

COSTUMES
OF
AMERICA.



PHILADELPHIA:
C. G. HENDERSON & CO.,
No. 164 CHESNUT STREET.
1852.











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C O S T U M E S

O F

A M E R I C A .



C. G. HENDERSON & CO.,
No. 164 CHESTNUT STREET, PHILADELPHIA.
1852.

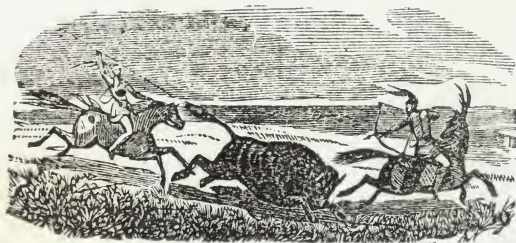
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PREFACE.

OUR young people may be supposed to be comparatively ignorant of the great variety of nations and tribes, who inhabit this our American continent. In their minds, Indians, colored people, and white people, make up the three great classes; their ideas of the subordinate varieties are rather vague and confused.

We have endeavored in this little volume, by delineating many different varieties of people, and giving little sketches of their history, to give a more definite form to juvenile ideas on this subject. Our chief object is to excite an interest in the subject, and raise a curiosity, which may be gratified in after life, by the perusal of more elaborate works on ethnography.







NORTH AMERICAN INDIANS.

COSTUMES OF AMERICA.

NORTH AMERICAN INDIAN.

OF the many tribes of Indians who once possessed all North America, but few now remain. This remnant, however, is still divided into many tribes, who differ greatly in figure and costume.

Their dress in their wild state, when unacquainted with the white people, consists of the skins of animals, killed in the chase, such as the deer, the bear, the moose, the bison, the fox, and the squir-

rel. These they ornament very prettily with porcupine's feathers, and such bright colored dyes as they can obtain from wild vegetables. Some of their robes are ingeniously embroidered with the brilliant feathers of wild birds.

When they become acquainted with the white traders, they exchange their furs for blankets and broad cloth; and lay aside the bow and arrow to learn the use of the rifle. There are in the country west of the Mississippi river, many tribes of Indians, who remain in their original wild state, having scarcely any knowledge of the whites, and still using bows, arrows, and spears in the chase and in war. The figures represent a group of Indians, of the Fox and Sac tribes, in their native costumes.





NORTH AMERICAN INDIAN SQUAW.

NORTH AMERICAN INDIAN SQUAW.

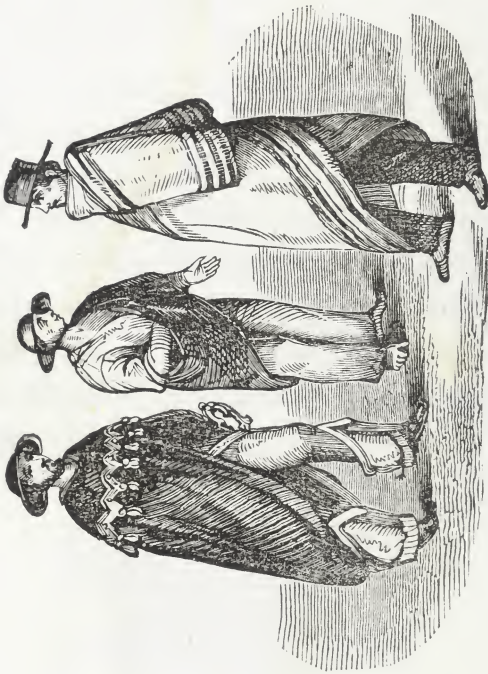
THE Indian woman is called a squaw; the Indian child a papoose. The women perform the labors of the field, planting corn and beans, and whatever they cultivate. They also have all the domestic care of the rude cabins in which they live, the Indian man performing the occupations of hunting and war.

While at work, the woman carries her infant in a small wooden cradle lashed on her back. Her lot is hard as is the case among all savage nations. Our North American Indians have been much censured for their treatment of women.

But Mr. Catlin, who has lived much among them, thinks that no more labor is put upon them than is absolutely necessary, considering the poverty and destitution of the Indians. In their wild state all must work in order to live.

The women wear blankets, tunics, drawers, moccasins, made of dressed or undressed skins of the deer and other animals, and some of their garments are very beautifully wrought with embroidery of porcupine quills, richly colored.





MEXICANS.

MEXICANS.

THE people who live in Mexico are divided into four classes ; native Spaniards, persons of Spanish descent born in Mexico, mixed castes, and Indians.

The Mexicans of the higher classes are rich in lands and money, and live in great splendor. They are fond of dancing and gambling. Some of them have incomes, from their estates and mines of silver or gold, amounting to half a million a year. These people dress very richly and gaudily, displaying more embroidery and brighter colors in their clothes than Europeans.

The lower classes imitate this splendor of dress as far as they can. But the lowest class, farm laborers and miners, called peons, dress very meanly, their condition being about the same as that of slaves.





MEXICAN INDIANS, GOING TO MARKET.

MEXICAN INDIANS,

(GOING TO MARKET.)

THE Indians of Mexico are the descendants of the original possessors of the country. They resemble our Indians in feature and form. They are far more numerous than the whites; but are held in subjection, and compelled to live in villages by themselves, where they are governed by their native chiefs, descendants of the ancient Aztec nobles. They pay a tax to the government. Some of them are rich. They live by agriculture, and some of them excel in manufactures,

especially that of ornaments and toys. They are very fond of flowers, and love to employ themselves in painting and carving, imitating skilfully any models which are furnished for them.

In their manners these Indians are grave and gloomy. They are silent and affect an air of mystery. They are extremely ignorant and their present want of instruction is attributed to the extinction of the Aztec priesthood, their ancient instructors, for which nothing has been substituted by the Spanish priests, in the way of general education.

The figures represent an Indian farmer and his wife going to market.





MEXICAN INDIANS, RETURNING FROM MARKET. .

MEXICAN INDIANS,

(RETURNING FROM MARKET.)

THE market place in the City of Mexico is thronged with Indians, who there expose the products of their industry for sale. Many bring their commodities on their backs. Others in canoes by the canal, which leads to the lake of Chalco. Fine vegetables, tropical fruits, fowls, turkeys, ducks, wild birds alive, corn, milk, butter, young kids, pigeons, hares, rabbits, fish, tortoises, frogs and lizards, beef, mutton, and pork, form the cargoes of the hundreds of boats which pass

through the canal to market every morning.

Besides provisions, the Indians dispose of wool, cotton, coarse cotton cloth, manufactured skins, and it is an amusing scene to witness them collected in large parties with their children seated on the ground enjoying their frugal meals. Like other Indians, however, they are addicted to drinking and gambling, and the neighborhood of the market is infested with shops where spirits are sold; and it often happens that the husband, after getting drunk and losing his money, vents his ill humor by beating his wife.



HAYTIANS.

HAYTIANS.

HAYTI, or St. Domingo, is one of the largest of the West India island. It was discovered by Columbus, colonized by the Spaniards, and afterwards by the French; but in 1791 the French Convention declared the slaves of the colonies free, and they destroyed or expelled their masters, and French St. Domingo became an independent negro republic, which soon changed to a military despotism. The sovereign Solouque is now called emperor.

The country is in a wretched state. Its commerce and industry are dwindled to

almost nothing. The people are poor and indolent, although they possess one of the most fertile and delightful islands in the whole world. It is true that despotism affords little encouragement to industry; because the government can seize the property of the subject at pleasure; but it is the natural indolence of the negro which makes him neglect labor and submit to a wicked and bad government. Our picture represents a soldier of the emperor and his family.







CHILIANS.

CHILIANS.

CHILI, like Peru, was brought under the Spanish yoke, in Pizarro's time, although a portion of the country has always remained independent, under its original possessors, the Indians.

The Chilians of the higher classes are courteous, polite, kind hearted, ignorant, fond of diversion, superstitious, and addicted to quarreling among themselves. A fondness for ardent spirits is the chief cause of this last trait. The ladies often can neither read nor write; but Mrs. Graham and Captain Hall, who visited the country, both unite in prais-

ing their natural talents and the un-studied grace of their manners.

Our engraving, which represents the costume of the higher class, exhibits the fondness for a showy style of dress.

The situation of Chili, on a narrow strip of land, between the Andes and the Pacific Ocean, makes it liable to frequent earthquakes, and in the cities, on this account they are fond of living in houses of only one story. These are built of stone or brick in the old Moorish style, with a court-yard in the centre. The walls are solid and thick, the apartments are spacious, well furnished, and often richly gilded.





PEONS.

CHILIANS.

(PEONS.)

IN Chili, as in the other parts of America settled by the Spaniards, the laboring classes are called *peons*. They are chiefly of the Indian or the mixed races, and perform the duties of peon laborers, porters, mechanics, and couriers, or bearers (*Tamenes*.) These in the picture are couriers, crossing the Andes. One of them, you observe, has in his hand a cord to which three balls are attached. This is a weapon called the *bolas*, used all over South America. When a peon

wishes to use it, he holds one ball in his hand and swings the others with a rapid motion over his head till it has acquired considerable momentum, when he discharges it with great precision at the object. In this way he hits the legs of the llama, or vicugna, or even the horse of an enemy. The balls wind round the legs of the animal and cause him to fall; and before he can extricate himself, the peon is upon him with his sword or spear.

The dwellings of the peons are rude tents, the walls being of stakes crossing each other, and fastened with thongs or hemp twine; the roof of branches plastered with mud and covered with palm leaves. These are called *ranchos*.





COLUMBIANS.

COLUMBIANS.

IN the northern part of South America, is the country called Columbia, once a province of Spain, and now independent. Like Mexico, its population is mixed, the larger proportion being Indians, who are laborers and hunters, while the Spaniards and Creoles are planters and traders.

Our picture shows them to advantage. Here in the foreground you see the planter in a light Spanish dress, suited to the climate, with his broad brimmed straw hat, smoking his pipe and taking his ease. To his right hand is his wife,

who has adopted a mixture of the elegant costume of Andalusia and that of an English lady. She has her embroidered dress and ample shawl, and the coquettish straw hat and ribbands. In the distance, the condition of the Indians is happily illustrated by the figure of one of those porters employed in carrying travellers over the mountains on their backs. They are called tamenes. These Indians wear little clothing of any kind.





PERUVIANS.

PERUVIANS.

THE Peruvians, Creole descendants of the Spaniards, are a very insignificant race of men, destitute of all energy both bodily and mental. Their agriculture is conducted by Indians, and their commerce, which is extensive, is in the hands of foreigners. The ladies act a much more conspicuous part. They are fond of admiration, and far from discreet in their behaviour. Their dress consists of the *saga*, a light elastic gown fitted close to the frame, and the *manto*, a large loose cloak of black silk gauze, which is wrapped round even the face. Under

this disguise they sally forth and amuse themselves by addressing their friends without being known by them, mixing with the crowd to view whatever exhibition is going forward, and many other indiscretions.

Gaming prevails among both sexes to a destructive extent; and families are very ill managed. Yet the Peruvians in the cities are very courteous, humane, hospitable, and generous. In the country these amiable qualities are united with equal mirth and much greater simplicity.





PERUVIAN INDIANS.

PERUVIAN INDIANS.

THE Indians, or native Peruvians, are still over all Peru, the most numerous class. They have always been a mild, harmless race since the days of Pizarro. They have small features, little feet, well turned limbs, sleek, coarse, black hair, and scarcely any beard. They live in miserable huts, but they neglect no means of improving their condition. They are good farmers, and make many curious fabrics with slight materials. Some of them have made good preachers and lawyers. Their women are virtuous and discreet; and in the war of independence,

some of the men showed great courage. They retain the deepest and most wonderful recollection of the Great Inca, and in all the remote districts annually celebrate his death, by a sort of rude tragedy, accompanied by the most melting strains of music.

Our engraving represents Indian women of the higher class in their holiday dresses.





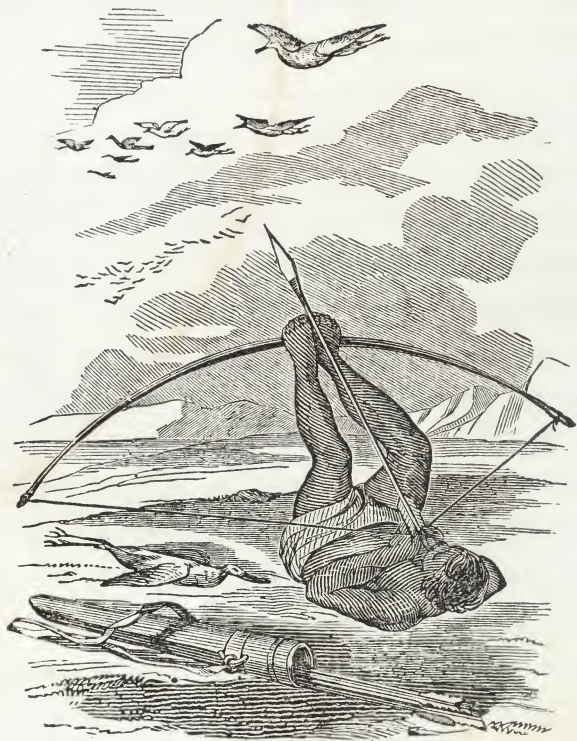
BRAZILIANS.

BRAZILIANS.

OF the three millions of inhabitants in the empire of Brazil, one half are negroes, bond and free, one fourth whites, and one fourth mulattoes. The slaves on obtaining their freedom are admitted to equal rights with the whites. Many of them are officers in the army and members of the legislature; and others are scattered through all classes of society.

Of the Brazilian character report does not speak very favorably. The emigrants consist, in a great measure, of adventurers, often of inferior rank, who have gone out with the view of amassing a fortune in any shape, and pursue a traffic

partaking more of peddling and retail habits than of any liberal principles of trade. Many of the free negroes and mulattoes seem to have a good deal of the scoundrel about them. The ladies have less liberty than in Europe, and do not make the very best use of what they have. The charges against them seem often too sweeping; but from the concurrent testimony of travellers, they rank lower than those of Europe, and have not the same graces, either of attire or manners. Mrs. Graham, however, observed a warmth of domestic affection which she never saw equalled, unless in some of the Highland clans, which showed itself rather unluckily by marriages within the forbidden degrees.



BRAZILIAN INDIANS.

BRAZILIAN INDIANS.

THE Indians in Brazil are in a much more uncivilized and uncompromising state than in the Spanish settlements. They have never been incorporated in any shape with the European population, but have always retired before the progress of civilization into the depths of their forests. They have borrowed, indeed, from the Portuguese some scanty portion of raiment. But they have never attempted the taming of animals, or the planting of grain; they subsist solely on the spontaneous fruits of the earth, the roots which they can dig up, and the

game brought down by the arrow, which they shoot with marvellous dexterity, taking an almost unerring aim at the distance of forty or fifty yards.

To render their arrows more fatal, they steep their points in a vegetable poison, prepared by themselves, called wourali, which is very active, causing almost instant death. The Indian in the picture uses a very long bow, and discharges the arrow by lying on his back and bending the bow with his feet, a practice peculiar to the Indians of Brazil.





TUPINAMBAS.

TUPINAMBAS.

THE Tupinambas are the most powerful tribe of independent Indians in Brazil. They live on the borders of the river Jaguaride, the country of Ilheos, and even extended to the neighborhood of Rio Janeiro, in early times. They are a strong active race. They paint their bodies with red, black, and blue colors, wear mantles and coronets of feathers, and a singular circular ornament of feathers on the back.

Like the Botocoudos, they pierce the lower lip and insert in it an ornament of bone. They also pierce holes in their

cheeks. Their arms are the bow and arrows, a heavy war-club, the spear and the tomahawk.

They are brave and cruel in war, and not only sacrifice prisoners but eat them. They worship many gods and believe in the immortality of the soul. Their chiefs are invested with powers similar to those of the North American Indians, and they have many very curious and barbarous customs peculiar to themselves.





BOTOCUDOS.

BOTOCOUDOS.

THIS is one of the wildest and most barbarous of the Indian tribes of Brazil. They habitually go about almost entirely naked, sometimes entirely. They paint their bodies, live in huts made of palm leaves, sleep in grass hammocks, and subsist on wild fruits and the produce of their rude hunting. A more miserable and degraded race of men scarcely exists in the world.

Mr. Murray thus describes their mode of disfiguring their faces. The Botocoudos, who inhabit the back settlements of Porto Seguro, have a favorite mode of

ornamenting themselves by what is called the *botoque*. This consists of large pieces of wood pendent from the ears and the under lips, to which they are fastened by holes bored for that purpose. The result is, that the ears are stretched till they hang down, like wings, sometimes to the shoulder; while the lip is made to project, and half the lower teeth is protruded in the processes of eating and speaking. They sometimes also paint themselves frightfully, the body black and the face red, probable to strike terror into their enemies. The Puries, Pataches, Machacaries, with sundry other tribes, of name and aspect equally uncouth, have the same general character, with sundry fantastic peculiarities belonging to each.





COROADOS.

COROADOS.

THIS was an important tribe of Brazilian Indians in former times, who have now dwindled away to a mere handful. They were very courageous, not attacking their enemies by ambuscades, like many other tribes, but meeting them in the open field, and fighting with indomitable courage. They bravely resisted the Portuguse invaders till the year 1630, when they were beaten in a grand pitched battle, and driven from the plains of Ouc-takazes, their own fertile country, to the forests of Minas, where they encountered the tribe of Coropos and subdued them.

But when they had lost the hope of returning to their own beautiful fields, and were compelled to live in thick forests, they cut off the long hair which had formerly distinguished them from other tribes, and although they carefully preserved their ancient name of Ouctakazes among themselves, they received from the Portuguese that of Coroados, or crowned Indians, in allusion to the new style of dressing their hair.





GUACHOS.

GUACHOS.

THE Guachos, who inhabit the wide surface of the Pampas, in La Plata, and appropriate the numberless herds that roam over them, are a very singular race. Some travellers hold them as downright savages; but Captain Head assures us, that they are often of good birth, and very estimable persons. The Guacho is at once the most active and the most indolent of mortals. He will scour the country whole days at full gallop, breaking wild horses, or chasing the jaguar or the ostrich; but once alighted and seated on the skeleton of a horse's head, nothing can induce him to move. He considers

it a degradation to set his foot to the ground; so that, notwithstanding a general vigor almost preternatural, the lower limbs are weak and bent, and he is incapable of walking to any distance. His dwelling is a mud cottage, with one apartment, and so swarming with insects, that in summer, all the family, wrapped in skins, sleep in the open air. All round is a desert, with the exception of the *corral*, or circular spot, enclosed by stakes, into which the cattle are driven.

Neither grain nor vegetables are cultivated, nor is the cow made to yield milk. A certain portion become robbers; and Captain Head does not consider it safe to meet a party without a display of three pistols ready cocked.



INDIANS OF BUENOS AYRES.

INDIANS OF BUENOS AYRES.

BUENOS AYRES receives its name (*Good Airs*) from its salubrious climate. It is situated on the river de la Plata, south of Paraguay. Its plains, called Pampas, abound in wild horses and cattle, which are caught with the lasso and bolas, by the wild people, called Guachos. The air is said to be so pure that beef dries without putrifying and without salt; and the chief exports of the country are hides and dried beef. A horse or cow may be bought for half a dollar in this country. Fish and fruits are equally abundant and cheap.

The Indians on the borders of Buenos Ayres are very fierce, excellent horsemen, and skilful in the use of their long lances. They are independent, and often make inroads on the towns and villages peopled by the descendants of the original Spanish colonists of the country.

Nevertheless some of these Indians of the Pampas settle in the Spanish towns, and become mechanics or shopkeepers. Our engraving represents an Indian shopkeeper, with his little stock of bridles, feathers, salt, and woollen cloth.





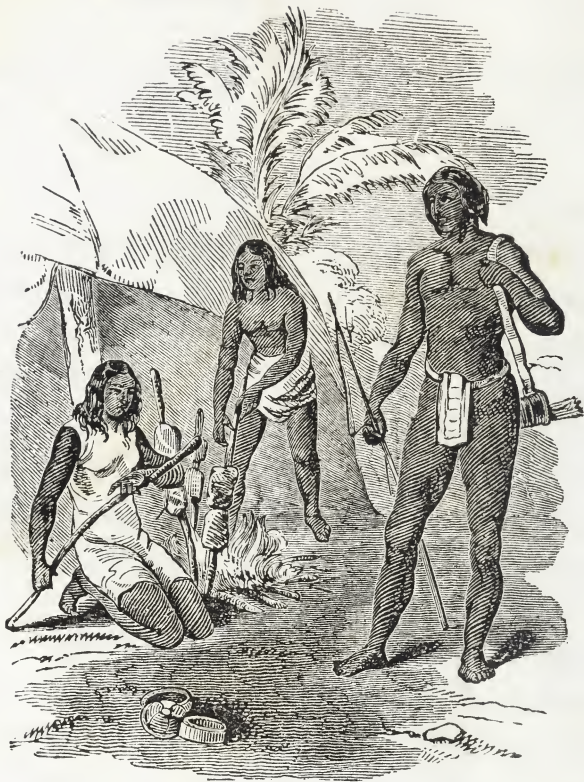
PARAGUAY INDIANS.

PARAGUAY INDIANS.

PARAGUAY is situated between the Parana and Paraguay rivers, on the south side of Brazil. It was settled by the Spaniards, and was formerly a province of Buenos Ayres. The most curious thing about the country is the way in which the Indians have been brought into complete subjection, and accustomed to regular pursuits of agriculture and manufactures. This was first effected by the Jesuit missionaries, who got possession of the whole country, had forty missions, a seat of government, forts and armies. They excluded all Europeans

except Jesuits, and monopolized the commerce and agricultural products of the country.

After the Jesuits were deprived of their power, the Indians fell under the dominion of the dictator Francia, who observed the same policy. Since his death the government is a military despotism with republican forms. The Creoles and Indians who compose nearly the whole population are very quiet, industrious people, who have learnt the arts of agriculture and manufactures; and yield a ready obedience to the government. Their peaceful and docile character is attributed in a great measure, to the religious instruction and careful training of their former masters, the Jesuits.



URAGUAY INDIANS.

URAGUAY INDIANS.

THE Indians of Uruguay live in a very simple and rude style. The most remarkable tribe is that of Charruas, a tribe originally naked and utterly barbarous, like the Botocoudos, but, unlike them, conquered and partially civilized by the Spaniards. In their half civilized state they prefer such employments as suit their wild habits. They are peons, shepherds, herdsmen, couriers, catchers of wild oxen and horses with the *bolas* and *lasso*, and very often highway robbers.

They wear very little clothing, and subsist, like the Guachos, chiefly on

beef, wild fruits, and roots. Our engraving represents their imperfect kind of cookery, a very rude way of roasting beef before a fire. They have a superior way of baking it, by wrapping it in a piece of raw hide, and putting it in an impromptu oven, a hole in the ground filled with hot coals.

They are very faithful and adroit guides for travellers; and perform the hunting and cooking necessary on a journey through the interior. But when the Charrua guide has conducted the traveller to his journey's end, and fulfilled his contract, and got his pay, he feels quite at liberty to rob the same traveller if he should meet him in a favorable spot afterwards.



PATAGONIANS.

PATAGONIANS.

THE Patagonians have been represented by travellers as men of gigantic stature. The truth appears to be that they have enormously large heads and shoulders, and long bodies, with short and small legs, so that when mounted on horseback, they look like giants. But their ordinary stature is from five to six feet.

They dress in robes made of the skins of the guanaco, the fox, and other animals. These robes are ornamented with red figures. Under the robe is a tunic also made of skins. Their long black hair is

often tied up with a leather or woollen string.

They are naturally indolent, but fond of hunting. They are great gluttons, and especially fond of butter, oil, and fat. Their arms are the bow and arrow, a short javelin and the bolas.

The laborious occupations of the household are all performed by the women; the men priding themselves on being only hunters and warriors.

Their houses are built of stone and wood, with a water proof roof of skins. They are only ten or twelve feet long and six feet wide. The fire is in the middle of the floor. These people are a distinct nation from the Fuegians, of whom we are next to give an account.





INDIANS OF TERRA DEL FUEGO.

INDIANS OF TERRA DEL FUEGO.

ALL travellers unite in representing the Fuegians as the most miserable of the human species. They have large heads, prominent cheek bones, flat nose, and a good natured expression of countenance. They are of low stature, and badly formed. They smear their bodies with charcoal, red ochre, and seal oil, a practice which renders them hideous in appearance, and very offensive to the smell. They wear robes made of the skin of the guanaco or the seal, and they go nearly naked, notwithstanding the severity of the climate.

Their dwellings are in the form of a sugar loaf, and built by driving stakes in the ground and tying them together at the top. The fire is built in the middle of the floor, and the place is always full of smoke.

They use skilfully the bow and arrow and the sling. Their canoes are about fifteen feet long and three feet wide, built of small branches of trees bent into a curve and united with the tendons of animals and bands of leather. The women row these canoes. They live mostly on fish and seals, and they are strongly suspected of cannibalism, and are charged with killing their old women when provisions grow scarce.



ESQUIMAUX.

ESQUIMAUX.

THE Esquimaux live in Greenland, and the northernmost parts of North America. They dwell, during the summer, in tents made of seal skins. Our engraving represents the interior of one of these tents, with an Esquimaux family. In winter they construct tents of snow, which are warm and commodious. They live on fish and the flesh of the seal, and make their garments of the skins of the seal bears, foxes, and sable.

The Esquimaux are enormous eaters, and they are quite indifferent as to the quality of their food. Some of Captain

Parry's stories of their feats, in the way of devouring raw pork and swallowing train oil, are almost incredible.

They pursue the seal fishery in canoes of a simple construction. They are sturdy beggars and adroit thieves, and when powerful enough in numbers, they frequently attack the boat's crews of voyagers, with the purpose of robbing them. Frequent instances of this kind occurred during the late exploring expeditions of Captains Parry, Ross, and Franklin.

The severity of the climate in all the Arctic regions, has an effect on the stature of the people. Their average height is said to be only four feet six inches.

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