of various tents; and, among others, from one individual who told me that he was a trader; for, be it mentioned by the way, they all took me for one, and had been wondering, therefore, why I refused to purchase the white fox-skins, which some of them had offered me for sale. The stock in trade of my new mercantile acquaintance was, however, expended, for which reason he was making preparations for a trip to Kemisak, where he purposed purchasing a fresh supply of old iron arrow-heads, knives, and other things of like description. In the tents I visited, I was treated with the usual dainties of blubber and seals'-meat. My entertainers, however, omitted the ceremony of licking the dirt off with their tongues, which, it is said, the Greenlanders of the West coast uniformly practised of old, when visited in their tents by Europeans*. To the good people of Omevik, European articles of luxury and fashion, such as ribbons, handkerchiefs, linen, and beads, were, for the most part, novelties; and my two Nennortalik ladies, who did not let the opportunity escape them of displaying all their finery, made even a greater sensation here than they desired. The hide of a rein-deer, which one of them wore, was taken, like the material of my own clothing, to be the skin of a sort of dog, a circumstance which seems to justify the inference, that the rein-deer is altogether unknown at this place, as everywhere else further South along this coast. Very few of them seemed to have had any previous acquaintance with looking-glasses. Most of them, when they saw their own image reflected

* This practice is still prevalent amongst the Esquimaux of Melville Peninsula, and Boothia.—J. C. R.