

1536. shoes to run on the snow, which are not in use among them.

It must be avowed that it would be a strange thing to find black men so near the Pole, and in a climate where the very bears are white; yet de Courtemanche's young slave is not the only one who makes the assertion.

The author of the Relation of Greenland, given in the *Voyages au Nord*, after speaking of the natives of the country, which he represents as very like the Esquimaux, large and lean like them, dressed in the same style, having canoes like theirs, adds that there are also among them men as black as Ethiops.¹ After all, there is nothing impossible in this, as negroes might, by chance or otherwise, have been transported to Greenland, and multiplied there, the white hair being an effect of cold, which acts similarly on most of the animals in Canada.

Pigmies. The slave spoke also of pygmies, who formed, she said, a nation of themselves, were only three feet high, and extremely stout. Their wives, she added, are still smaller, and there is not in the world a more wretched people. The Esquimaux, whose slaves they are, treat them very harshly, and make it a signal favor to give them a little fresh water to drink. The relation which I have cited says the same, and avers that in many parts of the country there is no fresh water, but melted snow;² in which there is nothing incredible, as the cold may so close the channels in the earth, that there is no passage for springs, except at a certain depth.

This conjecture is confirmed by what voyagers have experienced at the North, where they have seen on the seashore immense icebergs of fresh water. According to some memoirs, also, the Esquimaux are accustomed to drink sea-water, and that there is often no other. This water is not, however, of the sea, but of brackish ponds, such as are sometimes found far inland.

¹ Recueil de *Voyages au Nord*, i. p. 129.

² Ib., p. 131.