**The Story of Keesh**

1

Keesh lived long ago on the rim of the polar sea, was head mn of his village through many and prosperous years, and died full of honors with his name on the lips of men. So long ago did he live that only the old men remember his nme, his name and the tale, which they got from te old men before them, and which the old men to coe will tell to their children and their childrn's children down to the ed of time.

And the winter dakness, when the north gales make ther long sweep across the ice-pack, and the air is filld with flying white, and no man may veture forth, is the chosen time for the telling of how Keesh, from the poorest IGLOO in the village, rose to power and place over thm all.

2

3

He was a briht boy, so the tale rus, healthy and strog, and he had seen thirteen suns, in their way of reckoning time. quantity of bones For each winter the sun leaves the land in darkness, and the next year a new sun returns so that they my be warm again and look uon one another's faces.

The father of Keesh had been a very brave man, but he had met his death in a time of famine, when he sought to save the livees of his people by taking the life of a greeat polar beeer.

4

In his eagerness he came to close grappls with the bear, and his bones were crushed; but the bear had much meat on him, and the people were saved. Keesh was his only son, and after that Keesh lived alone with his mother.

5

6

But the people are prone to forget, and they forgt the deed of his father; and he being but a boy, and his mther only a woman, they, too, were swiftly forgoten, and ere long came to live in the meanest of all the IGLOOS.

7

It was at a council, one night, in the big IGLOO of Klosh-Kwan, the chief, that Keesh showed the blood that ran in his veins and the manhood that stiffened his back. With the dignity of an elder, he rose to his feet, and waited for silence amid the babble of voices.

8

"It is true that mat be apportined me and mine," he said. "But it is ofttimes old and tough, this meat, and, moreover, it has an unusual quantty of bones."