ROUND THE WORLD, A SERIES OF INTERESTING ILLUSTRATED ARTICLES ON A GREAT VARIETY OF SUBJECTS, VOL. IV

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649144242

Round the world, a series of interesting illustrated articles on a great variety of subjects, Vol. IV by Anonymous

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd. Cover @ 2017

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ROUND THE WORLD SERIES VOLUME IV

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VOLUME IV

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The Esquimaux

ENVELOPED as they are now in perpetual ice and snow, there are many proofs that the Arctic regions once enjoyed a milder climate. This fact has been established by the fossil wood, acorns, and petrified fir-cones that have been found within their limits. In North Greenland, a large burned forest has been discovered surrounded by glaciers, 1,080 feet above the level of the sea. Not only the trunks and branches of the trees, but even the leaves, fruit-cones, and seeds have been preserved in the soil, thus enabling the botanist to determine to what species the trees belong. Trees and plants belonging to a climate as mild as that of Lausanne or Geneva once flourished here; but the origin of the great change in temperature can only be theorized upon, and there have been many theories broached and upheld by scientists on this interesting subject. The field of speculation as to the causes which induced this stupendous change, is too wide to be entered upon in the narrow limits of this article, which must confine itself to a description of some of the people who inhabit these high latitudes, which have, despite their disadvantages, many beauties of their own.

However, it is doubtful if the many scattered tribes of Esquimaux who range about these Arctic regions shrink from the monotonous gloom of their long and terrible winter any more than they enjoy the magnificence of an Arctic sunset, or the magical beauty of the Aurora, that wondrous phenomenon of arching light with its wonderfully transparent colors. They are a stolid and unemotional race, who are principally distinguished by their ability to live in a climate in which no other people have been known to survive.

Of all the uncivilized nations of the globe, none range over a wider space than the Esquimaux, their various tribes extending from Greenland and Labrador to the extreme northeastern point of Asia. They call themselves "Inuit," meaning simply "men." It is from the outsiders who trade with them that they have received the name of Esquimaux, derived, evidently, from their own cries of "Seymo," or "Teymo," with which they greet the arrival of the ships.

As it would be impossible for these people to



A Group of Natives and their Summer Hut.