

# TOO WARM FOR ESKIMOS

**Unaccustomed to a Temperate Climate, They Are Suffering with a Hitherto Unknown Complaint.**

**THEIR SPIRITS UNAFFECTED**

**At an Informal Reception Held in the Museum of Natural History They Entertain Their Guests and Make Love to the Women.**

About the most uncomfortable people in the city yesterday, notwithstanding the splendid weather that prevailed, was the little band of Eskimos imported from remote Greenland by Lieut. Peary, and at present housed in the basement of the Museum of Natural History, at Eightieth Street and Central Park West. They cannot quite understand how it is, that in the month when, in their northern homes, all is darkness and ice and snow, the sun persists in diffusing what is to them such agonizing warmth. In consequence the unfortunate little savages have caught cold, or warmth, they do not know which, but assuming that it is the latter, their sole endeavor yesterday was to keep cool.

Their efforts in this direction were a source of amusement to the several scores of visitors, who received permission from Superintendent Wallace of the museum to inspect the newcomers. For the first time since their arrival in this city, they laid aside their fur garments, and yesterday wore a combination of American and Eskimo costume, which, while by no means picturesque, presented a striking appearance.

Kushu, the head of the party, and ranking chief, by grace of one of the attendants got hold of a light overcoat, and, though several sizes too large for him, he wrapped it around his body and seemed proud of it. His nether garments consisted of a pair of golf stockings of rather loud pattern and somewhat too comfortable fit.

### A Little Savage.

Kushu's little son, of unspellable and unpronounceable name, but called Minny for short, was happy in the possession of a knickerbocker suit and blue flannel waist, which he took great delight in exhibiting to the callers, his chubby, greasy little face beaming with delight at his civilized appearance. For the first time in his life, probably, he had a real bath yesterday, and, though it took some coaxing to get him to enter the tub of water, after the performance was over, he was so pleased that he has been anxiously inquiring through Matthew Henson, the colored interpreter, when the next bath was forthcoming. Superintendent Wallace has taught all the Eskimos to wash themselves since they have been under his care, and they have taken so kindly to the novelty that it is hard work to keep them away from the hydrant.

It is probably this new hobby that has given them the cold from which they are suffering, but they do not allow their slight affliction to interfere with their good humor. Every visitor was put through a process of vigorous handshaking, and was entertained by every device known to the Eskimo society man. One of the most amusing forms of entertainment consisted in an illustration of the manner in which the Eskimos attempt to conjure away illness. This in their opinion can only be accomplished by rubbing the sides of the body and singing a weird sort of a lullaby that with all its peculiarities is not absolutely discordant.

But one syllable enters into the song, and that is "Hai" as nearly as it could be made out. It is sung in a plaintive strain, the inflections of the voice being accompanied by a rhythmical swaying of the body and shaking of the head. The grimaces, which are thrown in to make the conjuration complete, are indistinguishable. Kushu was the soloist yesterday, and when he finished the other members of the party took up the strain and hummed a variation of the song in unison. His ten-year-old son then gave a creditable imitation of the manner in which seals are speared, but his exhibition did not suit his expert father, and the latter made it more elaborate.

By far the most amusing part of the impromptu reception held by the party was the persistency in which the male members insisted upon their rights to propose an exchange of wives. It is customary among the Eskimo tribes to interchange wives, their system being what might be called one of rotation. When a man takes a fancy to the wife of another he proposes an exchange, and a bargain is as a rule entered into, the consideration generally being a dog or a skin, according to the desirability of the woman.

### Want American Wives.

Since their arrival in this city the males in the party have developed an inordinate fondness for American girls, and when yesterday some ten or fifteen young women were introduced to them they at once began instituting inquiries as to the willingness of their new acquaintances to enter into matrimonial agreements. Through the interpreter they gave an account of their possessions and what consideration they were willing to allow for the acquisition of a good-looking wife. They had no special preference, but would take any one who would present herself for acceptance. When their rather verbose offers were declined with thanks they showed keen disappointment. In fact, one of them became somewhat incensed at what he termed a breach of faith. He declared that Mr. Wallace had given him to understand that all he had to do was to make his choice and his selection would be only too glad to take advantage of the offer. When the "selection" shrank back from his advances he looked askance at the Superintendent and grunted.

The unusual crowd that thronged the museum was disappointed when told that the Eskimos were not on exhibition. Some of the visitors understood that they could have access to the temporary abode of the strangers, and came there for that purpose, but they had to content themselves with a glimpse through a grating above the basement, and many lay prone, peering through the spaces in the hope of catching a glimpse of the Eskimos.

Superintendent Wallace gave an interesting account of a ride he took through Central Park with Kushu's son. The little fellow could hardly be torn away from the menagerie, where he saw some polar bears, and the sight of a bicycle made him howl with glee. He would not let riders pass without hailing them, and was amazed at the size of the "big dogs," as he called the horses he saw in the driveways. His little sister, who is about twelve or thirteen years old, would not venture out, and contented herself with drawing pictures of men and bears, developing remarkable capacity in that line.

### Found Dead in a Factory.

John Fay, sixty-five years old, of 29 Boerum Street, Williamsburg, was found dead yesterday in the shoe factory of Wischert & Gardiner, at 24 Boerum Street, where he was employed. He usually went on duty at 6 o'clock every night, and entered the factory at that hour Saturday night. He failed to return to his home at 7 o'clock yesterday morning, and his son Patrick went to the shop to see what detained him. Mr. Fay was found dead on the top floor of the factory. He lay face down, and near the body was a lantern, which he had carried. It is thought that while making his rounds of the factory during the night he was stricken with heart disease.

### Alleged Green Goods Swindlers.

Frank Rivers and James Abbott, alias Norton, who had been apprehended on a warrant issued in Syracuse, N. Y., were arraigned in the Jefferson Market Court yesterday. They were arrested on Friday at Fortieth Street and Broadway on the charge of working a green goods game on William Roberts of Knoxville, Tenn., at Syracuse, and swindling him out of \$700.

The prisoners maintained a stolid silence regarding themselves, and were turned over to a detective from Syracuse.

### Died from the Effects of Burns.

Mrs. Annie Herriskind, thirty-six years old, the wife of a motorman employed by the Brooklyn Heights Railroad Company, was fatally burned late Saturday night by the explosion of a kerosene lamp in her apartment on the first floor of 98 1/2 Jefferson Avenue, Brooklyn. She died yesterday afternoon in St. Mary's Hospital, to which she had been removed.