

We also learn from the *Voyages au Nord*, that some Danish vessels, which in 1605 ascended very far up in Hudson's Bay, found there little men, with square heads, bronzed complexion, thick pouting lips, who eat meat and fish raw; who could never be accustomed to bread or cooked meats, still less to wine; who swallowed whale-oil as we do water, and eat its flesh as a delicacy; who made shirts of the intestines of fish, and overcoats of dog or seal skins.¹ The author adds that he took several of these pygmies to Denmark, and that they all died of home-sickness; but that five were still alive, when on the arrival of a Spanish ambassador, they gave him as an entertainment the spectacle of these little men sailing in boats of their fashion on the sea.² These boats were of the shape of a weaver's shuttle, and ten or twelve feet long. They were made of whalebones an inch thick, covered above and below with skins of seals or sea-dogs, sewed together with sinews. Two other skins covered the upper part of the boat, in such a way that there was only an opening in the middle by which the boatman got in, and drew it up like a purse around his waist. Thus seated, and secured around the body, not a drop of water entered their boat, although the waves broke over their heads, and sometimes surrounded them on every side. The force of these boats consists in the two ends, where the whalebones are well tied together by the extremities; and the whole is so well joined, so well sewed, that these slight craft can stand the most violent storms; and that in the very midst of shipwreck their conductors laugh at the tempest.

There is never more than one man in each of these boats; and he sits there, his legs stretched out, the wrist of his sleeves well tied, his head enveloped in a kind of hood attached to his coat, so that, whatever happens, no water penetrates. They hold in their hand a double-

¹ Recueil des *Voyages au Nord*, i. p. 132, though not cited exactly.

² Recueil des *Voyages au Nord*, i. p. 141.