critical inspection of all reputed antiquities bearing the marks of these un-American methods of manufacture.

If the methods are questionable, the spirit is more so. True native art is consistent: each part bears an intelligible relation to all other parts. It will be seen by reference to my illustration that these vases are not even imitations of genuine work, but compositions made up of unrelated parts (derived, may be, from ancient art), and thrown together without rhyme or reason. Fraud is stamped upon every contour, and written in every line. W. H. HOLMES.

## *EAST GREENLAND ESKIMO.*

ANTHROPOLOGISTS have been waiting with great interest the information which Lieutenant Holm has to convey regarding the wild Eskimo of East Greenland, only recently known, and among whom he was the first civilized man to penetrate. He remained among them last winter; and an exhibition has just been made at Copenhagen of the ethnological objects which were procured from them. These people live about the bay of Augmagsalik. In the various settlements there were, in the winter of 1884–85, 548 souls, of whom 413 are situated near the above bay, and the rest on the coast between Fingmiamiut and Bernstorff fiord. There are 247 males and 301 females, who possess 142 kayaks and 33 umiaks, or large skin boats. The language is the same as that of the west coast; but the voices of the east coast people are more soft and agreeable. Their habit is erect, the face characteristic, the nose more prominent than with the other Eskimo. Their religion and legends agree exactly with those of the western coast.

They wear dressed skin in summer, fur clothing in winter. Their boots are double; and in winter both inside socks and boots are made of fur on the inner side. Bear-skins are the most prized. Caps are made of white or blue fox-skin with the tail left hanging behind. Pretty embroidery and inlaid party-colored fur are in use, as is a sort of wooden shade against sun and rain. Combs of musk-ox horn are cut out with shark's teeth, and used to confine the hair, which is often knotted on top of the head. Clothing is only worn out of doors; within the huts the women wear a breech clout, while the others are entirely naked up to their fourteenth year, when the boys are given a pair of breeches as a sign of maturity. The greatest desire of the women is to have a son, and a marriage is not regarded as complete until the wife has become a mother. In order that the child may be a boy, the women are made to dance in a way to make a figure of eight on the floor: this, if rigorously followed, should determine the sex of the expected infant. As in north-west America, boys are often married to old women; but the tie does not hold unless children are the result. Some men have two wives, so as to have two rowers in their boat. Only one unmarried woman was met with. The men frequently exchange wives; and the possession of male children is considered excellent luck, whether a woman be married or not. Salutation is by rubbing noses. Men of sixty years of age are very rare. When an individual is seriously ill, he consents, if his relatives request it, to end his sufferings by throwing himself into the sea. It is rare that a sick person is put to death, except in cases of disordered intellect. The dead whose ancestors have perished in the sea are thrown into the sea. Others are interred, or laid on land and their bodies covered with stones. With them are put their most precious treasures. The friends and relatives express grief in different ways, — howling, weeping, and so on, that the soul of the dead man be not grieved by neglect. If the deceased bore the name of a thing or animal, the name is no longer used, which causes some confusion in the language.

They know very little of fishing. Even the salmon are taken with a spear. Their weapons are arrows, lances, and harpoons, pointed with bone or iron. The latter is obtained by traffic with the southern natives, or from wreckage. They make knives and needles of it, as well as arrow-points. Needles and beads are much in request. Collars are made for dress occasions by fastening fish vertebrae on strips of dressed intestine, as on a ribbon. They are very ingenious in wood-carving, and their wooden articles are ornamented with inlaid bits of white bone or stone. They carve representations of parts of the coast in wood; and among the articles brought home by Lieutenant Holm was a collection representing, in wood, the parts of the adjacent coast. These carvings are so good, that the members of the expedition recognized from one of them an island which they had not previously seen. Toys are also carved with great accuracy and neatness. The children have and dress dolls, play with toy bears, sledges, etc., — all well executed.

Fire is obtained by means of the fire-drill, and is caught on the dry moss which serves for wicks in their great stone lamps, which both heat and cook for the household.

There is a good deal of driftwood thrown on this coast. The autumn and early winter are mild, in the present case above 37° F. It was only in the month of February that the sea became ice-bound: it remained so until the end of June. In general the coast is free for navigation during

July, August, and September. The winds experienced were chiefly from the north-east.

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### THE POPULATION OF LONDON.

THE growth of this huge city presents a problem full of interest, says *Engineering*, and not without anxiety to those who are responsible for its government. It has already attained a population which overshadows that of every other city, both ancient and modern, and which, indeed, surpasses that of many a kingdom whose actions are now watched with concern by the leading statesmen of Europe. Scotland, Switzerland, and the Australasian colonies each contains less souls than London, while Norway, Servia, Greece, and Denmark can scarcely boast half so many. The famous cities of the world look small by comparison. Paris, Berlin, and Brussels cannot together equal the sum of its multitude, nor New York, Brooklyn, Hoboken, and Jersey City two-thirds of it. And the greater part of this aggregation of human beings has been gathered together within very recent times.

Since the commencement of the century the number of inhabitants has quadrupled, rising from 958,863 in 1801, to 3,816,483 in 1881; and the question to be answered is, how long will the attraction which London possesses for the people of the provinces and of foreign lands continue, and how long can it find accommodation for the yearly influx? When the attraction ceases, it is safe to predict the beginning of the end; for, as soon as the metropolis no longer draws to itself the best men from every part of the country, it will lose its supremacy, and other places will rival it, each being its superior in some department. But there is a sense in which London must in time become fixed, and incapable of further expansion. The area of the registration district is not likely to be extended, and consequently a time must arrive, if the growth be maintained, when it will be completely filled, and all additions must be confined to the surrounding district, the greater London, the size of which no one can foretell.

The length of time which will be occupied in filling the present metropolitan area formed one of the principal topics lately dealt with by Mr. Price-Williams in a paper on 'The population of London, 1801 to 1881,' recently read before the Statistical society. In this he traced the variation of the population in each district decade by decade, showing how many have attained a maximum, and then declined to be stationary at a point which appears to represent their permanent capability. The total area of London is 75,334 acres, or, omitting those occupied by water, 74,427 acres. Mr. Price-Williams estimates the maximum possible population within the metropolitan registration area at about 7,000,000, or about ninety-four people per acre, and that it will require thirty-six years for the density to be acquired over the entire area, assuming that the average rate of increase of population, which has obtained during the last eighty years, namely, 18.86 per cent per decade, to be maintained in the future. He points out, however, that the percentage of increase has been falling since 1851, and is now only 17.28 per cent; so that it is possible, or indeed probable, that the term of years mentioned by him may be exceeded.

Mr. Price-Williams bases his calculations on the capacity of the metropolis by observing that in all parts some area gets filled, and then in a little time the population decreases to a point which may be considered as a constant at which it will be maintained. In the districts which are completely built over, the tendency is for the population to be displaced by shops, offices, and the like; and thus it may safely be affirmed that in such parts the maximum will never be reached again. In the outlying districts there is generally some part which may be taken as fairly characteristic of the whole, and may be used as a basis for calculation.

The commencement of the marked increase coincided with the institution of the railways, which rendered it possible to persons to live at a distance and get backwards and forwards with facility. It is an interesting problem to consider how much further the system of suburban residence will be extended. Already there are signs that a part of the population is finding that it is not worth while to take a long journey to reside in a street which only differs from the street in which their business is conducted by being worse paved and lighted. The inhabitants which constitute 'society' always congregated in town, and now the rapid erection of mansions let out in flats testifies that their superior convenience and better sanitary arrangements serve as an equivalent to the fresher air of the country. If the co-operative system of housekeeping were to become general, it would greatly modify the estimate as to the possible maximum population. The average density of Paris is more than double that of London, and yet the streets are brighter and cleaner. The question probably turns more upon the prevention of smoke than upon any thing else. If the fog and gloom could be removed, and free access provided for the sunlight, there is no pleasanter or healthier place to live than the west end of London; and many who now endure, morning and evening, forty minutes' journey through choking tunnels, and walk long distances to railway termini, would stay in town if they could be relieved from the de-