

THE ESKIMO BULLETIN.

THE ESKIMO BULLETIN

W. T. Lopp, Editor.

Published at the "Alaska Mission" of The American Missionary Association.

CAPE PRINCE OF WALES, ALASKA.

Why do intelligent natives continue to go on long hunting trips without breakfast? Is it a case of neglect on the part of the "Ong-neks" (women), or do the big suppers and bad air of their sleeping apartments deprive them of their morning appetite?

Every Eskimo who has murdered a white man in this region, has had a bad reputation among his own people.

That one of the Dikmede Eskimos has murdered a white man does not signify that these people have a feeling of prejudice against those not of their own race. In settling their own troubles, generally brought about by domestic disturbances, or drunken quarrels, they have always resorted to killing by stealth. A white man who settles among a people, isolated as these are, must take his chances with them.

"There is no new thing under the sun", not even pneumatic tires. The Eskimos have used pneumatic bob-sled runners for ages.

The case of Too-nuk's hoarding ivory, illustrates a trait often seen among the more ambitious Eskimos. They have been known to hoard valuable furs, ivory, and even money, preferring to suffer from want, in sickness and "starving times", rather than part with them.

AN ESKIMO LEGEND.

Long ago, when wild deer were plentiful, a young hunter who had returned to his home on the coast from a successful deer hunt, sent his wife with a dog sled, to haul in the deer he had killed and cached in the hills. On her way home with her load of meat, her dogs stopped and whined as if scared. After some urging, they went ahead, but as the moon rose, the woman saw the cause of their fright. For there, on each side of her sled, were two wolves. Their gaunt fierce look, frightened her. She immediately felt a pain in her stomach. As she neared her home, the wolves disappeared. But the pain with which they had afflicted the woman, increased during the night, and resulted in her death before morning.

The husband wrapped her body in a walrus skin, and placed it on a rude drift-wood scaffold. But on the following day, when he visited the grave, he found it robbed, and the snow under it, was covered with tracks made by two wolves.

Arming himself with bow and arrows and spear, he followed the tracks and soon discovered that they belonged to human foot-prints, and between them, tracks of a third—a woman. Following their trail for hours, it took him to a cave-like house in the mountains. He entered and found his wife seated on the floor between two young men, sons of an old man and woman who were the only other occupants of the house.

Her captors refused to give her up. After much talk, they promised to let her return home for one year, if the husband would give them the copper knife-blade, which was lashed to the end of his spear. He agreed to this. As they were leaving, the old man added, "In one year my two sons will come after her, and bring her back, and neither your charms, nor your medicine-men can keep her from us".

After returning home, she lived in constant dread of the "wolf-brothers". She feared they would come and steal her away before the end of the year. She followed her husband wherever



he went, and never once allowed him out of her sight.

Near the close of the year, a wise old woman announced that the wolf-brothers were now on their way to get the wife. The people then prepared to defend her. All the powerful charms and medicine men obtainable, were secured for her protection. They lashed her to a post, in the middle of the "Kosga", with so much seal thong, that only her face was visible. Scores of men, armed with bows and arrows, remained there to guard her.

Others were stationed in the recess along each side of the long underground passage, which led to the door.

When the wolves arrived at the entrance, they became men. They walked down the long passage and entered unharmed. In their presence the armed men, and charms became powerless. At a touch from the older wolf-brother the lashings dropped from the woman, and they carried her out.

Recovering from their spell, the people ran outside, but the wolf-brothers had disappeared with the woman. A searching party followed them to the mountain. But in the place of the former house, they found a common wolf-den.

The Fourth of July was celebrated by an Inter-Continental foot-race. Eme-uk, of East Cape, Siberia, won the first prize, and Se-ke-woke, of C. P. of W., the second. The course was over three miles of hard sand beach.

A large brown bear wandered into the village last June. His presence created so much surprise, that he easily escaped unhurt.

Oc-nal-ik, and Pe-suk-too-uk are the only men in town, who wear labrets (ornaments worn in punctured lips).

O-waw-sook went to Candle City in November, and sold his own dog, and five, belonging to his neighbors, for \$40, and \$45 each. He says "Candle is all right."

Ad-loo-at is spending the winter in Massachusetts. The wood-cuts which appear in the "Bulletin," were made by him, before he had enjoyed the advantages of civilization.

Ok-ba-ok has a quantity of furs, handed down from his grand-father, which are known to be more than sixty years old.

The time-honored custom of tattooing the chins of the little girls, has become obsolete.

There have been 18 births, and 7 deaths during the year.

Six polar bears, "plenty" seals, eight whales (calves), is the hunting score for the season.

Ah-woot-nuk made a record with his canoe last summer. In July he sailed across the strait, traded for a boat load of Siberian deer skins, and returned. Then he sailed to Kotzebue Sound, and exchanged these skins for red fox, beaver, and otter skins. Returning from the sound in October, he sailed across the strait again, and purchased another boat load of deer skins.