

The Eskimo

It is often said "you never know a person until you have lived with them." By this is meant that ~~we~~^{there is} the opportunity of conversation to know their thoughts and feelings, and ~~easy~~^{by} observation ~~to learn~~ the relative part that instinct plays in the behavior. their ~~reaction of people to~~ ~~habits~~, difficulties to be that must be overcome. And above all their habit of living and working.

A person is pleasing or displeasing to us not only because of the external appearance but also because of their congenial way of thinking and acting.

It is quite possible for two people who do not even speak the same language to be in love with each other. Language is a most convenient way of expressing thoughts and desires but it is only one of many modes of expression. Deaf mutes make very happy lovers, as do also the blind.

In the study of native races then much can be learned by observation of their customs and habits. Care must be taken to insure

~~chapter~~ however that the actions habits customs are really native and not adapted from or influenced by contact with the so called more civilized groups of mankind.

Apart from the manual task of obtaining food, clothing and protection against weather and other people or animals and apart from those things called luxuries of modern civilization there are three ^{factors that} great ~~influences upon~~ ^{influence} the habits customs thoughts & feelings of a people — religion art and sex. These three are often interwoven and so mixed up that they

have to be taken in relation to each other.

One afternoon when the *Prothie* was in the midst of fog and floundering zigzag through pans of arctic ice. Wilcox and I were lounging on his room. We talked of the customs and character and activities of the Eskimo. He had lived among them nearly 40 years and spoke their language and it was most interesting to hear him describe his experiences. He was very often the first white man to be seen by ~~whole~~ villages

after village since it was
 he that made many of the
 first petrels along the ^{west} arctic
 coast and the west coast of
 Hudson Bay. He carried
 knives, needles, ^{things} files, and
 the occasional hatchet and
 with these small articles
 he more than paid his way
 for the Eskimo are ~~not~~
 in their native state a
 commercially minded
 people. To them money
 was useless but a
~~thing~~ package of needles or
 a knife was a fortune.

He also told one
 story which throws
 more light on the

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Eskimo habits of living
than pages of ordinary
description.

At the time of this
occurrence Wilcox was
a corporal ~~of~~ the Royal
Canadian North West
Mounted Police. He was
on an early spring patrol
and was accompanied by
a constable of the Force
and a Roman Catholic Priest.
As the tramped along the shore
ice ~~the~~ on afternoon of
one of those still short
Arctic days ~~the~~ saw ahead
of him in the distance a
lone Eskimo.

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This meant that they were close to a Eskimo village for they never travel far alone. They are a most sociable and communistic people.

They made the conventional sign of friendship - raising the arms above the head.

The Eskimo came to meet ^{+ welcome} them. They all hurried to the village which consisted of about a dozen or fifteen families. They were taken to the large igloo of the head-man of the Village.

It may be explained that the head man ~~the~~ is

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not ~~in~~^{the} political sense. He is simply the one who by his industry and ingenuity can provide best for his family and hence since a man can have as many wives as he can provide for the head man usually has two or more.

The head man of this village had two wives and two fully grown young daughters as well as many other children.

All the villagers came to greet them. Even after they went inside the egloo of their host people of all ages as many as could crowd in came to see them. They were feasted and they presented

gifts of friendship, needles and knives.

At length it came time to go to bed. At this point it must be explained that the custom of the Eskimo is to entirely undress before getting into the sleeping bag. The woman always gets into bed first to warm the bed and ^{very} rarely does an Eskimo sleep alone.

The head man beckoned ~~one~~ of his oldest daughter and she unrolled the sleeping bag of the Corporal and the other daughter unrolled the sleeping bag of the Constable. The girls then proceeded to strip & warm the beds

The head man sent for a neighbors daughter to do likewise for the priest. But when he arrived and went to unroll the priests bag, he seeing what was about to happen pushed the girl aside. The priest was at the disadvantage since he did not know a word of Esquimo language.

The head man sent the girl home and brought another neighbors daughter more beautiful than the last. But the priest again refused he the right to touch his bed - or disturb him in his much needed prayers.

The undaunted head man sent for a third girl of the village more beautiful

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even than the last. When the priest pushed her aside the head man made her remove all her clothes to show her naked perfection to the Priest.

At this stage in the proceedings Wilcox interceded and explained to the bewildered Eskimo that this priest was a Holy Man and never slept with a woman. ~~There~~ Wilcox found difficulty in expressing the idea of Holiness in the religious sense for the Eskimo language is deficient in words in this regard.

The Eskimo was still indignant to think that the women of this village were not of a perfection sufficient to suit the taste of the priest.

However the poor girl was sent home and all finally went to the beds. The night being was trimmed and

In the middle of the night ~~at~~ all were disturbed by the sudden shout of 'help! murder! help!' from the terror stricken priest. Wilcox looked out of his sleeping bag to see the naked Eskimo trying to drag the priest from his bag.

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When asked what he was going to do the Eskimo ^{stumpily} ~~stumpily~~ said. I was just trying to find out if this was a man or a woman. On Welox's reassurance that it was a man the incredulous and uncomprehending Eskimo left him in peace and went to bed.

The next morning when they awoke there was a blinding Arctic blizzard blowing. No one could move farther than a rope length from the Igloo.

The blizzard raged three days.

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The fourth morning the sun was shining brightly and the travelling was much easier since all crevices were filled in. Wilcox told the head man that they must journey on and thanked him for his hospitality.

The head man address Wilcox and said words to this effect. "You are our brother we love you we wish you would stay and live with us". He repeated these words to the constable but he turned with a seathing look and said words to the effect "You - you neither man nor woman - get to hell out of here"