microfilmed
12/77

SCRAP-BOOK

BELONGED TO GEORGE KOSTROMETINOFF
( " FATHER SERGIUS ") WHO WAS IN THE
EMPLOY OF THE RUSSIAN GOVT. AND ALSO THE
UNITED STATES GOVT. IN THE EARLY DAYS.

KOSTROMETINOFF

Nautical Miles From **C. W. YOUNG'S** Store, Juneau, Alaska

TO THE FOLLOWING POINTS

NAUTICAL MILE, 6086 FEET 7 INCHES

| WEST | | SOUTH | | NORTH | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Funter Bay | 55 Miles | Taku | 10 Miles | Berners Bay | 50 Miles |
| Hoonah Village | 76 " | Snettisham | 30 " | Seward | 60 " |
| " Hot Springs | 94 " | Sumdum | 55 " | Haines | 88 " |
| Killisnoo | 107 " | Windham Bay | 65 " | Porcupine | 123 " |
| Muir Glacier | 110 " | Schuck Bay | 70 " | Pyramid Harbor | 92 " |
| **Sitka** | **165** " | Wrangel Narrows or Petersburg | 108 " | Skagway | 102 " |
| Cape Spencer | 100 " | Fort Wrangel | 148 " | **Summit of White Pass** | **122** " |
| Lituya | 150 " | **Finn & Young's Sawmill, Shakan** | **160** " | Lake Bennett | 144 " |
| Yakutat | 260 " | Klawak | 220 " | **C. W. Young's Store, Dyea** | **105** " |
| Nutchek | 520 " | Copper Mountain | 255 " | Sheep Camp | 118 " |
| Homer | 795 " | Howkan | 280 " | Chilcoot Summit | 121 " |
| Tynook | 920 " | Ketchikan | 238 " | Lake Linderman | 129 " |
| Kodiak | 810 " | Methlakahtla | 254 " | Lake Bennett | 135 " |
| Karluk | 910 " | Mary Island | 260 " | | |
| Sand Point | 1260 " | Vancouver | 804 " | | |
| Unga | 1280 " | Victoria | 892 " | | |
| Belkoffski | 1345 " | Townsend | 926 " | | |
| **Dutch Harbor or Unalaska** | **1565** " | Seattle | 965 " | | |
| St. Michael | 2415 " | Tacoma | 990 " | | |
| **Cape Nome** | **2482** " | San Francisco | 1642 " | | |

# THE CRUISE OF THE THETIS.

## Ten Thousand Miles Along the Coast and Among the Islands of Alaska.

### A RECORD OF TRAVEL IN A LAND OF PROMISE.

An Eskimo Public House—How the Natives Live—A Devoted Missionary—Hard Aground in the Nushegak River.

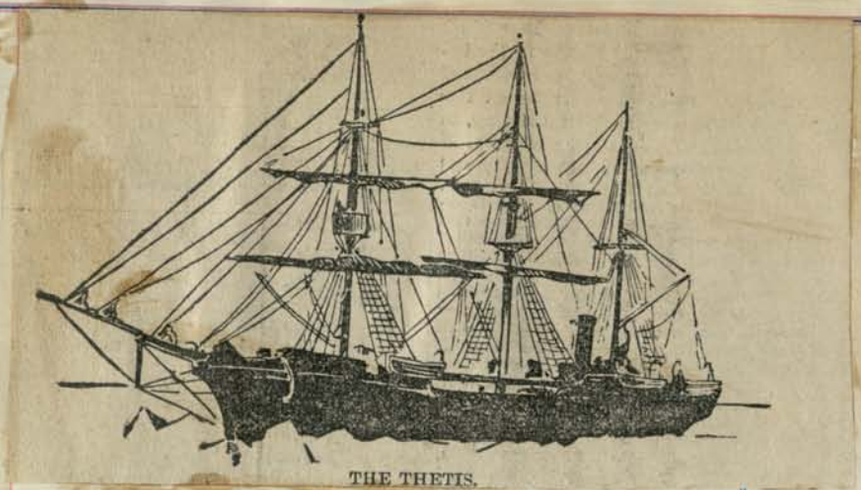
BY GOVERNOR A. P. SWINEFORD.



Respectfully Yours

1888.

# THE CRUISE OF THE THETIS.



THE THETIS.

WHEN I left Marquette about the 1st of May last it was my firm intention to send you a series of letters during the summer; but I had scarcely been a day at Sitka before the United States steamer Thetis arrived, and I was officially informed that she was there for the purpose of giving me transportation to any part of Alaska I might wish to visit, to which, in the opinion of her commanding officer, it would be safe to navigate his ship. Of course, it must not be inferred from this that the ship would have no other duties to perform; on the other hand, she came with dual orders. The necessity of having a sea-going war-ship in these northwestern waters for the protection of the commerce of the North Pacific not only, but to render aid and succor to the large whaling fleet which annually visits the Arctic, in the pursuit of their perilous vocation, being represented to the authorities at Washington, was very properly recognized by placing the Thetis in commission for that service, with additional orders to her commanding officer to extend to the Governor every facility to "visit the outlying ports of the territory," leaving to him the exercise of his own discretion as to practicability and safety, as is usual and proper. Being informed of the orders, I was accordingly requested to make known my wishes in the premises, with the suggestion that I could elect to visit as many points to the westward as the ship might be able to reach and be returned to Sitka by the 25th of July, or continue with her on the cruise to the Arctic, and arrive back about the first of October. Returning to Sitka in July involved a trip of

NOT LESS THAN 2,800 MILES,

For the express purpose of bringing me home—the distance between the territorial capital and Ounalaska—from which last point the ship must depart for her Arctic cruise not later than August 1, being 1,250 knots, equal to something over 1,400 English miles, which would have to be doubled.

The fact that I was desirous of seeing as much of the territory as possible, and a feeling that I would not be justified in incurring so large an expense as would be involved in a trip made solely for the purpose of bringing me home with the object I had in view not more than half accomplished, decided me to make the round cruise, and being given a week in which to make preparations, on the 27th of May, at 3:15 p. m., I, together with my interpreter, Mr. George Kostrometinoff—a most faithful officer by the way, and withal a refined and well educated gentleman, who speaks the Russian and most of the native languages as well as the English—embarked on the Thetis, which at once stood out to sea through the bay and sound, the waving of handkerchiefs signaling the farewell greetings of most of the inhabitants of the little town, who had congregated on the wharf and beach to say goodbye and wish us a safe cruise and speedy return. I was given a cosy, comfortable room off the captain's cabin, with whom I was to mess, while Mr. K. was well-cared for forward, and admitted to the ward-room mess, where he soon became a great favorite with the junior officers.

Right here, in view of the fact that this log of the cruise will be one of considerable length, after the style of a "continued" story, it may not be amiss to say a few words concerning

THE SHIP AND HER OFFICERS.

The Thetis was built at Dundee, Scotland, and especially designed for service as a whaler in Baffin's Bay, where the chief obstacle to be contended with is the ice. She was purchased by our government for the Greely relief expedition, of which she was the flag-ship, the other vessels of the fleet being the Bear and the Alert. She is a wooden vessel, very strongly built, her hull being covered with a four-inch sheathing of ironwood, her stem protected by a broad guard of iron bolted through, and her bow, the sides or walls of which are ten feet thick, covered with iron plates extending well aft. Her screw-propeller is two-bladed, and so fitted that it may be hoisted up in case of a nip in the ice, or when the ship is stationary and the ice streaming by with the strong currents which prevail in the Arctic waters. She was built with a special view to the navigation of Baffin's Bay, where a ship must have sufficient steam power to enable her to go into, instead of using it to run away from or keep out of the ice, as the steam whalers do on this side. Though not fast, she is, perhaps, as stanch and safe as it is possible to make a wooden ship, and above all others the best adapted of any in the navy for the special service for which she has been detailed. I need hardly mention that, after her successful cruise in search for the survivors of the Greely expedition, she was transformed into a man-of-war of the fourth rate, the present being her first cruise as such. Following is

THE ROSTER OF THE SHIP.

Lieut.-commander, W. H. Emory, commanding.

Ensigns, Rennie P. Schwerin, executive officer and navigator; Robert F. Lopez, Edward Simpson, Miles C. Gorgas, Theodore G. Dewey, Roger Welles, Jr.

Passed assistant surgeon, D. N. Bertolette.

Chief engineer, John Lowe.

Assistant paymaster, John Q. Lovell.

She carries a complement of ninety-five men, including petty officers, and her armament consists of two gatling guns aft, and one Hotchkiss revolving cannon, forward, the latter having an effective range of three miles and being capable of firing thirty four and one-half inch shells per minute.

Lieut.-Commander Emory—by courtesy every commanding officer of a ship below the rank of commodore, is addressed as captain—commanded the Bear while in the Greely relief expedition, and was selected by the Secretary of the Navy for his present command because of his experience in Arctic navigation, which, coupled with his well-known ability and rare good judgment, peculiarly fits him for the position. After nearly five months' intimate acquaintance with Capt. Emory, occupying the same cabin and messing at the same table, it affords me great pleasure in being able to say that the Secretary's confidence was not in the least misplaced. A polished, courteous, courtly gentleman, he is none the less an able officer

and thorough sailor, proud of his profession, and just such an officer as would seem to have been born to command. He is a son of Maj.-Gen. Emory, who won distinction on many a bloody battlefield during the war of the rebellion—a most worthy scion of a noble sire. He is thoroughly devoted to his profession, in which he continues from choice rather than necessity, being possessed of means amply sufficient to enable him to live in luxuriant ease and comfort on shore, in the blissful society of a lovely wife and interesting family of children.

Of the junior officers it is enough to say that I have found them, without exception, very pleasant and agreeable gentlemen, prompt and efficient in the discharge of their respective duties, and, though hailing from widely separated sections of the country, as closely and warmly attached each to the other as a band of brothers. Those among them who are not proficient performers on one or more musical instruments are fine vocalists, and when off duty, as all but one often are, especially in good weather, the ward-room, which is their home, is filled with the sweet strains of the guitar, zither, violin or banjo, to the accompaniment of which a flow of song serves to drive dull care away, and make an otherwise dull and monotonous voyage not only endurable but altogether pleasant and agreeable. We have, too, a brass band of twelve pieces, made up from among the petty officers and seamen, which practice regularly, and at nearly every stopping place astonishes the natives with music the like of which was never dreamed of in their crude philosophy.

THE CRUISE OF THE THETIS.

So much for the ship and its personnel; now to the history and incidents of her cruise to the most northern extremity of the national domain, and covering a period of nearly four months. The distance traveled was about 10,000 English miles.

And that I did not visit and inspect *all* the native settlements along the coast and on the islands, was simply because they were too numerous to be embraced within a cruise limited to a single season.

Leaving Sitka at the hour of the date mentioned, we steamed out to sea, and off Mount Edgcombe came to a stop for the purpose of "swinging ship," for deviation of compass. This is done by taking a bearing of the sun by every one of the thirty-two points, and comparing each with its true bearing by time, the difference showing the correction for each point. This done the ship's prow was turned towards Yakutat, the first point at which it was proposed to touch, about 200 miles distant. By 9 o'clock we were in a dense fog and a heavy rolling sea, which last sent both myself and interpreter to our bunks. Before noon the next day the fog lifted, though the sea continued to roll in a manner not at all conducive to a healthy appetite, and the numerous fin-back whales and porpoises visible to all else on board were not sufficiently attractive to keep a landsman on deck. Tuesday morning found the ship "hove to" about fifteen miles off the entrance to Yakutat Bay, in the midst of a dense fog, and drifting with the current. At 3 in the afternoon we found ourselves in thirty-nine fathoms of water and could hear the surf breaking heavily on the shore, the fog still as dense as before. The ship was then brought to an anchor, and the sailors bringing out their hooks and lines tried their luck for cod, hauling in, in less than an hour, over fifty fish of that species, the weight of which was from fifteen to twenty pounds each.

At 4:15 the fog lifted, revealing the coast range of mountains apparently not over ten miles distant, but in reality over fifty, with Mounts Fairweather, Crillon and La Perouse on the left and

MAJESTIC, AWE-INSPIRING ST. ELIAS

On the right, their snow-crowned peaks surmounted by halos of prismatic colors, the whole constituting a scene at once grandly sublime and beautiful to behold. It was a sight never to be forgotten, and one I may never hope to see again. The elevation of these mountains above the sea level varies from 13,500 to 19,500 feet, which last is the hight of St. Elias, the highest mountain in North America, unless exceeded by Mount Wrangell, which is further inland, and the hight of which is not definitely known.

Lying between the base of this range and the sea shore to the southeast of Yakutat is a strip of comparatively level land perhaps twenty miles in width, which appears to be heavily timbered and possessed of a good soil. Heaving anchor we ran into Yakutat Bay and anchored in Mulgrave harbor, a small indentation setting off to the right of the entrance, and on a low peninsula on the north side of which is situated a native village of ten or a dozen houses, in which live some 200 people. In the olden time there was a very considerable Russian settlement on an inlet which sets off from the east side of Yakutat Bay, where the Russian-American Company maintained a ship yard and built quite a number of ships, among them those in which Baranoff sailed to subdue the natives of Sitka after the massacre at that place in 1802. Except a few Creole families, nothing is now left of what was once a busy, flourishing settlement. The natives are not unlike those of Sitka, speak the same

LIEUTENANT-COMMANDER EMORY.

language and live in houses similarly constructed. They subsist themselves by fishing and hunting, and I was surprised to find their houses cleaner and better kept than is usual among these people.

Yakutah is the place where last year gold was found in the black or ruby sand in the banks and on the beach, and over which

MUCH EXCITEMENT WAS RAISED

At Sitka and Juneau. It suddenly became the eldorado to which place all miners were anxious to betake themselves, but the only means of transportation being by small boat or canoe along a treacherous coast, comparatively few were able to gratify their desires in that direction. Sackfuls of the sand taken to Sitka and Juneau seemed to prove conclusively that it contained gold in paying quantities, the only question being how to treat it successfully. Assays showed gold to the amount of $40 to the ton, and stimulated by apparent facts, which there were none to gainsay, a considerable number of miners and prospectors made their way along the coast, finding gold in the sands, it is true, but not in sufficient quantities to pay, working with the pan or rocker. Indeed, before I left Sitka I heard it charged that the sands originally taken to Sitka and Juneau had been, not "salted," but concentrated by washing, and that the whole thing was a deliberate and well concocted swindle. I could not believe the charge, for the reason that I could not see how it was possible for the parties, though not above suspicion, to defraud any one, in view of the fact that no person would be likely to invest in any claim or claims they might have to sell without an examination. However, I determined to investigate, and the result of my investigations leads me to the belief that while fair wages may be made, the auriferous quality of the sand was much exaggerated. I found but one party at work, all the others having abandoned the diggings in disgust; but it is only fair to say that none of the disgusted ones had been properly equipped to succeed did the sand contain much more gold than was at first claimed. The party remaining had two of Bancroft's rotary hand amalgamaters at work, one of which had only just been started. Working one of these eleven days of ten hours each, with native labor, ten and a half ounces of gold, of the value of $230 was secured, at a cost of less than $100. It was estimated that with the additional machine the output should at least be doubled, at an increased cost of not over 50 per cent. This certainly would insure at least good wages, and there is scarcely a limit to the amount of sand waiting to be thus treated. I have not had time nor opportunity since my return to acquaint myself as to practical results attained during the summer.

*(To be continued.)*

ST. PAUL'S VILLAGE.

II.

THE scenery in the neighborhood of Yakutat Bay, and indeed all along the coast as far west as Cook's Inlet, is indescribably grand, far surpassing in beauty and grandeur that of the inland passages of Southeastern Alaska, which last nevertheless elicits the admiration of all beholders. West of Yakutat a few miles, and seemingly forming the base upon which rests the great Mount St. Elias, an immense glazier flows down to the sea, presenting many miles of ice frontage to the unobstructed view. Yakutat Bay is itself a most lovely sheet of water, indenting the coast to a depth of perhaps fifty miles dotted with numerous small wooded islands, its banks on either side indented with here and there a smaller cove or bay, while near its head an arm setting off to the eastward is very appropriately named Enchantment Bay, because of the enchanting beauty of the enclosing scenery.

Leaving Mulgrave harbor, May 30, at 1 p. m., we ran along the coast to the westward all that afternoon, and the next day were still in sight of St. Elias, with Mt. Wrangell looming up from a distance of over 100 miles, the weather being such as to afford us a long continued and unobscured view of mountain and glacier scenery, the grandeur and sublimity of which cannot be pictured in words nor truthfully portrayed on canvas. Resting for a brief moment upon the wooded lowlands, the eye would stray away to where some mighty glacier was slowly but surely grinding its way down to the sea, carrying everything before it, only to revert at last to where huge old St. Elias towers conspicuous above all his fellows in regions of perpetual frost. In the presence of nature thus arrayed in

ALL HER GRANDEUR AND SUBLIMITY,

But little heed was paid to the seals and black-fish and whales which disported themselves at times on both sides of the ship, and when the long day was done and night had spread its sable curtain over land and sea, we retired blessing not "the man who invented sleep," but regretful of the fact that this were not for the time being the "Land of the Midnight Sun."

At 7 p. m. of the 31st we were abreast of Middleton Island, which lies about fifty-five miles south of the entrance to Cook's Inlet, and is six miles long and from one to three miles wide. Its flat surface lies at an elevation of about 200 feet above the sea, the shores being almost perpendicular, with only one or two points where a landing can be effected from small boats. It is wholly treeless, but is clothed with a rich verdure, and is said to have an excellent soil, with a climate quite favorable to its successful cultivation. It is uninhabited, except for a couple of months in the summer, when it is frequented by natives from the mainland in quest of the hair seals which congregate at its south end during their breeding season. Rounding the south end of Middleton Island we cast anchor in Port Etches, just inside the entrance to Prince William Sound, at 10 o'clock the same night.

Prince William Sound, or, as it should more properly be called, Chugach Gulf, is a deep indentation of the mainland, the entrance to which is over fifty miles wide and blocked with islands. The gulf itself is likewise crowded with islands, and its arms extend tentacular like in every direction, its entire surface covering an area of something over 2,500 square miles. It was first explored by Captain Cook during his last voyage in 1778, and is a branch of the ocean difficult to navigate, on account of the great number of rocks and shoals it contains, and very few of which are delineated on any of the charts. And by way of digression it may be here remarked that the same difficulty exists all along the coast and among the islands from Sitka to Point Barrow. There are few, if any, charts, other than those embodying the explorations and surveys of the earliest English and Russian navigators, and these are generally found very imperfect, and in many cases absolutely unreliable, while on the whole Alaska coast of mainland and islands (greater than that of all the other states and territories combined, with currents stronger and more dangerous than elsewhere known) there is not to be found a single lighthouse, fog whistle or other artificial aid to navigation.

PORT ETCHES.

Port Etches, a very snug harbor, is situated in the southwestern end of Hinchinbrook, the most easterly of the islands which block the entrance to the gulf. Between Hinchinbrook and Montague islands, and between the latter and the mainland, are the passages to the gulf. On the north side of Port Etches and separated from it by a narrow peninsula is a lagoon, on the farther side of which was located the original Russian fort and settlement, where some ship building was carried on and an oil and fish establishment maintained, up to the time of the transfer of the post to the narrow neck of the peninsula at the head of the lagoon, where the fort commanded the approaches by water in all directions. Here the settlement still exists, though there is no longer any semblance of fort or fortifications, the principal buildings of the old Russian American Company, however, remaining intact. They are now occupied by the agent of the Alaska Commercial Company, the settlement, which is known as Nuchek, being one of its trading stations. The village of Nuchek consists of five or six comfortable hewed log houses, one of which is occupied as a store, and another as a warehouse, and about forty huts which are occupied by the natives, who are of the Innuit or Eskimo family and call themselves Chugaches, though some have improperly classed them as Aleuts. Included in the village population of about 150 souls, are two or three families of Creoles (descendants from Russian fathers and native mothers), the agent of the company being the only white person in the settlement or for that matter on the sound. The Greco-Russian church maintains a small but very neat chapel at Nuchek, though there is no resident priest, partial service being conducted by a Creole member who, in the church vocabulary, is denominated a "reader." A regularly ordained priest, who presides over a district with headquarters at the most central point, visits as often as possible the various chapels like that at Nuchek, for the purposes of baptism and confirmation. It should be remarked right here that all the Greco-Russian churches and schools in Alaska, are wholly supported by the Russian Government, at a cost of about $60,000 annually, which is paid out of the imperial treasury. It has a larger following than all the other churches in Alaska, a fact not to be wondered at considering that its priests and missionaries have been in the field for more than 100 years. It is plain to the casual observer, however, that though nominally Christians and very faithful in church attendance, these people still cling tenaciously to their

OLD CUSTOMS AND SUPERSTITIONS,

A fact that applies generally to the natives of the whole territory, no matter which church or denomination may think it has their spiritual welfare in special keeping.

There are four native villages on Chugach Gulf, including Nuchek, with a total population of 374 as shown by the church register. Previous to 1886 the people in these same villages numbered a little over 800, but an epidemic in the winter of that year carried away more than half of them. They are the most easternmost tribe or family of Eskimos, with whom their language, habits, and customs are almost identical, though allied by intermar-

riage, to some extent, with their eastern neighbors the Thlinklets. They live in small log houses, thatched with dried grass, with the usual hole in the center for the escape of smoke. They are an extremely dirty, filthy people, in their houses and persons, while those I saw were generally dressed in rags scarcely sufficient to cover their persons. Many among them, old and young, of both sexes, presented in their faces unmistakable evidences of being the victims of some pulmonary disease and the matter of their total extinction seems to be a question of a short time only. A more forlorn, dejected and apparently helpless set of human beings I never saw, nor could I, without seeing, conceive it possible, for such a one to exist anywhere. And here is a station of the great, rich and powerful Alaska Commercial Company, the members of which roll in wealth, ride in their carriages and sit in their cushioned and silk-lined pews in the churches and synagogues of a far off city, taking from this miserable people their peltry at not more than one-third its value, and in reality paying for it in goods sold at a profit of from 100 to 200 per cent. Not that the barter is directly in goods on the one side and furs on the other; no, the agent pays cash in good round silver dollars for what he buys; but his is the only trading station within a radius of hundreds of miles, and every dollar that he pays out for skins, sooner or later finds its way back to his counter in exchange for goods at his own prices. While I was there a native brought in two fine sea-otter skins, for which an officer of the ship would willingly have paid $125 each—or rather I should say, he has since expressed a desire to pay that amount for skins of no better quality without being able to procure them, and yet I saw those same skins passed over the counter at the company's store and $80 paid for the two, the agent retaining a considerable proportion of the purchase price for goods previously sold to the venders of the skin on credit. I afterwards saw at

AN INDEPPENDENT TRADER'S STORE

At Kadiah a couple of skins of about the same size and quality, which the trader was willing to sell but for which he would consider no offer of less than $200 each. After witnessing the sale at Nuchek, I had an opportunity of conversing with the men who brought them in, and told them I would have paid a much higher price had the skins been offered to me. They very frankly stated that they were in debt to the agent for the food they had taken with them, and were under obligations to let him have the product of the hunt. If they had not killed any otters, they could not have paid the indebtedness. I asked them why, if they had sold their skins for twice as much, they could not have gone to the trader, and paid him what they owed in cash. They shook their heads, and merely said the agent wanted the skins, and they had to let him have them. It is due to the agent that I should say the natives spoke very kindly and affectionately of him; indeed, his presence alone among them would seem to argue a kindliness of disposition without the possession and exercise of which his sojourn might not be a safe one. I found him a very pleasant, agreeable gentleman, and am not at all disposed to hold him personally responsible for the wrongs inflicted upon a helpless people by the company of which he is merely an agent. Indeed, in the helplessness of their ignorance the natives are inclined to kiss the hand which smites them, to bless the benevolence which robs them of their substance and leaves them to rot and die of a loathsome disease.

Taking on board a half-breed pilot, we started for the head of the gulf with a view of visiting the other native settlements and also of seeing the immense glaciers said to exist on its northern shore, but after running thirty-five or forty miles the captain discovered that the native pilot, being accustomed to the navigation of the gulf in small boats only—the Thetis was perhaps the first steamer that ever ventured inside further than to Port Etches—was entirely ignorant of the location of the many rocks and shoals that are believed to rise so near to the surface of the water as to put a ship not very carefully and skillfully piloted in constant peril, concluded it wholly unsafe to continue further, and accordingly turned ship and ran for Kadiak, dropping the inefficient pilot when about two miles off Nuchek and leaving him to make his way home in his bidarka. A bidarka is

A SMALL SKIN BOAT,

Very much resembling in size and shape one of the single-oar shells affected by the eastern boat clubs; it is not at all improbable that the professional oarsmen derived their original ideas of the shell from the superior wisdom displayed by these "primitive children of nature" in the construction of their skin canoes. The bidarka is made by first constructing a light wooden frame of proper shape and dimensions, without mortise, tenon or nail, but securely tied throughout with sealskin thongs or walrus sinew, and then stretching over it seal or walrus skins properly prepared, oiled and sewed together. The frame is covered completely over, except a hole in which the occupant sits, and around the projecting rim of which hole he ties the lower end of his waterproof shirt, which is called a kamalayka, and is made from the intestines of the seal. The kamalayka is supplied with a hood, which is drawn closely around the neck and under the chin, and also securely tied about the wrists, which effectually prevents any water from getting into the body of the boat. These skin-boats are made in three sizes, with one, two and three holes, and by the natives are called kyahs, bidarka being the name given them by the Russians. I have not seen it myself, but it is positively asserted as true that a native who is an expert in the use of the bidarka, seated in one, will throw himself over sideways in the water, turn his frail craft bottom upwards and come right side up again in the opposite direction, without wetting any part of his person except his face, nor yet taking a single drop of water into his boat. I do know, however, that they are very expert in their use, venturing out thirty to forty miles at sea in search of the sea-otter, the walrus and beluga (white whale), and I have seen them riding apparently in perfect safely in a sea I would not care to venture upon in the staunchest whaleboat. From this time on, during the entire cruise, I saw no boats among the natives saye those made of seal, walrus, or sea-lion skins, in the manner just related, though different somewhat in model in the different localities. To the eastward and southward of Nuchek, one sees only the wooden canoe, hollowed out of a single spruce or yellow cedar log, and varying in size from one that will carry three or four persons only, to the so-called war canoe, capable of carrying from sixty to seventy-five men. Beyond Ounalaska we find, in addition to the kayah or bidarka, the oomiak or bidarra, open skin boats, some of which are capable of carrying four or five tons. But of these, more hereafter.

THE MUMMIES OF GREEN ISLAND.

I was particularly desirous of calling at Green Island, which is one of the group in the entrance of Chugach Gulf, for the purpose of securing a mummy from one of the caves there for the National Museum, but the absence of an experienced pilot made it impracticable. In a cave, or caves, on the island mentioned, as also in those on the Four Mountain Islands, west of Ounalaska, there are, I am told by those who have seen them, numerous corpses of a race of people believed to have inhabited these islands anterior to the coming of those found here when the Russians first came. They are said, those in the Green Island caves, to be closely and tightly wrapped in several thicknesses of fur skins, while those in the Four Mountain caves, are simply clothed in the dog skin parkas (a garment made like a shirt, with a hole in the upper part just large enough for the head to go through). They differed from any of the native people of the present day in that their hair and beards were red, and the skins of their bodies black. Who and what these people were and whence they came, is a question which will probably never be solved.

Shaping our course for the village of St. Paul's, which is situated on the northeast end of the great island of Kadiak, we ran along all the afternoon of Friday and the whole of Saturday in plain sight of the coast range of snow-capped mountains, under a clear sky, in a quiet sea, the temperature being neither too high nor yet too low for perfect comfort on deck in ordinary clothing, and arrived at our anchorage at noon on Sunday, June 3. The island of Kadiak lies midway between the fifty-fifth and sixtieth parallels of latitude and on the west approaches very nearly to the 155th meridian, west. It is ninety miles long, and sixty miles wide, and its area covers about 5,000 square miles. It is very mountainous, and surrounded by deep bays, into which a number of small rivers fall. The north half of the island is heavily timbered with spruce, which attains considerable size, and a small growth of alder, birch and poplar. The geological formation appears to consist chiefly of slate, porphyry and common graystone, or basalt. The climatic conditions seem favorable to the successful cultivation of the soil, which, judging from the luxuriant growth of wild grasses up to the very summits of the mountains, is capable of being made to "produce and bring forth in abundance." At all events, there is a large acreage of seemingly the very best grazing lands, and cattle and sheep need only the care and attention usually bestowed in the middle and western states

to insure a healthy growth and rapid increase. A cattle ranch has lately been established about two miles south of the village, and I saw a number of bovines in and about the village, all in excellent condition, and that, too, at just the season when

THE DETRACTORS OF ALASKA

And her resources say they are wont to be very much worn and emaciated owing to the hard winter they have gone through. When it is remembered that on this island the temperature seldom falls to zero; that the winters are no longer than in Michigan or Ohio, and that an abundance of hay can be cut and cured for winter feed, it would be strange if cattle could not be grown and fattened as well as in those states. It has been demonstrated to a certainty that sheep will thrive and do well in all this region, samples of wool shown me while at St. Paul's being certainly as long and fine as any I have ever seen.

A cattle and sheep ranch has been started on Long Island, which lies a few miles to the eastward of St. Paul's, and also a fox ranch with the intention of breeding the valuable silver gray, the pelts of which are worth all the way from $40 to $100 each in the market.

I prefer not to say a great deal about the agricultural and horticultural capabilities of the soil either at this point or elsewhere in Alaska, for the reason that I would be talking to a skeptical public—one which is unwilling to believe it possible that either grain or vegetables can be grown "so far north." Yet they do, it seems, successfully cultivate the soil in Scotland, which lies between the same degrees of latitude as Kadiak, and where the climate at least on the coast is about the same; then why not in southeastern Alaska, and in the Kadiak and Aleutian Archipelagoes? While in St. Paul's I noticed a garden in connection with nearly every house, and was told that nearly all the vegetables did well, particularly potatoes, turnips and cabbages, though it was very easily seen that none of the people were skilled horticulturists. It has been claimed by Elliott and others that wheat cannot be grown; but I have yet to learn of an instance where any has been sown except late in the spring, whereas, common sense would seem to dictate that the sowing should be done in the fall; there is always a sufficient depth of snow to protect the incipient growth during the winter, and that being assured, at least a month would be gained as against a spring planting. I refer to these matters, however, not to provoke discussion, but preliminary to the assertion that there is not now, nor ever has been, a practical farmer or gardener in Alaska, and that any unsatisfactory tests which may have been made by others ought not to be taken as conclusive. I grew a good crop of potatoes last year here at Sitka, though the season was the most unfavorable that had been known for many years; but had I been left to my own knowledge and experience, and not had the benefit of a friend who experimented with a part of the patch, the whole would

HAVE BEEN AN UTTER FAILURE.

When practical farmers and gardeners come to Alaska and, after a fair test, pronounce the soil and climate unadapted to agriculture and horticulture, then and not till then will I believe that there are not more elements of wealth in Alaska than even Mr. Seward dreamed of in the depths of his philosophy.

The village of St. Paul is delightfully situated on a bay of the same name, formed by a small, but high island, between which and Kadiah there is a narrow passage forming a safe harbor, in which, however, but few vessels can lie at the same time. This harbor has of course two entrances, one from the north, the other from the south, but is nevertheless difficult of access in dark or foggy weather. The plateau on which the village is built, lies at an elevation of about thirty feet above tide water, the mountains beyond, bare of timber, but covered with a rich vestment of green and a profusion of wild flowers, rising to a hight of two and three thousand feet and forming a most lovely background. There are perhaps a hundred houses all told, some of them very neat and substantial in outward appearance. It is the headquarters for the Kadiah district of the Alaska Commercial Company, from which all the supplies are sent to and collected from the different sub-agencies as far east as Yakutat and north to the head of Cook's Inlet. The company has a large store and warehouse, several commodious residences for its employes, a good wharf, and a shipyard, in which, at the time of my visit, there was a fair-sized schooner on the stocks and nearly completed. There is also a Greek Church, with a resident priest, and a good school supported by the government.

The population of St. Paul's, as given to me from the church records, is 313, of whom thirty-one are Americans, two Russians, 274 creoles and six natives. The population of the whole island is about 1,100, of which not more than 100 are whites, the large majority being creoles. Of the brave and warlike people, numbering, it is claimed, about 6,000, who inhabited the island when the Russians came, but a few hundreds remain, and they a spiritless, helpless set, who seem to exist because they must, not that they have anything to live for. In St. Paul's there is not a single full-blooded Kanaig, as these people were called—they are now generally, but erroneously, classed as Aleuts—the six natives there being Thlinkets who have emigrated from Sitka. The Kaniags I met elsewhere on the island and at Afognak do not by any means answer to the description of that people given by Shelikoff, who founded

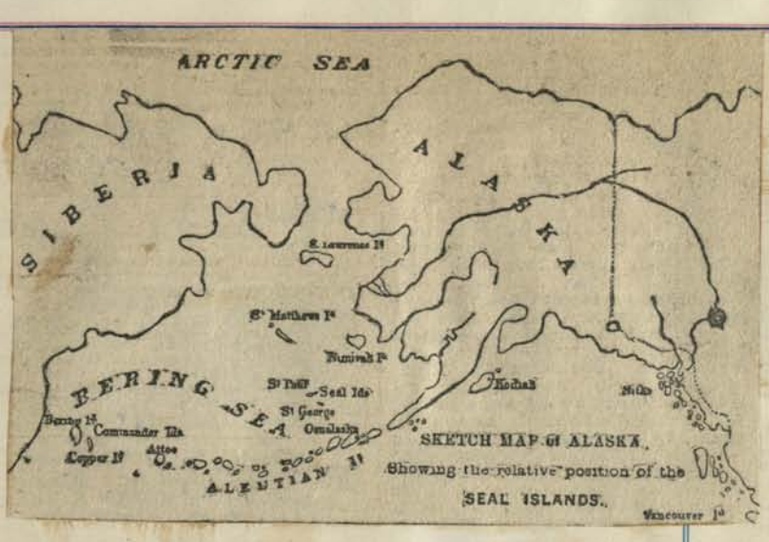
THE FIRST RUSSIAN SETTLEMENT.

Among them in 1784, and who described them as "tall and strong, and such healthful habits that they lived to a 100 years." I can only say that if that were true, the Kaniags of to-day cannot be considered other than most "degenerate sons of a noble ancestry," and that the descendants of the people described by Shelikoff present a sad commentary on the criminal policy of forcing upon a brave but barbarous race, a so-called civilization, the principal concomitants of which are greed, avarice, rapine, lust and murder. It was such a civilization the Russians gave these; a civilization which made helpless slaves of those it did not exterminate; and I regret being compelled to say that, though twenty years have elapsed since the transfer, our own government has done practically nothing to ameliorate their condition—to them the transfer was a change of masters, nothing more. I make these assertions in the face of a statement I find embodied in an official report that "A century of uninterrupted presence of Christianizing influences among them has so transformed these natives that not a vestige of their former fierce and savage nature can now be found, and their settlements will compare favorably in neatness and domestic comfort in the most of the fishing villages in Northern Europe." It may be, and doubtless is, true that not a vestige of their former fierce and savage nature can now be found among the pure blood descendants of the Kaniags anywhere; but it is because they were long ago completely crushed and broken in spirit—transformed by long-continued abuse, outrage and cruelty from the condition in which Shelikoff found them into one of abject cowardice and helpless dependence, and not because, as the writer quoted would have us believe, of the workings of a moral leaven administered by Christian missionaries. Their quasi-civilization was imparted with a club, their moral regeneration, if such it can be called, brought about by lessons thrown at them from the cannon's mouth or carried to them on the point of the sword. It is little wonder, under all the circumstances, that none of their former warlike, fierce, and savage nature can now be found among them; but the fact that it is so is directly traceable to Russian cruelty and oppression, and not to the influence of a religion carried to them with a sword in one hand and a Bible they could neither read nor comprehend in the other. Their present settlements may compare favorably in neatness and domestic comfort with the fishing villages of Northern Europe, but if they do I can only

PITY THE UNHAPPY PEOPLE

Who inhabit the latter. It is just possible, however, that the writer had in view only such settlements as St. Paul's; but there are no Kaniags there—only creoles, in which the Russian predominates. But even these are almost wholly dependent upon a corporation no less powerful than the old Russian-American Company, and which, though chartered, has been granted special privileges which gives it a monopoly of the whole country, and enables it to coerce even white men to do its bidding. The Christian teachings this great company imparts to the creole people of St. Paul's and other settlements visited by me are packages of flour and sugar, each of which carries with it the ingredients of at least one night's drunken debauch for a whole family.

Aside from the agricultural, horticultural and grazing possibilities at which I have mildly hinted this great island is possessed of other resources which will ultimately make it the center of a large commerce. I refer now particularly to the fisheries, which will this year yield not less than a round million, while many of the stations which might be utilized are as yet unoccupied. It is safe to estimate the output of salmon alone at 140,000 cases of forty-eight one pound tons each, or say 6,720,000 pounds and not less than 5,000 barrels salted, while several large canneries in the course of erection were not expected to be completed in time to do much the past season. The salmon abound in every bay and stream, in their season, while the most prolific cod-banks are within a day's sail. The fisheries alone insure a future for the island:




SKETCH MAP OF ALASKA.
Showing the relative position of the SEAL ISLANDS.

but there is every probability that in its mountains will be found gold and silver in paying quantities; the formation is certainly favorable to such a probability, and while at St. Paul's I was shown specimens of quartz which, to say the least, were such as to invite and warrant further research. On the southwest part of the island a very large vein of copper ore (sulphide), which is very rich in mineral, has been located but a few miles distant from tidewater. The character of the geological formation of the Kadiak—slate anoperphyry—is altogether favorable to the existence of paying veins of the precious metals, and aside from the copper discovery alluded to, I have little doubt that intelligent explorations will in the future prove the island of far more importance for its minerals than for all its other elements of wealth combined.

St. Paul's was for many years the headquarters of the Russsan-American company, and from which it transacted all its business, and was also the site at which was established the first Russian school and mission. Even for a long time after the shrewd and farseeing Baranoff, with the view of checkmating the English and American traders, had firmly established the Russian authority at Sitka, where he fixed the seat of government, built a fort, ship-yard, foundries, machine shops, etc., St. Paul's retained her importance as the center of trade in the territory. It is a charming location still, and with the mail and transportation facilities, which would follow a proper recognition of the wants and needs of the territory, by the government, would become at once the proper place for the permanent location of the territorial capital.

[*To be continued.*]

III.

DESIRING to visit as many settlements as possible, and some of those in the immediate neighborhood of St. Paul being inaccessible to the ship except by a roundabout course, on Monday, June 4, I left St. Paul in the steam launch, with a whaleboat in tow, for a run through the inland passages to Afognak, thirty miles distant. The route was through a narrow strait which lies between Kadiak and Spruce Islands into Marmot bay, at the head of which are located the adjoining Creole and Kaniag settlements of Afognak on an island of the same name. We arrived about 7 o'clock in the evening after a run of only four hours—it would have taken the ship a day and a half to have made the same destination—and, after supper on board the launch, went on shore and found comfortable quarters for the night at the house of the chief man among the Creoles, who is also agent for the Alaska Commercial Company, trading on commission. Here, also, I found a considerable number of cattle in good condition, one of which the officer in charge of the launch purchased and caused to be slaughtered, and from which were afterward cut some steaks, the juiciness, tenderness and flavor of which could scarcely be excelled. Afognak Island appears to be possessed of a good soil, and at all the houses of Creoles I found gardens planted with the seeds sprouted above ground, and was told that there were perhaps 150 acres under cultivation on the island, though none of the islanders have other than the most primitive ideas of agriculture or horticulture. The people were, however, very glad to receive the seeds I had with me for distribution, claiming those they had planted from year to year were of their own saving and not as good as they ought to be. But from what I could learn their ideas of gardening extends no further than to the planting of the seed and the gathering of the product, no attention at all being paid to cultivation in the interval. They plant their potatoes, for instance, in narrow ridges, elevated a foot to eighteen inches above the level of the ground and then leave them to grow or not to grow. Of course in an ordinarily dry season they have little moisture, and planted in that way it is impossible to "hill them up" as I have always seen done. Nevertheless, they grow fair potatoes and other vegetables of the hardier kind, but the credit should be given to the soil and climate, and very little to the planter, who does nothing but put the seed into the ground in such a bungling way, the only wonder is that it ever germinates.

THEY LIVE BY THE CHASE.

But here, as elsewhere, the creole and native population live by the chase, and most of the men of both settlements were absent hunting and fishing, some in pursuit of sea otter, for which they must venture in their frail boats a long distance out to sea, and others catching and curing salmon, the season for which had just commenced. I found the houses of the creoles, many of which I visited, clean and well kept, though affording evidences of great poverty on the part of the owners. The Kanaigs live in log cabins little better than open sheds and are, altogether, a squalid set, with little or no appreciation of the virtue of cleanliness, though some of the women are (or would be if boiled and washed) quite good-looking, while the children generally appear naturally bright and intelligent. There is a government school with a good teacher, but I found it closed a month before the end of the term, for the want of pupils to teach. The creole and native parents do not appreciate the necessity of sending their children regularly, but seem to regard the school as a mere convenience to which they can send their youngsters when they do not need them at home, or wish to be quit of them for a day or two at a time. The leading citizen at whose house I sojourned over night, had not only set the bad example of keeping his own children out of school, but was charged by the teacher with having exerted his influence to induce others to do likewise, representing that the school had been established for the purpose of proselyting their children from the Greek Church, of which all, creoles and natives, affect to be devout members. I did not wonder much at this, considering the sectarian character which has been imparted to the territorial schools through the combative bias and prejudice of the official who, charged with the conduct of educational affairs, could find none but lay or clerical members of his own church to fill the position of teachers. I visited most of the houses of creoles and Kaniags and explained to them the principles upon which our public schools are conducted, assuring them that there was no intention to interfere with the religious belief or training of their children,

other than might be involved in the inculcation of those general ideas of decency and morality taught by all the churches, with which they seemed to be much pleased, and readily promised a regular attendance from that time forward—to insure the fulfillment of which promise, however, I took the steps necessary to put in full force and operation the compulsory attendance law adopted by the Territorial Board of Education.

Here, as at the settlements previously called at, both the creoles and natives make and drink a villainous intoxicating drink called "quass," which is sometimes made still more villainous by distilling it into a spirit which "biteth like a serpent and stingeth like an adder," both the brain and stomach of the one who drinks it. Quass is brewed from flour and sugar or molasses, which I find the traders do not scruple to furnish; as a consequence there is

A GREAT DEAL OF DRUNKENNESS

Among the people, many among whom would barter their last stitch of clothing or last mouthful of food for enough of the crude material to make a single brewing of the vile stuff. I found it to be the practice with the trader at Afognak, whenever he purchased from a creole or native a silver-gray fox skin, the standing price for which is $10 (worth $50 to $100 in the market), or other skins to that amount, to make a present of ten pounds of sugar to the party selling, knowing full well the purpose for which it would be used. At Kadiah both the Alaska Commercial Company and the independent trader lately established there sell to the people all the sugar they want, though each profess a desire to stop doing so, provided the other will. The one says he must let the hunters have it, or he will not get their furs; the other uses the same argument, and between the two lies the responsibility for more and worse—because the vile stuff is more injurious and deadly in its effects than ordinary intoxicants—drunkenness than could possibly exist did not the law positively prohibit the importation as well as manufacture of intoxicating liquors.

Afognak Island is heavily timbered, though the trees do not grow to such large size as in Southeastern Alaska, while none of it except the spruce pine possesses any economic value, the birch alder, etc., being small. Fish are abundant, however, and that industry together with what may be developed in the way of agriculture and grazing, is about all that it can boast in the way of resources. The climate, as in all parts of Southeastern and Southwestern Alaska, is quite equable, the temperature never falling below zero or rising above 80°. There is, besides the double settlement I have been writing about, another of about a dozen creole families, twelve miles north, where a salmon packing house is in operation, and which will be changed into a cannery next year.

On our way back to the ship we stopped and lunched on the shore of a small island at the west entrance to Oozinki Strait, where we found most excellent pasturage and some well-made gardens, though the island is without inhabitants; the gardens evidently belong to the people of the little creole settlement of Oozinki, which is located on a snug little bay which indents Spruce Island and not more than a mile distant. We called at the settlement, but found the heads of only two of its dozen or more families at home, the others being absent fishing or cutting cordword for which they receive the munificent sum of one dollar per cord from the Alaska Commercial Company. At all the houses we were most hospitably received, in every case being offered fresh milk to drink, and at one I was compelled to accept

A DOZEN FRESH EGGS

As a present. The different families at this place own a herd of about fifty cattle, all of which I found to be sleek and fat, though of small size, being of the Siberian breed. There is a chapel of the Greco-Russian Church at Oozinki and also one at Afognak, neither of which, however, are supplied with a priest. No Protestant missionaries are to be found on any of the islands of the Kadiah or Aleutian Archipelagoes.

[At one of the houses at Oozinki I encountered a creole woman of some forty years of age who was born into the world without arms. There would have been nothing peculiarly strange in her having no arms, but the fact that she can sew and do most kinds of housework, making her feet and toes answer the purpose of hands and fingers, struck me as something remarkable. Though poor this woman, whose peculiar abilities as a seamstress have been spread abroad, positively refuses all offers from the dime museum proprietors, preferring to dwell in quiet poverty with her kindred to the acquirement of wealth by the exhibition of her deformity before a curious public.]

We reached the ship at her anchorage in St. Paul's Bay Tuesday at 7 o'clock, and in the evening—a June evening in this latitude does not commence till 9—attended a minstrel performance given by the Thetis amateurs on shore, at the close of which there was dancing to the music of the Thetis Brass and String Band. All the creole belles were present, and I could not help remarking that nearly all were dressed neatly, if not richly, and that a majority were very graceful dancers. Some of them are, moreover, quite pretty, lady-like in carriage and demeanor, and two or three who came off to the ship the next day rather astonished the young officers by their proficiency on the guitar and their vocal accomplishments.

A dense fog detained the ship at anchor till Thursday morning, the 7th, which gave me an opportunity to visit the school, where I also met a number of the creole parents and talked to them of the necessity for sending their children regularly to school. I found those who attended regularly were making good progress, but that a considerable number came only when it suited their pleasure or convenience. The same fear that their children would be proselytized from the religion in which the parents were reared and devoutly believe, prevailed to a greater or less extent, and was operating to the disadvantage of the school; but I believe the assurance I gave them in that regard was all that was necesary to obtain a reasonably full and regular attendance. The people all expressed, and honestly, I think, a desire to have their children educated in English, but the auspices under which the school had been established were such as to convince them that it was aimed more at their religious than their elementary education. If there are any people extant who are tenacious of their religious belief it is those who have been reared in the faith of the Greco-Russian church, and they are hardly blamable for

BEING SUSPICIOUS OF SCHOOLS

Presided over almost exclusively by teachers who profess a different religion; especially is this so, considering the fact that living so long under Russian domain they have little or no appreciation of a government one of the cardinal underlying principles of which is religious freedom. That the priests of the Greek Church in Alaska are not opposed to the education of the rising generation in English is proved conclusively by the fact that English is taught in all their own schools; the apparent hostility to the public schools is due to the cause I have stated and none other—a too close relationship of a particular church with the educational affairs of the territory. This objection it will be the duty of the Territorial Board of Education to remove, and that, too, without delay.

Thursday morning, June 7, we bade good-bye to St. Paul's and steamed away for Cook's Inlet, which we entered while it was yet daylight. We encountered during the day a large number of whales, principally fin-backs, which are not of sufficient value, for either oil or bone, to be sought after. One of these was being chased by a thrasher, the whale evidently making frantic endeavors to elude his small but persistent enemy. The thrasher, which is a large species of the shark family, would, whenever the whale came up to blow, rise nearly his whole length perpendicularly out of water, poising himself, as it were, for an instant on his caudal fins, and then throw himself bodily and with great force upon the mousher's head, whereupon the whale would go down, lashing the water into foam with his enormous tail. The fight was kept up till both were out of sight, though I must say it appeared to be all fight on the one side and a desperate effort to escape on the other. I have since been told by old whalers that such fights are of frequent occurrence, the sword-fish assisting the thrasher and making his attack from below, thus driving the whale back to the surface whenever he attempts to go down, thereby preventing his escape. It is claimed that when thus attacked the whale if not killed outright, is certain to be blinded and driven into shallow water where he runs aground and is certain to die before released by a rising tide. To the thrasher and sword-fish the natives of this northwestern coast owe a large part of their subsistance. We passed during the evening the volcanoes of Iliyamni and the Redoubt, the former of which has been more or less active ever since 1778, and which is still smoking. It was in active eruption only a year or two ago, but the Redoubt and several other lofty peaks which have emitted fire and smoke in the past are now, to all appearances, wholly extinct. Standing in to the westward of the Barren Islands, which lie about midway between Capes Elizabeth and Douglas, the opposite outward points at the entrance to the inlet,

WE ARRIVED AT KENAI

At 2 p. m. of the 8th and anchored about five miles off shore. Just beyond the mouth of, or entrance to, the inlet, its waters widen out into two indentations on the opposite shores, Kachemak Gulf and Chugachik Bay on the east, and the Gulf of Kamishak on the west. North of these indentations the shores of the inlet again approach each other to within a distance of thirty miles (the distance between Capes Elizabeth and Douglas is over sixty miles), which distance it holds as far north as the East and West Forelands, where it is further contracted, about one-half holding a width of about fifteen miles to Turnagain Arm, which is in latitude about 63°, and the point from which Cook turned back when disappointed in not finding, as he confidently thought he had, the much sought for northwest passage. On the east shore the mountains are not high, though several large glaciers can be seen in the distance, and there is a strip of comparatively level land, well wooded and from thirty to forty miles wide, lying between their base and the waters of the inlet.

The tides in Cook's Inlet are, perhaps, more rapid and violent than at any other point on the Pacific coast, frequently running at the rate of eight to ten miles an hour, with an average rise and fall of twenty-five to twenty-eight feet. The flood rolls in in one vast volume and with a thundering noise, carrying everything before it, increasing in speed and violence as the shores approach nearer to each other. As a consequence the tidal currents are very dangerous, indeed none the less so by the existence of numerous conically shaped rocks rising from the bottom, uncomfortably close to the surface, and which in themselves render the navigation of its waters more or less perilous. The distance from the entrance to the head of the inlet is very nearly 200 miles, but in the absence of surveys its navigation beyond Kenai, the most northerly point on its shores reached by the Thetis, is altogether too dangerous to be lightly attempted by vessels of deep draft.

The district of country bordering on Cook's Inlet is, perhaps, better adapted to agricultural pursuits by reason of its climatic conditions, as well as the fertility of the soil, than any other part of Alaska. There is a large acreage of comparatively level land on the eastern shore, with a soil which, it seems to me, ought to be productive of excellent crops of cereals as well as vegetables. Though the winters are colder than those of Kadiok and the Sitkan region, the summers are warm and drier, and while there is no question concerning the curing of hay from the native grasses which are abundant, barley and oats have been successfully grown, and that too by

WHOLLY INEXPERIENCED AGRICULTURISTS.

Kenai is on the east shore of the inlet at the mouth of the Kaknu River, and at the time of the transfer was still a fortified place; but the stockade and bastions have disappeared, and when a company of United States soldiers was sent to occupy the place in 1868-9 the erection of new barracks was found necessary to their accommodation. These old barracks are still standing, but in a sadly dilapidated condition. Kenai is the central point for all the Cook's Inlet region, and was the earliest permanent settlement made by the Russians; but there are no Russians there now, only a colony of creoles, who cultivate potatoes, turnips and other vegetables, some of whom keep cattle, and all living principally upon the products of the soil. It is also a station of the Alaska Commercial Company, and the residence of a priest of the Greco-Russian Church, whose jurisdiction extends to all of Cook's Inlet and the region bordering the coast east as far as Yakutat. There is a native village of people who call themselves Kenaitze, about a mile distant from the station, which, together with the creole settlement, I visited during my brief stay. At the latter I saw some ten or twelve acres of ground in a good state of cultivation, and was told that the people found no difficulty in growing all the vegetables they needed for their own use. The creoles live in comfortable hewed log houses, and seem reasonable well content with their lot in life, though, if they work for the company as some of them do, compelled to accept $1 a day in payment. I interviewed some of the creole people in reference to the prices charged them for goods, and if they told me the truth, as I have little doubt they did, nothing but the possession of a conscience would stand in the way of my making a fortune, could I have the exclusive privilege of selling them goods at the rate they now pay for half a dozen years, the Indian trade of course included. The Kenaitze houses are built of unhewed logs and thatched with native grass, and are exceedingly dirty and filthy. Talking with the chief, a naturally bright and intelligent man, I was informed that he and his people were prohibited from disposing of their furs to outsiders under penalty of being debarred from the privilege of purchasing anything at the company's store for a period of two years. Of course this was an ex-parte statement; but it would seem to have some basis to rest upon, for with all his aptitude in the art of lying it is hardly probable that this native would manufacture such a story out of whole cloth.

At Kenai I had my first real experience with Alaska mosquitoes. Starting to walk from the creole to the native settlement through a small growth of birch and popple, I first thought it necessary to break off a leafy bough and use it as a brush, merely to keep them from singing their seductive songs into both ears at one and the same time. They resented this precaution and came up to the assault, apparently marshaled by the million into platoons, companies, regiments, brigades and divisions, and had each and every one been

ARMED WITH A SEWING MACHINE

Capable of sticking a countless number of sharp needles into a fellow every consecutive second, the attack could not have been more effective. For the first time in my life, I believe, I fled—actually ran away—instead of facing an enemy, and I am reasonably certain that I would lay myself liable to a charge of perjury should I make an affidavit to the effect that my interpreter, who ran faster than I did (he is more fleet of foot), didn't actually damn those mosquitoes—with more emphasis than I did. They were not only numerous—they were giants of their race. They could sing louder, fly faster and pierce deeper than any of their tribe I ever saw before or ever want to see again. When Kostrometinoff and I got back to the ship that night it is just possible the mosquitoes might have been able to recognize the wrecks they had made—no one else would have been able to discover in our persons the Governor of Alaska and his interpreter.

The total native and creole population of the country adjacent to Cook's Inlet is about 1,000. There are only seven permanent white residents, but at the salmon canneries there are employed during the summer about fifty white men and 150 Chinese, who come up from San Francisco in the spring and return again when the salmon season is ended. There are two of these canneries—one at Kenai, which had started up only the day before my arrival and which has a capacity of 20,000 cases per season, and one at the mouth of the Kussiloff River, ten miles south of Kenai, which expected to ship not less than 50,000 cases and which has been in operation for some years. Cook's Inlet is one of the favorite haunts of the king salmon, the size of which varies from forty to fifty pounds. There are several species of the salmon, only three of which, however, have a merchantable value, viz., the king, red and silver. The king salmon are first to make their appearance, coming generally early in June, the run continuing from two to four weeks. After them come the red, and last the silver variety, each with a run of about the same length. They come in countless numbers, seeking the fresh waters of the creeks and rivers, up which they run as far as there is water to float them, deposit their spawn and then return to salt water. In such numbers do they come that in some of the smaller streams they actually crowd themselves out of the water, winrows of dead fish, three or four thick, frequently lining the shores for miles. They are taken in gill-nets and in weirs, or traps, the latter set at the mouths of the rivers and above the water at low tide. These traps are made by setting poles in the ground, around which a wire netting is placed in something like the shape of the pound nets used on the lakes. To supply these two canneries—and there is room for more—it is necessary to take

AT LEAST 100,000 FISH

Within the short period of two months, from which a product of 3,360,000 pounds, worth not much if any less than half a million dollars, is obtained.

The natives who inhabit the Cook's Inlet country, save only a very small portion on each side of the entrance, are of the Athabaskan stock, of which there are a large number of tribes, clans or families in Alaska. These people are generally referred to as "natives of the interior," Cook's Inlet being the only place where they have succeeded in obtaining a permanent foothold on the coast. They resemble much more closely than do any other Alaskan natives, the red Indian of the plains; they are nomadic in their habits and occupy an area of country which embraces more than half the territory. Along the coast from Cape Elizabeth to Copper River on the east, on the islands of the Kadiak

OLD NATIVE HUTS.

Archipelago and along the whole water front away round to where the eastern boundary line intersects with the Arctic Ocean, and on a large part of the Alinska Peninsula, are found the Eskimos only, the Athabaskans being hemmed into the interior at all points save the one named. They are taller and darker than their Eskimo neighbors, but these on the coast have to a great extent adopted the dress and customs of the Creoles, and I was therefore unable to distinguish any other material difference between them and the natives previously visited. History credits them, however, with having been an exceedingly brave people, who were conquered by the Russians only after a great deal of hard fighting, in which superiority of arms and not superior bravery of the invaders compelled their submission. The first permanent white settlements on Cook's Inlet were established as early as 1789. With these settlements came the missionaries of the Græco-Russian Church, and the Kenaitze were converted to Christianity as much from a fear of the wrath immediately threatened as from that which was pictured to come in the great hereafter. However, they are now as good Christians as might reasonably be expected from their limited understanding, and in honesty will compare favorably with most white communities whose religious professions are much more orthodox.

Leaving Kenai about 10 o'clock the next morning after our arrival we ran south, passing in sight of the Kussiloff Cannery and the creole settlement of Ninilchik, but did not stop at either. At Kenai, however, I obtained, from a reliable source, all the information I desired concerning the latter settlement. Its people are descendents of a number of superannuated employes of the old Russian-American Company who were arbitrarily planted there nearly 100 years ago, and left to work out their own temporal salvation. There are now only about a dozen families, but they have quite a number of cattle, make their own butter and all are engaged in tilling the soil from which they grow enough vegetables for their own use, and a very considerable surplus, which they sell to the traders and fishermen. They also keep pigs and poultry and are said to constitute an altogether happy and contented little community.

IV.

RUNNING through Kachemak Gulf, in Chuchagik Bay, we anchored about 2 o'clock Sunday morning behind a long point extending out from the end of the peninsula lying between the bay and the gulf, in what is known as Coal Harbor. There is no settlement at this point, and my only object in stopping was to examine the coal seams said to exist there, and which were originally discovered by the first navigators as early as 1786. After breakfast I went ashore in company with some of the ship's officers and had no difficulty in finding the veins, the outcrops of which are in the face of a perpendicular bluff and so prominent that they can be seen from a distance of two miles. I found three distinct veins, seams, in a sandstone formation which dips to the northwest at an inclination of from three to five degrees from the horizontal. The outcrops, or rather exposures, made by the waves dashing against the bluff, are at the highest point above high water, but the dip carries the seams under the surface of the bay in a very short distance to the north—the principal one being visible for a considerable space under water. These seams lie one above the other, with what I took to be fireclay between them, the lower one being, at the very least calculation, eight feet thick, the next one above from four to five, and the upper not more than three. Hundreds of tons of this coal lies strewn along the beach, having been detached in large blocks from the lower vein by the action of the waves. It is to all appearances a very fine quality of cannel coal, and that there is an extensive field of it is a question which admits of not a single doubt. With a small crowbar we dug out two or three hundred pounds, which we carried on board ship, and a part of which we burned in the cabin grate with the most satisfactory results. The chief engineer, who is considerable of a scientist, and certainly well posted as to the different qualities of coal, made various tests, together with an analysis, to determine its character and probable commercial value. At the very first trial he succeeded in making

A COMPLETE AND PERFECT WELD

On one and one-half inch iron, something that cannot be done with any other coal heretofore mined on the Pacific slope. From a lump picked up on the beach a portion was broken off, weighed and placed in a retort made on board ship. This retort was heated to a bright red in the furnace fires, when the coal gave off an illuminating gas, the flame of which issuing from a tip, was of peculiar purity and whiteness. Lighted in the cabin grate it at first gave off a bright white flame without much smoke, subsiding afterward with very little loss of bulk, to a red-hot carbon of great durability and intense heat, which was finally consumed to an ash of impalpable fineness, without clinker. This test left no possible doubt as to its value for domestic purposes. The analysis made by Chief Lowe gave carbon 88, hydrogen 7 and ash 6 per cent., with only a trace of sulphur or sodium. In his report to his commanding officer, the chief engineer says: "For steaming purposes I have only an opinion which, unbacked by solid and well ascertained facts, ought not to be expressed or finally entertained. The tests simply enable me to pronounce it a cannel coal of great value, much superior in fact for domestic purposes to anything yet seen in the San Francisco market." It must be remembered that the tests upon which this judgment is based were made from coal taken from the outcrop or picked up on the beach, which analogy permits me to argue cannot, exposed as it has been to the action of the elements, be taken as a fair sample of the quality of the seams.

The existence of these coal seams was well known to the Russians, but were not worked by them, owing to the fact that they open upon the beach, and as they could only be successfully worked through perpendicular shafts of considerable depth, they preferred to commence operations at some other point where so large an outlay of capital would not be required. They accordingly proceeded to open a mine on the shore of a small cove known as Coal Bay, in Graham's Harbor, which lies about twenty miles to the south-

west of the entrance to Chuchagik Bay, and as near as I can learn for a number of years mined from a single shaft all the coal they (Russian-American Company) required for use in their steamers. They made the mistake, however, of following the seam under the bay, and cutting a stream of water the mine was flooded beyond the hope of redemption. Subsequently, about the year 1851, a company was formed in San Francisco, to which the Russian-American company was a party, for the purpose of mining coal for the San Francisco market, and a new mine near the old one was opened under the local management of a German engineer named Hattern and from that time till the transfer

CONSIDERABLE COAL WAS MINED,

Though very little of it found its way to San Francisco. The American partners of the firm or corporation, which was called the American-Russian Company, concluded that San Francisco needed more ice than coal and the shipment of ice from Wood Island was made its principal business. With the transfer of the country to the United States all efforts at coal mining ceased, and nothing has ever since been done looking to the practical development of the extensive coal measures on Cook's Inlet and elsewhere in Alaska.

These coal seams not only crop out at the points mentioned, but they are exposed all along the eastern shore of the inlet from Anchor Point, at the northern entrance of Kachemak Gulf to Kusilloff River and at various points between Coal and Graham's Harbors, covering a total distance of nearly 100 miles. At the point where I landed the natural conditions could not be more favorable for the opening and practical operation of a large number of mines. The ground back from the bay rises to an elevation of 100 feet or more, affording the best facilities for the construction of gravity roads upon which the products could be carried out upon piers and transferred to ships at a very trifling cost. I confidently look for the development of this vast coal bed just as soon as Congress shall by suitable legislation make it possible for persons desirous of thus investing their capital to secure good and sufficient titles, which they cannot now do.

At Graham Harbor is the old Russian settlement of Alexandrofsky, where the Alaska Commercial Company maintains a fur trading station, and a few creoles and some natives reside, the former engaged principally in gardening. There is another creole settlement named Seldovia, a few miles north of Graham harbor, and a number of others on the west shore, at none of which the ship touched, Capt. Emory, as well as myself, being anxious to reach the seal islands while the killing season was at its hight. Consequently we were under way soon after returning to the ship from the coal veins, and during the evening we passed in plain sight of Cheruaboura Volcano, which I failed to see on our way up the inlet. This volcano appears on the government charts as Augustin Island and is situated on the west side of the inlet, about fifty miles from the entrance. It is about twenty-five miles in circumference at the base and low on the seaside, from whence it rises in regular, though steep ascent, into a lofty conical mountain, presenting nearly the same appearance from every point of view, and clothed with perpetual snow and ice down to the water's edge. A few years ago this isolated peak, without warning,

BROKE OUT INTO VIOLENT ERUPTION,

With a thundering sound and a rumbling and shaking of the earth, which frightened the natives for hundreds of miles in every direction. For a time it vomited forth a great shower of ashes, which fell upon and covered the ground miles away to the depth of several inches, finally settling down to a steady emission of flame and smoke, lasting for a period of a year or more. Now it emits a thin, vapory smoke only, which could be seen rising in considerable volume from its peak as we passed along, though at no time did we approach nearer than thirty miles to it.

That night I remained up till 1 o'clock to see for myself how much darkness there might be on a June night in the latitude of sixty degrees north. I found that I could see to read ordinary print quite readily on deck at half past 12, and that at 1 there wa perfect daylight—so that there was really no absolute darkness, only a little deeper shade of twilight between 12 and 1 than that which prevailed between those hours before and after sunset.

The next morning on rising we found ourselves in Shelikoff Straits, which lie between the Islands of Kadiak and Afognak and the Aliaska Peninsula, and for a hundred miles we steamed along through mountain scenery inconceivably grand and awe-inspiring. My feeble pen may not attempt a word picture of scenery such as that which incloses this wide strait; it failed to give an adequate description of the St. Elias Alps, and in this case it will not attempt to portray that which is beyond the skill of the artist, and in depicting which even the most fervent imagination may not charge itself with exaggeration. It is simply grand and beautiful beyond the power of pen to describe; it must be seen to be appreciated.

Late in the afternoon of Monday we dropped anchor just off Karluk, which is situated at the mouth of a river of the same name, on the southwestern side of Kadiak Island. There is no harbor at this point, and in case of a blow vessels must weigh anchor and stand away to escape the danger of being dashed to pieces on a rocky and precipitous shore. Only a few days before our arrival a brig laden with building material and machinery for a new cannery was wrecked within less than a mile of the point where her cargo was to be discharged, everything being lost.

THE FISH INDUSTRY.

Karluk is, at present, the most important fishing station in Alaska, there being two very large canneries in operation and another in course of erection and expecting soon to be in operation, the building material and machinery for the fourth having been lost by the wreck of the vessel bringing them, after arrival at her anchorage. This brings me to the value of the fish industry of this great Island of Kadiak. In addition to these canneries at Karluk, there is another in Uyak Bay, some twenty-five miles to the northward, and a packing establishment in Sitkalidak Strait, on the opposite side of the island, which next year will be changed into a cannery. My information leads me to believe that there are many other points on the island where canneries can be established and made equally as profitable as those at Karluk. Of those at the latter place one sent away last year 83,000 cases, and expected to achieve this year at least 100,000, equal to 4,800,000 pounds, of the value, at last year's market prices, of $675,000. The other two may be set down at 40,000, and the one at Uyak Bay for 20,000 more, making a product of 160,000 cases for Kadiak Island, together with certainly not less than 5,000 barrels of salted salmon, the whole of the market value of at least $1,000,000.

The Karluk River, a beautiful stream of clear, pure water, flowing down from a mountain lake of the same name, here pours its pellucid tide into the strait, a neck of low land lying between the salt water and where the river sweeps around the base of the steep bluffs on its way to the sea. On this neck are located the canneries, boarding houses, etc., while high up on the opposite side of the stream is a native settlement of people who call themselves Aleuts, but who are really Eskimos, or, as they were originally called, Kaniags. There is another native village two miles up the river. That the fish are abundant in this stream, which is not more than four rods in width, may be inferred from the number and capacity of the canneries, together with the fact that from it some 300 natives derive their principal food supply. It must be remembered that the natives have no other idea of preserving fish than by drying them in the sun, and that it takes ten pounds of fresh fish to make one of the dry. The amount of fish thus prepared averages about 400 pounds to the family, equal to 4,000 pounds of fresh fish. There are in the native settlements at Karluk at least 150 families whose consumption would, according to the foregoing estimate, amount to 600,000 pounds of fresh fish. The 160,000 cases, equal to 7,680,000 pounds of prepared food, represents at least 10,000,000 pounds of fish as they come from the water, or a total of 10,600,000 pounds taken out of this stream the past season. Allowing an average of ten pounds each, we would have a total of 1,600,000 fish taken in a single season of not more than three months' duration from a stream not over four rods wide at its mouth and not over two miles of whose length is utilized. It may well be doubted, however, if, as asserted, these fish always return to their native stream during the spawning season, whether this draught upon the Karluk may not, ere long, seriously impair its value as a fishing ground, especially if, as is proposed, its capacity shall be further tested by the erection of additional canneries.

THE FISH COMPANY

Which located here, a corporation made up almost entirely of shareholders in the Alaska Commercial Company, evidently intended to surround and completely corral the whole of what is, to use a vulgar phrase, a "mighty good thing." They undertook to exclude everyone else from participation in this good thing by staking out and claiming the whole of the neck of land lying between the mouth of the river and the strait, which claim they recorded on the books of the Deputy Collec-

tor of Customs at St. Paul's. Of course the land laws not having been extended over the territory, they could acquire no legal title whatever, to a single foot of the land they assumed to claim and occupy, and though arrogant and threatening, no attention was paid to their claim of exclusive rights, otherwise there would have been but one establishment where there are now three, with more to follow. As a matter of course, all are tenants at will of the government, but one has as good right as the other to possession and cannot legally be interfered with except at the behest of the government itself. And right here let me say that this is only one of dozens of instances where, in the absence of any law by which legal titles to lands can be secured, valuable franchises, so to speak, are being usurped, the government defrauded of a very considerable revenue and complications raised which are reasonably certain to entail endless expense upon the government as well as individuals in the future.

At Karluk there are about seventy-five white people and 250 Chinese, all transient as yet, in addition to the native population of perhaps 500 in the two villages. The habitations of the natives are called barrabaras, a Russian word which in the singular means a hut. These dwellings are more than half underground. An excavation of the desired size is first made, on the inside of which rows of posts, of equal hight are set closely together, the tops projecting not more than a couple of feet above the ground. On these rafters are placed, the whole of the structure, including the roof covered over with sods to the thickness of a foot or more. The material used in the frame is most generally driftwood, but sometimes the ribs of the whale are made to answer the purpose. A small opening is always left in the top, which answers the double purpose of window and chimney. When not needed as a smoke escape or for ventilation it is closed with a frame over which a thin and transparent covering of seal bladder is stretched. The entrance is generally in the shape of a low, narrow underground passage, from eight to ten feet in length, and through which one can only pass on his hands and knees. The interior generally consists of

ONE COMMON APARTMENT,

Or living room, in which the cooking is done, and three or four small sleeping rooms, generally in the form of additions to the main hut. These latter are usually so low that a person of ordinary hight cannot stand upright within them; they are lighted by a small window made of bladder, placed either in the roof or side. A village made up of these bararabras, seen from a distance, more nearly resembles a collection of the same number of so-called houses of the prairie dog than anything else I can think of; certainly at first sight they would not be tuought of as human habitations.

Inquiring for the chief, I was conducted to the barrabara of that august personage, and being invited in, was conducted from the main into a smaller apartment, the entrance to which was a square aperture scarcely large enough to crawl through. This apartment was supplied with a board floor, which is very rare, and the walls were completely covered with illustrated newspapers, in lieu of regular wall paper. Here, in a room not high enough to permit me to stand erect and not over ten feet square, I had my "talk" with the chief, which had scarcely commenced before other natives began to push themselves through the entrance hole, and so crowded the place that there was scarcely space left me in which to breathe the foul odors exhaled from their not over clean persons. It goes without saying that the interview was prolonged not a single instant beyond the acquisition sought; indeed I never appreciated the health-giving properties of a pure air so much as when I emerged from that miserable hole in the ground, but which was, nevertheless, the most pretentious and cleanly habitation in the village.

I found three native people possessed of considerable natural intelligence, but exceedingly filthy in their persons and habitations, though this is one of the settlements which the writer I have quoted says, "will compare favorably in neatness and domestic comfort with most of the fishing villages in Northern Europe. Nevertheless, they are not a bad-looking people, physically, and aside from evident hatred of that virtue which is said to rank next to godliness, practice few, if any, bad habits save those imbibed from the whites. They are inordinately fond of whisky, the quality of which they judge by the amount of intoxication it will effect, and the nearer it approaches to hell-fire the better they like it. They will pay or pawn almost anything they possess for enough of the vilest liquor on earth to produce one good solid drunk, and when they cannot buy the article direct, they make for themselves a villainous kind of beer called "gnass" from sugar and flour, and which is further distilled into a sort of whisky which is warranted to

KNOCK A WHITE MAN SILLY

At a distance of more than forty rods. I found some of them drunk, and on inquiry was told that there had been a late brewing of gnass, and that both the stores sold them sugar knowing for what purpose it was to be used, but only in sufficient quantity to enable them to indulge in an occasional spree.

This was, I must say in justice to the management of the canneries located there, the first place in which I found the native people satisfied with the treatment accorded them, but I found that this was in consequence of the competition which gives them not only a fair price for their labor and cheaper goods from the company stores, but to the extent just indicated enables them to satisfy their inordinate propensity for strong drink. They are paid $40 per month during the salmon season, and during the winter follow the chase, receiving fair prices for whatever furs they may succeed in taking. There is a Græco-Russian chapel in the lower native village, in which prayers are read by an ancient kanaig, acting as "reader," in the absence of the regular priest, who resides at St. Paul's, and whose visits are like those of the angels are said to be.

We remained at Karluk only a few hours and the same night were under way for Ounalaska, having determined to pass by Unga and Belkofsky without stopping, and pay them a visit on our return from the north. On Tuesday morning we passed in sight of the Semidi Islands, but all the afternoon and night were out of sight of land. Wednesday morning we sighted the Shumagin group, to which Unga belongs, and where the principal cod fisheries are located, and on Thursday forenoon were in sight of the Island of Akoutan, on which there is a volcano of the same name, in active eruption a year ago, but the peak of which was hid in the clouds. So far we had been favored with pleasant weather, including a fairly clear sky and bracing atmosphere, though at times there was a little more wind and sea than was wholly agreeable to a landsman. At 8 p. m. Thursday, June 14, we entered the Unalga Pass, which lies between the island of the same name and that of Ounalaska, and entering Behring Sea, rounded the northeast end of the last named island, and at 11 p. m. cast anchor in the harbor of Hiuliuk, just in front of the village once known by that name, but now called Ounalaska. Going ashore early the next day, I called on the priest of the Græco-Russian Church, and made the acquaintance of the few white people, resident of the place, only one of whom I had previously met.

THE Village of Ounalaska consists of about sixty frame buildings, a few of them quite respectable in size and outward appearance, but by far the larger number being one-story ten by twelve wooden shells, built or purchased by the Alaska Commercial Company and occupied by its Aleut hunters and employes free of rent, and perhaps between forty and fifty barrabaras, also occupied by the Aleuts. Aside from the warehouses and the company's office and store buildings, there are, perhaps, half a dozen neat frame buildings, and as many more not so neat, which are occupied by Creole families, most of whom are reasonably well-to-do, considering their isolation from the world and the small opportunities afforded them. That those of the Aleuts who prefer it are furnished small frame tenements free of rent is due to the competition instituted by the Northwest Trading Company a few years ago, which, in order to secure the services of native hunters, built for them the larger half of the small frame houses referred to. To meet this competition the Alaska Commercial Company erected a number of larger houses, but in 1883 became the owner of all the others by buying out the competing corporation; since then no houses have been built, nor, indeed, do I think any more would be occupied, some of the old ones being either vacant or occupied as cow stables. It is probable that were the company to charge rent most of the houses would be vacated, as those who still live in barrabaras say they prefer them as being more comfortable both in winter and summer. I visited

OUNALASKA.

a number of the native houses and barrabaras, and found most of them quite clean and well kept, the Aleuts being in every respect far superior to the natives previously met with.

Ure, to all appearance, a naturally bright and intelligent people, with a Japanese cast of countenance, and, as I believe, notwithstanding ethnologists argue to the contrary, of Asiatic origin. History relates that when the Russians first came among them, about the middle of the last century, they were a brave and warlike people, not more courageous in battle, however, than kind and hospitable to strangers. They received the Russians kindly and maintained amicable and friendly relations with them for several years after their arrival, submitting patiently to demands they might justly have resented as an infringement upon their rights, until the invaders, encouraged by a patient forbearance which was construed into a passive submission born of fear and cowardice, proceeding from bad to worse, by their oppressive and outrageous conduct finally forced them to accept the alternative of war or absolute slavery. Accordingly, upon a given signal, the people of all the the villages sprang to arms, and of all their oppressors only four escaped slaughter. But the Russians came again and in greater number, and after years of bloodshed the conquest of Ounalaska, and of the whole Aleutian chain, was effected, and the remnants of their people reduced to a state of servitude bordering on abject slavery. Before the conquest there were many populous villages on Ounalaska Island, and both Russian and Aleut authorities agree in the statement that in what is now known as the Ounalaska district (the Aleutian Islands) there were 120 villages, with a population variously estimated at from 15,000 to 25,000. Now there are in the same district only ten villages and 1,026 people, exclusive of whites, of whom 278 are creoles and 788 Aleuts. No other or further comment as to the treatment of these people in the past is necessary; from a brave and warlike people they have been transformed by more than a century of abuse and oppression, into timid, helpless dependents upon the will of those they have come to regard as their masters. In some respects their condition is far better than under the old Russian regime; yet the dispassionate observer among them will scarcely have the hardihood to aver that they are possessed of any rights which the white man is bound to respect.

The Island of Ounalaska is about 125 miles long from 30 to 50 wide, and the largest and most important of the Aleutian chain. There are four villages on the island, as stated—Iliuliuk (Ounalaska), Makushin, Kashiginsk and Chernoosk, the first in the north, the second two on the west side, and the last at the south end. They are all inhabited by sea otter hunters, their aggregate population, exclusive of thirty or forty white men, numbering only 463 persons. There are three separate groups of mountains on the island—the Makushin group of two chains running parallel with each other between the bay of the same name and Iliuliuk harbor, and in one of which is a volcanic peak 5,000 feet in hight, and the Otter and Kashiginsk Mountains, extending through the central and southern sections of the island. The highest peaks of these mountain ranges are never without their caps of show, though their sides are covered as with a carpeting of the richest verdure. The Makushin volcano stands about twenty miles north of the Village of Ounalaska, and is almost a perfect cone in shape, with the crater located in the apex. No flames or lava have been emitted by this volcano within the memory of any of the residents of the island, but smoke still issues from its crater at brief intervals, frequently accompanied with subterranean noises as if in premonition of an earthquake held in reserve. The geological formation consists of granite, porphyry, slate and basalt, while there are on the island several hot springs, the waters of which are said to possess great curative properties. There is no timber on the island, nor, indeed, have I seen any trees since leaving the clearly marked line of division between timber and prairie land on Kadiak Island, save half a dozen stunted trees planted in a sheltered nook near Ounalaska Village by a priest of the Greco-Russian Church more than fifty years ago, and the failure of which is accepted as conclusive evidence that nothing of the kind will grow in this latitude. There is, however, a wealth of wild grasses in the valleys and on the mountain slopes, and I can see no reason why large herds of cattle and sheep might not be successfully kept, assuming that a profitable market could be found for the beef, mutton and wool. The extreme of cold last winter was 16° above zero, and I was told the cattle, of which there are about fifty head at Ounalaska, all in fine condition, were wintered practically without being fed or housed. I noticed a number of goats about the village, but no sheep, though there is no lack of poultry, and judging from the number of hogs I saw running at large there is not likely to be any lack of fresh pork, even if it should be rather fishy in flavor.

There is no lack of fish in the bays and rivers of Ounalaska Island. While lying in the outer harbor the sailors caught from the forward deck large numbers of cod and flounders with an occasional halibut, besides some yellowish looking fish they called rock trout, but which I think are a species of mackerel. While there a boat's crew was sent off a mile or two to draw the seine at the mouth of a small river, and in a short time came back with the whole boat half full of fine silver salmon. In the fall large numbers of young seals find their way into the harbor on their way south from the rookeries, and are killed as much for their flesh as for their skins, the meat of the young seal being rather more of a luxury than a staple article of food among the natives. I regret to say that breech-loading fire-arms are the weapons used in killing these seals, notwithstanding the express prohibition by law of the killing of fur-bearing animals in Alaska with fire-arms of any description, and that the importation of breech-loading guns is positively forbidden. In view of the fact that the natives trade exclusively with the Alaska Commercial Company there is but one inference to be drawn as to where and from whom these guns are obtained. At all events the company has such control of the native people as would certainly enable its officers and agents to prevent them from violating the law; but instead of using its influence in that direction I find its agents at nearly all the trading stations either selling or lending them guns, the importation and use of which the law expressly forbids. Perhaps, though, it would not be considered at all generous to expect this company to actively co-operate in the enforcement of laws, through the violation of which it reaps large profits. There are no fur-bearing animals of consequence on the island, but Ounalaska is, nevertheless, the center of the fur trade from the Shumagin Islands on the east to Attoo, the most westerly of the Aleutian chain. It is the port of entry for all of Western Alaska, and is supplied with wharves and other commercial facilities, being the headquarters of a church district. Nearly all the valuable furs—sea-otter, black, cross and red foxes—secured on all the islands west of Kadiac, are collected here for shipment to San Francisco, the business with one or two trifling exceptions being exclusively controlled by the Alaska Commercial Company, which has also a lease of the seal islands, and by reason thereof a monopoly of the fur-seal industry.

With an abundance of the best food fishes, rich pasture lands, and a soil in which all the hardier vegetables at least can be grown it would seem easy enough for a community no larger than that of Ounalaska to live comfortably on the natural resources of the island; but the natives, through long intercourse with

tile whites, have imbibed artificial tastes, and acquired artificial wants; instead of the bird or sealskin parka of their fathers the men now affect broadcloth coats, starched shirts and calfskin boots, while the white ladies of the eastern cities are not more intent upon securing the latest Paris fashions than are the dusky maids and matrons of Ounalaska on the alert for the latest styles from San Francisco. And what is true as to dress is equally true in regard to their physical tastes and wants, which have been enlarged just in proportion as they have become more and more civilized; having adopted the style and dress of white men and women they feel that they must live like white people, eat what white people eat and drink what they drink, especially if the white man gives whisky the preference over water. In consequence of all this the men are compelled to earn more than would have insured to their fathers a comfortable and happy existence. So the majority of them go down to the sea in their frail bidarkas to hunt the sea otter, the most valuable of all the fur-bearing animals of Alaska. The richest sea otter hunting ground is at Sannahk Islands, over a hundred miles northeast of Ounalaska, though there are other islands and reefs frequented by the hunters. To Sannahk principally, however, the Aleut hunters are conveyed by one of the company's vessels, with their bidarkas, and there left frequently for months. To make assurance doubly sure a sub-agent is left with the party, with provisions sufficient to their wants during the hunt, who receives the skins as fast as they are taken, and for which settlement and payment is made when the party returns to headquarters. By such precaution the company succeeds in getting all the skins, even those designed by the hunters for the priest or church, for which last they merely pay the priest instead of the original owner. There is, therefore, no possible chance for an outsider to get away with any of the skins, even should he be willing to pay twice as much as the company allows, which is all the way from $10 for the poorest to $80 for the best. Of course these prices are paid indirectly in goods; though a cash business ostensibly, the balance is really all on one side, since whatever is paid out for furs in a very short time finds its way back to the company's store in exchange for goods and provisions. The company asserts that it sells goods to the natives at an advance of only 25 per cent over invoice prices in San Francisco. Whether this be so does not matter, in view of the fact that it allows them less than half what they are really worth for their furs; in fact, it buys and sells at its own prices, and I am not disposed to deny it the modicum of generosity it may justly claim on the ground that it exacts only 25 per cent advance on goods in reality exchanged for commodities upon which it realizes a profit of two or three hundred.

The native Aleuts being practically a civilized people, there is little to be said concerning their customs and habits. They are all followers of the Greco-Russian Church and are Christians by profession, whatever they may be in practice; but if required to express an opinion I should say that so far as morals are concerned, leaving their one besetting vice of

PRIEST ROCK, OUNALASKA.

drunkenness out of the question, that they are neither better nor worse than an average white community of the same size in almost any part of the states—certainly much better than some I could mention. I found them generally neatly dressed in "store clothes," and on Sunday when on their way to church, and at one or two parties, saw some of the women arrayed in silk, and that, too, as tastefully as could be expected of refined white women, and, I blush to say it, with more becoming modesty than was the rule rather than the exception at some receptions I have attended at the national capital. The women have, however, a natural desire for bright colors, and are very fond of jewelry. They seldom wear bonnets or hats, except on dress occasions, but generally wear over their heads bright colored or silk handkerchiefs, after the style in vogue in some of the eastern farming communities; the hair, invariably black, is usually braided and tied up into a knot on the back of the head. There is so little dissimilarity between the Creoles and white people, either in personal appearance or mode of living, that at first it is impossible to distinguish between them, especially if they speak the same language. I have seen many pure blooded Anglo-Saxons with tawnier skins than that of the average Alaskan Creole, and I have seen not a few of the latter with complexions, the clear, rosy hue of which might well be envied by one of your handsomest society belles.

Still anxious to reach the seal islands while the killing season was in full blast, and little dreaming that we might be too early on the ground to see the rookeries fully occupied, the captain determined, with my concurrence, to proceed there at once, then return to Ounalaska and coal ship for the voyage to the westward, it having been our original intention to make a complete tour of the Aleutian Islands before starting on our cruise to the Arctic.

WATERFALL, OUNALASKA.

Subsequently, after our second arrival at Ounalaska, this plan was changed to meet my own views, and it was determined, in view of the fact that all of the natives, except a few women, had been removed from the western islands to the sea-otter hunting grounds, that a trip to Bristol Bay and around the east side of the Alaska peninsula, to Belkogsky, Unga and other points would be more profitable, and it was agreed that both sections could not be visited without abandoning the cruise of the Arctic. Attoo, the most westerly of the Aleutian Islands, and indeed of our possessions, is 800 miles from Ounalaska, and in the whole distance there are only four or five native settlements, and these, at the time, were almost entirely depopulated by the legira to the sea-hunting grounds. On the other hand the cruise to Bristol Bay and other points named would enable me to visit and inspect not only some of the most important industries in the territory, but likewise to examine reported gold and silver discoveries, together with the coal measures known to exist at several points along the route, while the distance covered would be at least 400 miles less. The reader, let me here remark, should, if he feels an interest in what I have written and am about to write, send to the hydrographic office, Washington, inclosing fifty cents, and get coast survey chart No. 960, entitled, "Alaska and Adjoining Territory." He will find it a valuable adjunct to the information embodied in these papers.

*(To be continued.)*

VI.

LEAVING Ounalaska on the afternoon of Friday, June 15, we sailed direct for the Pribyloff Islands, 230 miles nearly due north, and arrived at St. Paul's at half-past 1 on Sunday, the 17th, having run nearly all the way through a dense fog, owing to which fact we passed St. George, the most southerly of the Pribyloff group, without seeing it. We got a good view of Otter Island, however, which lies six miles to the southward of St. Paul, after which, though the fog again settled down, it was an easy matter to find the anchorage just off the very

VIEW OF MOUNTAINS FROM OUNALASKA.

neat, tidy village of St. Paul, which is located on a peninsula projecting out some distance from the south side of the island of the same name. Otter Island is quite small and but few seals land upon it. It is, however, the nesting place for great numbers of sea-fowl, from which the revenue steamers draw a supply of fresh eggs every season. We found the revenue cutter Bear at anchor when we arrived, and from her obtained a couple of bushels of eggs she had taken the day before from the Otter Island rookeries, which we found to be very good.

Going ashore, I was met and most cordially greeted and welcomed by Col. Geo. R. Single, the government agent, and Mr. Manchester, his assistant, as also by Dr. H. H. McIntyre, the Alaska Commercial Company's general agent. It being Sunday, no work was being done, though I understood that a "killing" had taken place in the morning. We were informed that instead of being late, the killing season had not yet been fairly inaugurated, comparatively few seals, especially cows, having as yet arrived at the rookeries, and consequently that few, if any, "families" had been formed. In view of the fact that we could see thousands of seals disporting themselves in the adjacent waters, hundreds of whom approached to within not more than an oar's length while we were being rowed ashore, an assertion of that kind seemed to us a rather remarkable one; but it was, nevertheless, perfectly true. The seals were later than usual in reaching the rookeries, and we would probably have had a much more interesting visit had we made haste more slowly.

The Island of St. Paul is situate in Behring Sea, 230 miles nearly due north from Ounalaska, between 57° 8′ and 57° 11′ 12″ north latitude and 170° and 170° 19′ west longitude. It is at its greatest length, from southwest to northeast, thirteen miles long, about six miles wide at points of greatest width, and has something over forty miles of coast, about one-half of which is occupied by the seals. It is evidently of volcanic origin, one or two extinct craters making the highest ridges, which rise to a hight of 600 or 800 feet in the interior, the grounds upon which the seals land being a volcanic tufa, thickly strewn with blocks of lava. There are no harbors in the island where ships can lie in safety during a storm, except it be at the village, where the anchorage, about a mile off shore, is comparatively safe, except when there is a strong blow from the south. The same disadvantages exist at the other islands of the group even to a great extent.

The Village of St. Paul lies on the south slope of a hill which drops from an elevation of 100 feet or more gradually down to the beach, along which there is a single terraced street running east and west, upon which the houses are placed, all facing to the north, the upper row fronting upon the rear of the one below. There are between eighty and a hundred native houses, all one-story frame buildings, set sufficiently far apart from each other to insure safety from fire, all presenting a neat, tidy exterior, and so far as my observation extended, all well and cleanly kept on the inside. These houses were built by the company for the use of its native employes, by whom they are occupied without other consideration than that they shall be kept clean. In addition to these there are ten or twelve company buildings, large and small, including the agent's residence, company store, salting house, workshop, etc. Then there is the Greco-Russian church, a very neat structure, with well kept grounds; the priest's residence, the office and residence of the treasury agent, and last but not least, the best appointed school house in the territory, with the single exception of the new one erected here at Sitka last year. The village, as a whole, is a very pretty one, and could not have presented a cleaner or more orderly appearance had a special cleaning up with a view to the reception of distinguished company taken place only the day before. The streets are hard and dry, having been covered with a thick layer of volcanic cinders. No offal or offensive refuse of any kind is allowed around the houses, and the sanitary regulations and conditions are better than those usually enforced in regularly incorporated and well governed eastern villages. I did not have an opportunity to visit the village of St. George, but am told that the same order of things exists there, though it does not contain nearly so many inhabitants.

The inhabitants of these islands whom I have referred to as natives are Aleuts. When first discovered by the Russians in 1786 they were uninhabited; for the purpose of killing the seals and curing the skins Aleuts were imported and settled at several points both on St. George and St. Paul, of whom some of those still residents of the islands are the descendants. By far the larger number, however, have been taken there by the Alaska Commercial Company since it obtained a lease of the islands, a few being carried up every spring from Ounalaska and returned home again when the killing season is ended. What I have written concerning the natives of Ounalaska would apply equally as well to their brethren in the Seal Islands. They are practically a civilized people, not in the sense of being fully educated, but in that they are converts to the Christian religion and have adopted civilized ways in the matter of dress and mode of living. I found quite a number among them who could speak the English language quite fluently, while a few can both read and write in the Russian. They are devout members of the Greco-Russian Church, and I found all of them with whom I came in contact very polite and civil. They quite generally, however, seemed to wear in their countenance a subdued expression bordering on dejection, which I could only credit to a timidity of character, perhaps wholly natural to them. For certainly, aside from the fact that they are not permitted to do as they please with property which is their own, or with their wages after they have earned them, they have no cause whatever to complain of their treatment. They are paid forty cents apiece for killing and skinning 85,000 seals on St. Paul Island and 15,000 on St. George. The money thus earned is divided among the employes on a sort of community plan, in proportion to their skill and ability—that is, in shares of the first, second, third and fourth class. As for instance, of the $34,000 earned by killing and skinning 85,000 seals, the first class men receive say $500, the second class $450, and the others still less. The amounts, after they have agreed upon what the division shall be, are placed to the credit of the respective persons on the books of the company and can be drawn in cash when wanted, except that the company insists upon retaining a sufficient amount to insure each individual $6 per week during the long interval which elapses between one killing season and the next. Some of the more provident ones have considerable amounts standing to their credit with the company, upon which they are paid 4 per cent interest, and by the means just stated the improvident ones are compelled to

SEAL ON KILLING GROUND.

save enough to support themselves and families. While it may be questioned if these people have not a right to make any legal use they please of their money after having earned it, I doubt very much if any one will be inclined to criticise the company's policy in the last mentioned regard; otherwise not a few of its employes would, through their own improvidence, make themselves burdens either upon the company or their friends and relatives during the larger part of each year. But there is another point in their treatment which I do not think can be defended on any grounds whatever. Under the law and regulations of the Treasury Department these people are allowed to kill as many young and pup seals as they may require for food. The number so killed on St. Paul last year was 2,709 large young seals and 2,824 pups. The skins of the large young seals that are not "stagey" or otherwise damaged are taken by the company and included in their quota of 85,000; the pup skins are, of course, the property of the natives, for which the company pays, when they are tanned, forty cents apiece. A part of them, however, the natives make up into coats, blankets, rugs, etc., which are much sought after by government officers who visit the island; but I was told none were permitted to be sold except through the company's office and at a fixed price. One of the officers of our ship was desirous of purchasing half a dozen untanned pup skins from a native who could speak good English, but the native would not sell until he had first sought and obtained permission from the government agent, and I learned from other sources that the people were not allowed to sell anything to anybody without first having obtained such permission. It would seem as if, in view of the fact that none but government vessels and officials, aside from those of the company, are allowed to call at or land on the island, the natives might be permitted to sell that which it is conceded belongs to them without let or hindrance from any one. As it is, however, they do not complain at the restriction, but are as docile and contented as the sleek, fat black slaves, whose masters were humane and kind, used to be on the southern plantations. They appear to entertain a sincere affection for Dr. McIntyre, who struck me as a man of humane and kindly disposition, and had no complaints to make concerning their treatment by the government agents. I should have said that the company keeps a dispensary on the island, which is in charge of a skillful physician, and that the natives are furnished medicines and medical attendance free of charge. The company's contract with the government requires that a school shall be taught on each of the islands of St. Paul and St. George at least eight months in each year. The one at St. Paul was not in session while I was there, but I saw a number of the children who could speak English, and was informed by the teacher that fair progress was being made. So far as I was able to see, the company was complying faithfully with all the terms and conditions of its contract with the government, and with the single restriction I have mentioned on their freedom of action, there is nothing of which the natives can justly complain.

But many of your readers are, I am sure, impatient to hear something about the character and habits of the fur seal, as well as the manner of taking them. As stated, the rookeries were only partially occupied at the time of our arrival at St. Paul, though the next morning I could see that the number of animals on those nearest the village had been largely augmented by new arrivals during the night. The only plan of arriving approximately at the number of seals which annually visit the rookeries on the two islands of St. Paul and St. George is to measure the length of sea margin, together with the depth (distance from the shore), occupied by them, and then estimate one seal for every two square feet of ground. If, for instance, a rookery occupies a sea margin 2,000 feet in length and 200 feet deep the number of square feet would be 400,000, and the number of seals occupying

KILLING SEAL.

it 200,000. From what I saw I should say the estimate would be a fair one if made when the rookeries were full. Figuring upon this basis, the number of seals on the herding grounds of the two islands in July of last year were approximated at 5,148,000 on St. Paul and 1,209,000 on St. George. Though the rookeries were only partially filled at the time I was there, but a comparatively small number of cows having arrived, I do not think it would be any exaggeration to estimate the number already there at many hundreds of thousands. There are ten rookeries on St. Paul, two of which are close by the village, the largest being on the northeast point, at the other extremity of the island. My limited time permitted me to visit only four of these, and from what I there saw I drew the conclusion that hundreds of thousands of seals must already have arrived and hauled out upon the breeding grounds. I saw hundreds of large bulls and here and there a herd of cows, with an occasional pup, while the water in front of the rookeries was alive with young male seals, or, as they are styled, bachelors.

The seals begin to arrive at the island about May 1, a few bulls constituting the advance. These do not land at first, but swim idly about for some days, as if inspecting the land which they desire to preempt, or possibly waiting for the arrival of reinforcements. From the date of the first arrival, if the weather be clear, until the 1st of June, the number is not materially increased; but if the summer fogs set in earlier, then the bull seals begin to come by the thousand, and lose no time in selecting and locating upon suitable grounds, which they guard and hold against all new comers till the cows arrive, from two to three weeks later. Those that come first locate immediately on the water line of the breeding ground and between themselves and the new comers there is a constant fight for possession; those that come latest, being the freshest and strongest, generally driving those that preceded them further back. This continues till the cows arrive, every bull having in the meantime been obliged to fight a dozen or more battles in order to maintain the ground he has chosen, the weaker ones having been driven from place to place until all are located. These seal claims or pre-emptions may be said to cover a space from six to eight feet square, and the preemptor, unless driven off by a covetous bull stronger than himself, never leaves his claim for a single instant until the end of the rut-

make for themselves a villainous kind of beer]

ting season, which occurs from the 1st to the 15th of August. From the time he hauls out in May, and certainly not later than June 1, he fasts continually until the breaking up of his harem in August; weighing from 400 to 600 pounds when he comes out of the water, he goes back into it a mere skeleton, and very seldom returns to land during the same season. The cows begin to come in numbers about the 20th of June, and before the middle of July the harems are filled, each bull taking to himself all the way from ten to forty cows. The female seals give birth to their young soon after their arrival, bearing a single pup each. By the middle of September the rookeries are entirely broken up, the young seals have learned to swim, and by the end of November they have, as a rule, all departed from the island. Whence they come and where they go is a mooted question.

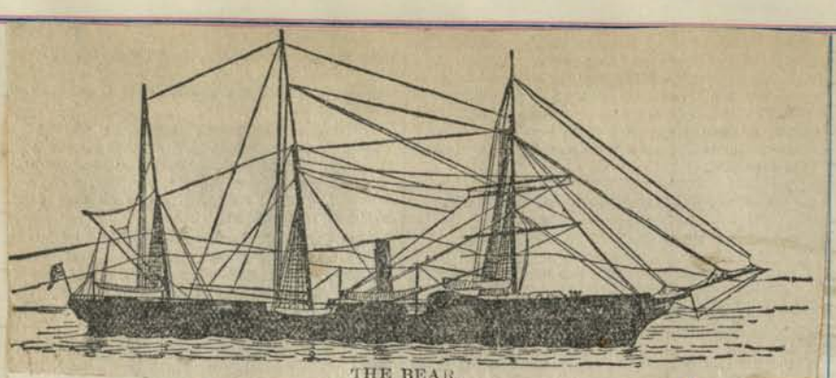
I might, at the risk of making this letter tedious, dwell more at length on this, to me, interesting subject, but will content myself with a brief description of the way in which 100,000 seals are taken during the short space of two months in each year. The killing of female seals is prohibited by law, and of the males those of the age of two to four years are considered the most desirable, the three and four years old ones having the thickest and finest fur. The male seals who take and hold possession of the rookeries are never less than six years of age, the younger ones being wholly excluded from the breeding grounds. As a consequence the young male seals are compelled to haul out in places wholly separate and apart, sometimes miles away from the rookeries. It is these seals that are doomed to slaughter; those on the breeding grounds are never disturbed. During May and June large herds of the young "bachelor" seals haul up on land, not very far from the water's edge, when a number of natives quickly and quietly run along between the surf and the sleeping seals, who, being startled and seeing their retreat to the water cut off, turn and scramble as rapidly as they can further back on the land. The Aleuts then walk leisurely on the flanks and in the rear of the drove thus secured and drive it possibly a mile or more to the killing grounds. If the weather is cool they can be driven at the rate of half a mile an hour, only three or four men being required to direct and control the movements of as many thousand. These drives are always made early in the morning, and if the drive is a long one the seals are frequently permitted to halt and rest; heating them injures the fur. The killing grounds are located near the salting houses, which have been built at points most convenient for handling and shipping the skins, and all the killing is done upon them so as not to disturb the other seals, as well as to save labor. The driving is the first operation, the seals suitable for killing being, in the manner already stated, readily collected into droves by getting between them and the water, when they are driven as easily though not quite so rapidly as a flock of sheep. The next morning after my arrival I had the pleasure, if such it can be called, of witnessing a small drive and a subsequent killing and skinning of nearly a thousand of these animals, the two last operations being accomplished within the short space of two hours. When on a drive the seals move in a clumsy gallop, raising their bellies entirely from the ground upon their flippers or legs, and strange as it may seem, they can get over the ground with a celerity almost equalling that of a greyhound. Great care is taken, however, not to hurry them, for if driven too fast they are apt to crowd and bite each other, thus injuring the skins, if indeed they are not overheated, which is equally as bad. After reaching the killing grounds they are allowed to rest a sufficient length of time to cool off, after which the killing commences. The seals in the drives vary in number according as there may happen to be few or many upon the hauling ground from which they are driven—there may be 500 or there may be as many thousands. In every drive there are invariably some seals that are either so large or so small that their skins are not desirable, and all these are singled out and permitted to escape back to the water. The drive having arrived at the killing grounds and the herd having had time to cool off sufficiently, the killing and skinning gang at once begin the work of slaughter. A number of men, each armed with a stout hickory club five or six feet long, and, perhaps, three inches thick at the heaviest or outer end, and half that where held by the hand, step into the herd and drive out from it from fifty to 150 seals at a time, as may be most convenient, and, driving them apart from the main body, form what they call a "pod." Circling around this pod they narrow it down into a huddle, until the seals are within reach of their clubs. Their practiced eyes tell them at a glance which of the seals, if any, have been bitten, or which is too old and which too young, and in less time than it takes to write it every desirable seal receives a blow which stuns if it does not kill him outright. It sometimes requires more than one blow to effect the desired purpose, and occasionally an ineligible seal receives a glancing blow which sends him galloping around the pod in either a frantic effort to escape, or with a desire to get at his assailant. All the desirable seals having thus been clubbed to death or to insensibility, those that have been spared are urged away, if they do not immediately go of their own accord and, as a matter of course, make their way back to the water at the nearest point. Almost before the clubs have ceased to fall on the heads of the seals in the first pod, another gang of men begin to drag the insensible bodies out from where they are lying one on top of the other, and, placing them on their backs so that they do not touch each other, another follows with a knife, which he drives into the heart of the animal; this spreading out and "sticking" of the seals without delay is done not only to prevent a "heating," which causes the hair and fur to peel off, thus rendering the skins worthless, but to insure the men against being bitten by seals that have only been half killed, and which, being given time, are apt to rouse up and snap viciously at the hands or legs of the person who attempts to take hold and turn him over. The men are frequently bitten in this way, but, I am told, never with any serious result. Close after the bleeding comes the skinning, and the celerity with which a practiced Aleut disrobes a seal is really marvelous. Standing with my watch in hand I timed several of them, and in no instance did the time consumed exceed three minutes, while one expert took off and threw aside a pelt in less than half that time. At the killing witnessed by me 764 skins were thus secure in two hours, while at the northeast point killing grounds 1,400 seals were killed the same day, and I was told it wasn't much of a day for seals either. Nevertheless, at rate, the whole number of skins allowed to be taken in any one year on St. Paul Island would be secured within a period of forty days, though I was told that as high as 6,000 have been taken in a single day.

A drive having thus been disposed of, the skins are taken to the salting house, which is partitioned off into large bins called kenches, into which they are placed fur side down, with a layer of salt between, and where they become sufficiently cured in a week's time. They are then taken from the kenches and piled up into what are called "books," with the addition of more salt, and then finally prepared for shipment by rolling and tying them up into compact bundles, each bundle containing two skins. At the close of the season they are shipped to San Francisco, and thence to London, where they are dressed, plucked and dyed, and the larger part returned to this country, a skin, the actual cost of which at the islands cannot exceed $4, having been increased to a market value of not less than $50. These are to be seen in the beautiful garments worn by your wealthy and fashionable ladies, the policy of the government in giving to a wealthy corporation an absolute monopoly of the fur seal business having placed the price of such luxurious outer clothing beyond the reach of ordinarily well-to-do people.

*(To be Continued.)*

VII.

There are many points I would like to write about in connection with these islands, but to go into full details would be to stretch this narrative out into almost interminable length, and consequently I forbear, for this time at least. Suffice it to say that the permanent population of St. Paul, exclusive of the few whites in the employ of the company, is only 219 men, women and children, and that of St. George only 112. These 331 people, of whom it is safe to say less than one-third are adults, earn each year in not more than two months' actual work, the neat sum of $40,000, which is divided among them in the manner stated. It is true some forty or fifty Aleuts are imported each year from Ounalaska to assist in handling, salting and packing the skins, but these are paid by the month and receive part of the forty cents per capita paid to the sealers. What the exact profits of the company are, no one outside its list of shareholders may be permitted to know; nor can any outsider venture a guess, other than he may base it upon the fact that everyone connected with it has amassed a large fortune as his or her share of the net earnings. It is, perhaps, judging by the price of seal fur garments,



THE BEAR.

safe to estimate the company's annual profit at not less than $1,000,000, so that the action of Congress in authorizing the lease of the islands insures to the natives who do about all the work, $40,000, $317,500 to the government, while it gives to an overshadowing, grasping monopoly, which is inimical to the best interests of this great territory, a cool million. There is but one consolation in it, look at the picture as you may; the profits come exclusively out of the pockets of the rich. Enabled by the exclusive privilege granted by the government to absolutely control the market, the company has wisely and generously run the prices up to a point far beyond the reach of "the common herd."

There is no business other than sealing transacted on these islands; no commerce, no trade, except that carried on by the company, and which extends only to supplying the few residents with goods and supplies, at much more reasonable prices than have obtained as yet anywhere else in Alaska. The natives draw cash for their labor, and pay cash for what they buy at the store, the only restriction being that already mentioned of compelling each and every one to leave with the company a sufficient amount of his earnings to insure subsistence through a long period of idleness. If the sealers do any extra work they are paid for it; they are a great many blue and white foxes on the Island of St. Paul, of which they are permitted to trap not to exceed 500 during the winter, and for the pelts of which the company pays them each sixty and forty cents respectively. There is no gardening on the island, though some parts of it are covered with a heavy vegetation, and there is a soil in which some kinds of vegetables might be grown. I never saw anywhere a greater profusion of wild flowers than on some of the grassy slopes of St. Paul, but there are no trees, not even a shrub, to be seen anywhere. Altogether, I found it the most interesting locality I think I have ever visited, and when the time came to go I was indeed loth to depart without having seen more of it.

And here let me add one word personally to the company's general agent and his management of affairs. I found him to be a most courteous, agreeable gentleman, alive, of course, to the best interests of the company he serves, but respected and loved by the native people. After careful inquiry I found but one man who had a complaint to make, and he was a more than ordinarily intelligent Aleut who spoke fairly good English. The burden of his complaint, in the expression of which he was most earnest and sincere, was that the natives were badly treated in that they "could get nothing to drink," though the climate was such as to render the use of stimulants an absolute necessity to their health. Of course, while secretly sympathizing with the poor fellow, knowing what a hardship an inability to "get something to drink" would be to an average white community, I nevertheless told him that his complaint was one I was sincerely glad to hear him make, and that I just as sincerely hoped he would have cause to keep on making it as long as he lived. But speaking honestly I really think that if there is a people anywhere on the face of the globe who might be benefitted by a moderate and proper use of stimulants, it is those on the seal islands. The few whites have the benefit of "something to drink," and enjoy as a general thing the best of health; if the natives could have it administered at proper times and on proper occasions, as a medicine not as a beverage, I feel certain the effects upon their health would be most beneficial. But it would never do to permit them to act as their own physicians or to prescribe the size and frequency of the dose to be taken; the medicine in that case would be a thousand times more deadly in its effects than the cold damp foggy climate, of which my intelligent Aleat so pathetically complained.

After a stay of two days at St. Paul, we left, in company with the revenue steamer Bear, for Ounalaska, and thence after coaling ship for Nushegak, Belkofsky and Unga. While at St. Paul, I made, of course, the acquaintance of Capt. M. A. Healy, commanding the revenue steamer Bear,' a typical old veteran of the salted seas, whose service in Alaskan waters dates back to the transfer of the territory from Russian to American dominion. He has been in every cove and inlet, gulf and bay on both sides of the North Pacific and of Behring Sea, knows about everybody, whether white man or native, on the coast, and is about as jolly an old "sea-dog" as one may wish to meet. He was for a long time the only representative of the government in these waters, and some of the incidents he relates in connection with his desire and efforts to enforce the law are very laughable. On one occasion he found a number of the natives at Ounalaska drunk, and found that the "reader" of the church was the party who had made and furnished the "quass," whereupon he sent a guard and had him taken on board his ship, where, for the want of more luxurious quarters, he imprisoned him in the cool-hole and kept him there until he begged off and promised to go and get drunk no more. Though generally liked, he is a terror to evil-doers, to whom he has been wont to deal out even-handed justice without formality of trial by judge or jury, and in the absence of anything in the form of civil law has been in fact the governing power in all this part of Alaska. The natives know him by the name of Ek-shek-tah-youk, which is the Finnish or Eskimo for "man with the wobbling eye"—a nervous affection of some kind producing a constant twitching of the lower lid of his right eye. A good story is told of him, which, however, he himself relates at another officer's expense instead of his own. He was away from his ship one night, and coming to the wharf where she lay in the dark walked off into the water. The watch on deck hearing the splash and the exclamation which escaped the captain as he fell sung out, "man overboard," which cry he repeated just as Healy came to the surface. "You lie, you infernal idiot; it's the captain!" roared the latter from below, "and you'd better stop your d——n howling and come and pull him out!" Of course I give the old gentleman the benefit of a doubt as to the personnel of the story and only relate the incident as altogether characteristic of the man, whether it be true or not. I want to say, however, that I became much attached to him and owe him thanks for many pleasant hours, which, but for his presence and jovial disposition, would have been long and tedious in the extreme. His ship, the Bear, was the companion of the Thetis in the Greely relief expedition, and was then commanded by the present commander of the latter, and their meeting together on this side of the continent was like a reunion of two long separated brothers—at least that was the feeling which seemed to animate the officers of both in their intercourse with each other.

A brisk breeze from the north springing up soon after we steamed away from St. Paul, the captain ordered the fires banked, in order to save coal, and we proceeded southward under sail, the Bear following with banked fires also. At dusk the Bear was just discernable to a landsman's eye astern, and the next morning did not appear to have regained any of her lost ground. During the forenoon, however, she gradually closed the gap between herself and the Thetis, and at 4 in the afternoon passed the latter and forged ahead to the windward. Signals challenging the Thetis to a race under sail were run up to the mizzen truck of the Bear, and a prompt acceptance signaled back to her. It was to be a race to a finish between these old Arctic

make for themselves a [illegible]

A BIDARKA.

comrades, and though a determination was expressed on all hands to "beat her if we can," the sentiment was just as general, "we'd rather be beaten, if at all, by her than by any other ship afloat." Then, as rapidly as the orders could be given and obeyed, there was a bending and setting of mainsail, mizzen topmast staysail, main and mizzen top gallant staysails and main royal staysails—the ship being already under top gallant sails, foresail, jib, flying jib, fore and main top mast, staysails and spanker—thus putting on all her canvas, under the propelling power of which she soon took the lead and kept it. It was altogether an exciting event of the cruise and one which was discussed at the expense of more than one bottle of wine after the arrival of both ships at Ounalaska.

On the way down, the first day out from St. Paul, we met and spoke the steam schooner Jennie, bound to Port Clarence with a cargo of coal for the whaling fleet, and from her obtained a file of San Francisco papers, the latest of which was nearly a month old, but containing, nevertheless, much information that was news to us.

We arrived at Ounalaska on the evening of Thursday, the 21st (June), and at once ran alongside the company's wharf, and began to coal ship, which occupied all of Friday, Saturday and Monday, no work being done on Sunday. During this second visit I had an opportunity afforded me of examining what is called the Hague gold mine, about two miles from the village. I found it very little more than a prospect, though the outcropping quartz was such as to give full encouragement to the work of development then in progress. An exploration drift had been driven 120 feet across the formation into the mountain side, but had not at that time reached the ledge, which it was expected to cut at a depth of seventy-five to 100 feet from the outcrop. There is certainly gold in the ledge, as shown by all the assays which have been made, and I should not be surprised to hear at any time that it had developed into something of substantial value.

On Monday evening a ball was given in honor of the officers of the Bear and Thetis, myself included, at which the beauty and chivalry of the little town were present, vieing with each other in efforts to make the occasion altogether pleasant and agreeable to their guests. When I speak of the beauty of the little town I do not use the term ironically, for there were certainly a number of rather handsome ladies present, all well dressed and most of them as graceful in the dizzy mazes of the dance as an oleander tree in a breeze. I have been in many a ball room in the east where the ladies were less pretty and attractive, but certainly in none where the gentlemen were more earnest and indefatigable in their attentions to the stranger guest.

By 3 o'clock the next morning (26th) we were well under way for Belkofsky and Nuga, but a thick fog springing up before reaching Ounimak Pass, the captain concluded to steer direct for the mouth of Nushegak River, in the hope that on his return he might find better weather in which to navigate his ship through the intricate and practically unsurveyed passages between the mainland and islands which lie to the eastward of the Aliaska peninsula. Shortly after changing the ship's course we ran entirely out of the fog, and from thence on to the anchorage off Cape Constantine we saw only a clear sky. For miles and miles of the way the sea was black with myriads of water fowl, which the sailors called "whale birds," the flapping of whose wings as they rose from the water on the ship's approach made a noise which more nearly resembled the loud rumbling of distant thunder than anything else I can liken it to. At the same time a great many whales were seen spouting on both sides of the ship, with here and there a fur seal, who, coming to the surface, would gaze in mute wonder at the ship for a few seconds, and then with a graceful curve go down, only to appear again further along a few moments later. These seals either followed the ship for a long distance or there was a picket line of them miles in length along which we ran during the most of the day. Nothing further worthy of note occurred till the ship was brought to anchor at the mouth of the Nushegak River, where she arrived at 10 p. m. of Thursday, June 28. By a glance at the map of Alaska it will be seen that Bristtol Bay is a not very deep triangular indenation of the coast lying immediately west of the Aliaska Peninsula, and that the mouth of the Nushegak, which empties into it, lies between Cape Constantine and Etolin Point. The river at its mouth, and for forty to fifty miles above, is at least twenty miles wide, after that narrowing down first to ten, then to six at the settlement known by the same name, but marked Fort Alexander on all the maps and charts. It was this latter point, where some large canneries are located, that I wished to visit, and accordingly the next morning early I left the ship in her best steam launch, the latter towing a whale-boat laden with provisions and an extra supply of coal, expecting to be absent not more than thirty-six hours at the most. I was accompanied by three of the ship's junior officers and my interpreter, and with the exception of an occasional bump on the bottom all went smoothly on the upward trip. The river, though wide, is full of sand bars and very difficult to navigate unless one is acquainted with its intricate channel, which is to be found first along one bank and then hugging the other. None of the officers had ever been there before, and in view of the fact that the river has never been surveyed and charted, it is something of a mystery how we ever got through without a pilot, even though our little craft did draw but three feet of water. However, we got there all the same; but I want to say right here that I have no ambition to experience over again the the rather doleful fun we had in getting back. But of that hereafter.

We arrived at Nushegak about 4 in the afternoon, having made a stop at the first cannery we came to, and which is located some twelve miles below Nushegak. We remained at Nushegak all night, cooking our own suppers on the beach, the officers finding sleeping apartments at the house of the trader, and myself and interpreter becoming guests of the Russian priest. As the good old gentleman, who is a widower, lives all alone and did the best he could for us, I will not cast a reflection upon his hospitality by attempting to describe the night long fight I had with the mosquitos on a bed only about two-thirds my length, sans sheets and indeed everything else save a tick filled with straw and a pillow nearly half as large as the bed itself. However, I finally succeeded in swearing myself to sleep, and rested fairly well, though it took me all the next day to get the kinks out of my legs and straighten myself out generally.

Nushegak, or Fort Alexander, is a station of the Alaska Commercial Company and the headquarters of the Kuskokwin district of the Greco-Russian Church, and was during the Russian regime a fortified post of considerable importance. It was the point at which all the furs obtained from all that large part of the territory lying between the sea coast on the south and west, Cook's Inlet on the east and the Yukon River on the north, were collected, and to which the mails were brought overland during the winter from St. Michael's, and thence sent to Sitka by sea. From here regular winter communication was kept open with most of the interior native settlements, and it was the center of trade for a large area of country, which yielded an abundance of the most valuable furs, such as the sea otter, black, blue and silver gray foxes, etc. Though the natives still go out to hunt the sea otter, and the foxes, bear, beaver, etc., are no less plentiful, the establishment of trading stations in close proximity to many of the native settlements, from whence came the bulk of its trade, has robbed Nushegak of a large share of its importance as a trade center, but another industry not thought of by the Russians, or if thought of never undertaken by them, is now likely to more than counterbalance its loss of the

fur trade—in fact, has already done so. I allude to its fisheries. There is no longer any fort, nor is there need of any; the warlike spirit of the natives was long ago completely crushed; they were offered the cross, with the sword as an alternative, and after a fierce struggle in which the devil was, if not completely knocked out, at least partially stifled within them, they accepted the first and became nominally good Christians, though it is plain they have never been prevailed upon to adopt the one virtue which ranks next to godliness.

The settlement at present consists of the trader's store, the church and parsonage, a few fairly neat log buildings occupied by as many creole families, and from thirty to fifty subterranean houses very similar in construction to the barrabaras I have already described. There are a number of these native settlements scattered along the banks of the river, only two of which, however, I was able to visit. The natives are of the Finnish family, and a description of their customs, habits and peculiarities will suffice for all the people living along the coast west and north as far as our cruise extended; all are practically the same people, and there is little difference noticeable either in their dress or peculiar customs or mode of living—what little there is in either respect will be noted as we proceed from one settlement to another. The Nushegak natives call themselves Nushegagmuts. They are of medium stature, light brown complexion, with black hair and, except as to dress, do not differ to any appreciable extent in personal appearance from their southern neighbors, the Kaniags. Their dress consists principally of a parka made of squirrel or reindeer skin, the fur of which is turned inside during the winter and worn outside in summer, with drawers or trowsers of tanned reindeer skin, having no opening except at the waist, so that they answer the purpose of stockings as well, and boots made of the skin of the hair seal or reindeer. Their boats are the kayaks or bidarkas already described. The men hunt the sea-otter, in search of which they must venture a long way from home in these frail boats and take some seals during the summer, but the walrus, upon which they once relied for a large part of their food supply and which were valuable for their skins and ivory, are becoming scarce, though Bristol Bay was not long ago a favorite resort of that animal. They are, moreover, skillful carvers in ivory, out of which they make many useful and ornamental articles, such as paper knives, salad forks, salt spoons, watch chains, etc., some of which are very pretty and hardly to be excelled either in style or finish. They are, however, exceedingly dirty and filthy in their houses, persons and habits, so much so that a person whose olfactory nerves are the least bit sensitive is inclined to make his visit among them as brief as possible. Walking around among their subterranean abodes I noticed here and there small excavations in the ground about the size and depth of ordinary post holes, from which emanated a stench which would drive a civilized dog to seek refuge in a tannery—the scent of the ripest limburger would be as the attar of roses compared to it. Reveling in these holes were seething, wriggling masses of maggots. On inquiry I was informed that they were holes in which the natives buried and rotted their fish from time to time in order to save the trouble of cooking them. Thus prepared they are considered a great delicacy, and if tenderness is a desideratum in that regard, I should think they would be. This is but one of their filthy habits. It will not nauseate your readers by detailing others, the unpleasant recollection of which lingers with me still.

[*To be Continued.*]

## VIII.

In every Eskimo village there is a common or public house known as the Kashima, constructed after the style of the subterranean dwellings, but of much larger dimensions. To enter these you first climb down into a hole in the ground five or six feet, then crawl ten or fifteen feet through a low tunnel to where you ascend to a level with the roof of the tunnel and find yourself in a large room—the one I visited being at least twenty feet square. A raised platform extends all the way round the four sides, leaving room in the center for the fire-place, which is simply a bare square spot of earth some three feet below the surrounding platform, upon which an open fire can be built. The platform is on a level with the top of the entrance tunnel, the end of which last can be opened at will so as to permit persons to pass under the platform to the fire-place. When the fire-place is not needed it is covered over with planks even with the platform so that there is no break in the floor. In this house the men do all their domestic work, such as the construction of bidarkas, the manufacture of sleds, etc., and in it all public meetings or councils are held, and all public business transacted. It is also open at all times as a shelter for guests or visitors, who are there entertained instead of being taken to this or that private dwelling. It is the sleeping place for unmarried adult males, and is likewise used as a bath house, though I am frank to say that the personal appearance of the natives I met at Nushegak was not such as would warrant even a suspicion of their having ever indulged in a cleansing process of that kind. The Kashima also answers the purpose of a theater, for mask dances, and representations; and in the matter of scenic representations these natives, if not up to the mark of a later civilization, are at least not a whit behind the Chinese. I was told by a gentleman who has lived among them for years that both males and females take part in scenic performances, in which there are combats between men who shed whole bladderfuls of seal blood for effect, where stuffed animals are moved about by hidden strings, devil's masks with movable eyes introduced, and wooden birds made to flap their wings. In these representations the actors enter through the fire hole like those who bob up through a trap-door in the stage of one of our theaters.

The storehouses, of which there are perhaps as many as there are dwellings in each village, are set upon posts ten to twelve feet high, in order to protect their contents against the dogs—and I have yet to see an Eskimo dog that wasn't ready to devour anything he could get hold of, especially if the thing was rotten and smelt bad. The store houses are perhaps eight or ten feet square, and look more like so many pig-styes on stilts than anything else I can think of. The only door is a small square hole on one side, which is reached by means of a notched stick or wood set on end and which serves as a ladder. In these they keep their arrows, spears, snow-shoes, meat, berries, rotten fish, salmon heads, fish roe, beluga blubber, oil, etc. I secured from one of these storehouses at Nushegak a few spears and arrows, and notwithstanding the most persistent efforts at deodorization the scent of rotten salmon heads is still upon them, and will probably remain until there is nothing left to which it can cling.

There is no recognized chieftainship or form of government among these people—and they cannot properly be called a tribe, in the common acceptation of the word. This is true of all the so-called tribes in Alaska; none of them have any distinct tribal organization, other than that in each settlement one man, by reason of his wealth or superior skill and bravery, is recognized as a sort of leader, and as such his advice and counsel, if not sought, is more or less respected. In none of these settlements, however, have I found a so-called "chief" who has been invested with any authority by his people, or one whose will is recognized as law, though in some of them I have found the chief assuming and exercising arbitrary power and the people yielding a very reluctant obedience. In the latter cases, however, the people were simply living in a condition of terrorism, and in every instance have begged most earnestly for the relief it has not, so far, been in my power to afford them. As a general thing the shamaus ("medicine men," who pretend to cure by incantation) have more influence with and exercise more power over these people than the self-constituted chiefs. They are the directors at all the festivals, dances, etc., in which old and young participate almost continuously during the winter months, and by their sorcerous pretensions acquire an influence over their fellows equivalent to absolute power. Persons accused by them of witchcraft are not infrequently tied hand and foot and thrown into some out of the way place and left to starve: so it may be said that their power is one of life and death, to be exercised at will against any and all who incur their displeasure. On the other hand, no such power in the chief is recognized; when their one great law of "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth" demands that a life shall be taken the judgment is pronounced not by the chief, but by the popular voice, and each and every adult male becomes a self-appointed executioner.

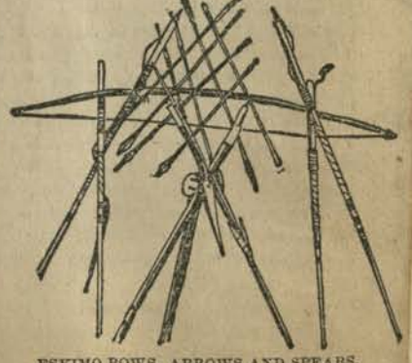
The country bordering on both sides of the Nushegak River presents the appearance of a high rolling prairie covered with a rich verdure, and my casual observation justifies the assertion that it is not, as has been claimed, a frozen morass, wholly worthless. I never saw anywhere a more luxuriant vegetation nor a greater variety of wild flowers than I saw growing along the banks of this noble stream—wild timothy, red top and blue joint grasses as high as my waist, as far back as I went, with every appearance of the same

TYPES OF THE ESKIMO RACE.

luxuriance as far as the eye could reach. The ground is mostly covered with a deep layer of moss, but in places with a vegetable mold, beneath which there is a good soil, as I could readily see on examination of a small plot of ground, from which the mold was being removed and dried for fuel. In dry weather this moss and mold could very easily be burned off. Vegetables are successfully grown, and the climate is not inimical to the growth of at least rye, oats and barley. From the river the ground rises abruptly to an elevation of from twenty to fifty feet, and thence grows gradually higher, until far away in the distance it becomes merged in the foot-hills of a lofty mountain range. No western prairie before cultivation ever presented a more inviting aspect to my vision than did this wide stretch of treeless country as I walked for three miles along the river bank and cast my gaze upon its almost boundless billows o waving grass, thickly interspersed with wild flowers of every hue and variety. To me the idea that a soil and climate capable of producing such a wealth of vegetation cannot be successfully cultivated is supremely ridiculous—and yet that is the idea that has thus far been studiously instilled into the public mind. I have spoken of the country as being treeless; this is true with the exception that here and there are to be seen small groves of a tree, once much prized in the eastern states, and which was there called balm of Gilead—but I am not sure that is the proper name. With this exception there is no timber on either side of the river for a distance of a hundred miles from its mouth; above that, I was told, there are heavy forests of spruce-pine and a small growth of white birch, a statement I was led to believe from seeing several rafts of firewood arrive while I was at Nushegak. The formation, as exposed along the high banks of the river, indicates the existence of a vast coal field, the conditions being precisely the same as those observable on Cook's Inlet. The vegetable mold, perhaps more properly called peat, when cut out and dried in the sun, makes a very good substitute for wood; but I shall miss my guess if ere long a better fuel than either is not found in abundance all along the banks of this great river.

The next morning after our arrival at Nushegak we again boarded our steam launch and ran up the river to a settlement, the native name of which I do not remember, but which the missionary located there calls Carmel. At this point is located the pioneer salmon cannery of this section, and here also I found Rev. Frank E. Wolff and his estimable wife, Moravian missionaries and teachers. They have erected for themselves, with funds furnished, presumably, by the church organization under whose auspices they went to that remote section, a comfortable home, and in connection with it a school room in which are taught all the native children of both sexes whose attendance can be secured. I found them most excellent people, earnest and enthusiastic in the work they have undertaken, but unable to accomplish nearly as much as they desire, for the reason that native parents have no appreciation of the fact that a regular attendance at school is a prerequisite to the education of their children. They were also having the same religious prejudice to contend with which I found existing elsewhere—the people being fearful that an effort would be made to proselyte the children from the church of which the parents are devout members. They had, however, taken a number of native children to their own home, and these were making excellent progress in their primary studies. The condition of this school convinced me that the only way to effectively reach and educate native children in such remote sections is through the establishment of industrial training schools, in which the pupils may find a home and be wholly removed from the influence of their parents. At the head of such an establishment these earnest Christian people could accomplish an incalculable amount of good. Under present conditions progress toward the end desired will be necessarily slow, tedious and wearisome. I throw out this last remark in the hope that it may possibly reach the eye of the Moravian authorities and prompt them to the adoption of such measures as will enable these zealous representatives of that church to more effectually prosecute the good work in which they are enlisted.

While at Carmel I visited the Arctic Packing Company's cannery and also made a formal call at the Kashima, in which I found several natives at work making skin boats, tieing nets, etc. The cannery was in full operation, turning out about 1,000 cases of four dozen one-pound cans each per day, and the manner in which the fish were handled after they were brought to the works was altogether interesting to one who was not wholly conversant with the modus operandi. The salmon are first brought in boats alongside the cleaning house, which stands on piles over the water at low tide, so that the offal can be conveniently disposed of; from the boats the fresh salmon are thrown into the cleaning house by the use of ordinary pitchforks, and after being drawn and having the heads cut off, by which process they lose about one-third their original weight, they are by the same means thrown into tram-cars and run into the cannery. There, the pitchfork still being used, they are thrown into cutting machines, from which they pass into the canning machines, when, the cans being filled and capped, they are rolled along by means of a flat chain cable to the soldering vat, the ends upon which the caps have been placed taking up just enough of the solder to make as



ESKIMO BOWS, ARROWS AND SPEARS.

neat a job as could be done by hand. Without stopping, they are carried along by the same cable to the cooking pans, where they are placed in water, soldered end up, and cooked by steam, any cans which are not air

ESKIMO DOGS AND SLED.

tight being readily discovered and the leaks soldered up by hand. In other words, the fresh salmon go into one end of the cannery and come out a finished product at the other, the larger part of the work being done by machinery.

There are four of these canneries on the Nushegak, and at the time of my visit four large ships, which had brought up the season's supply of cans and packing cases, were lying at anchor waiting to take the output down to San Francisco. These, together with four steam tugs and forty to fifty small sloops plying between the canneries and the fishing grounds imparted an air of business activity to the locality I have not seen elsewhere in Alaska. These four canneries—one of them had but just gone into operation, and having unfortunately brought up a force of incompetent workmen, did not achieve as large an output as was expected—turned out during the season, 98,000 cases of forty-eight pounds each, and at the same time sent away about 2,000 barrels of salted salmon—4,964,000 pounds in all, and worth in the market not less than $600,000. The fish taken here are the large king salmon, which are the first to appear, the smaller red salmon which follow after, and the silver variety which are the last to put in an appearance, the whole season during which they can be taken being from thirty to forty days. The four canneries give employment to about 150 white men who do the fishing, and 300 Chinamen who do the cleaning and canning. Most of these are transients, but it is expected that many of them will hereafter remain during the winter and become permanent residents.

The smaller rivers and lakes of this section teem with food fishes of various kinds, principal among which is a white-fish similar to that of Lake Superior. Trout similar in size and appearance and fully as fine-flavored as your own speckled beauties, are quite plentiful; indeed, there is scarcely any limit to the food supply which can be drawn from this particular section of Alaska—and what is true here, I may say applies with equal force to all that part of the mainland bordering on the coast, and the islands lying in front of it, from the southern boundary to Kotzebue Sound. Making our stay at Carmel all too short, we started about 10 o'clock the same morning (June 30) to return to the ship; but when about half way down, the "boiler bust a flue" and we were obliged to run back with only forty pounds of steam, which was not sufficient to breast the incoming tide, and made our second landing at Nushegak about 4 in the evening. Taking an early supper with the trader, accompanied by one of the officers, I walked up to Carmel and made a second call upon Mr. and Mrs. Wolff, with whom I enjoyed a very pleasant visit, and from whom I gleaned much valuable information concerning the country and its people, not a little of which is embodied in the foregoing pages. One can but admire the heroism and self-devotion of this young couple—and I presume there are thousands of others like them—who, blessed with health and talents which would enable them to make their way in any part of the world and surround themselves with all the comforts attendant upon the highest civilization, abandon the pleasures of society and go forth into strange lands and there labor earnestly and zealously to educate and Christianize an ignorant, if not savage and barbarous, people. Only a high sense of duty could ever have impelled this amiable young couple, with their two lovely and interesting children, to forsake the world for the hardships and privations of missionary life in a section remote even in its relation to the more settled portions of Alaska.

After another wrestle with the short bed kindly tendered me a second time by the good priest, and another and fiercer encounter with the musquitoes, which were more numerous and ravenous than before, repairs to the boiler having been made, we started again for the ship at 9 o'clock the next morning. But we were destined to an experience not at all pleasurable, nor indeed wholly devoid of danger. The officer in charge, in attempting to follow a channel which had been vaguely outlined to him by the manager of one of the canneries, when about half way out found himself and the craft under his command in shallow water with a falling tide, and finally the launch grounded in less than three feet of water, though the nearest land was at least ten miles distant. Soundings made from the whale boat showed deep water not more than ten yards distant, but all efforts to get the launch afloat proved unavailing, and there was nothing to do but wait until the returning tide should bring us the desired relief. And there we waited "like patience," etc., until the receding tide left us in only about a foot of water, while off in one direction, where an hour before was a broad expanse of water, nothing but dry land could be seen. Wading ashore, as it were, in our rubber boots, we took a walk on land which shortly would again be ten feet under water, and returning one of the officers who had a camera with him secured a photograph of the scene, which he very aptly designated as "Camp Hard Aground." Imagine yourself left high and dry midway between Marquette and Whitefish Point and the water receding so that you might walk in either direction within hailing distance of a shore "so near and yet so far," and you will have a faithful picture of our position for four mortal hours in the Nushegak River on that 1st day of July in the presidential year of 1888. If the tide which went out had forgotten to return again, or send a substitute, we might have been there yet, and indeed never have heard who had been nominated for President. But it did return, and we did get off in time to make the ship at 8 o'clock in the evening, notwithstanding the fact that a fight between wind and tide—one blowing in one direction and the other rolling directly the opposite—raised a sea which threatened almost constantly to swallow up our gallant little steamer. Many times and oft the waves dashed over the side of the launch, raising clouds of steam when the water came in contact with the exposed boiler, but she rode the sea bravely; had she not done so the infliction of this correspondence might have been spared to your readers. Whether it be they or myself who should return thanks, I leave to their wise discrimination.

[*To be continued.*]

IX.

By 10 o'clock on the evening of July 1, the day on which our steam launch was landed high and dry in the Mushegak River, we were steaming away to the southward towards Ounimak Pass, which lies between the island of that name and Aleutian, our objective points being Belkofsky and Unga. The next day was rather cold, with heavy mist and a choppy sea, but by noon on Tuesday, the 3d, the weather cleared and we found ourselves in plain sight of the Aliaska Peninsula, including the Pablogg volcano, from the crater of which a dense volume of black smoke was pouring out and ascending heavenward. During the afternoon we passed close by Amok Island, and on the

glorious Fourth, with alternate changes of weather from clear to hazy, and vice versa, we skirted along the west coast of Oumnak, catching an occasional glance of Mount Shishaldin, a volcano more or less active which rises to an elevation of 10,000 feet above the level of the sea, and from which we could see smoke issuing in two separate and distinct volumes. During the afternoon we turned the southern point of Ounimak Island, and again entering the Pacific bore away under steam and sail for Belkofsky, where we arrived early on the morning of the 5th, anchoring ship about a mile and a half off the village. There is no harbor—only an open roadstead—and a landing can be effected only in comparatively quiet weather. Going ashore in the captain's gig soon after casting anchor, I got a pretty good wetting on the way back to the ship, and it was with considerable difficulty that finally I succeeded in transferring myself from the boat to the gangway, and making my way up to the deck with no other accident than the loss of my hat. There was a heavy sea rolling, and it continued to roll all the next day, cutting us off from all communication with the shore, so that notwithstanding we remained at anchor two days in front of the town, I was not afforded all the opportunity I desired, or might otherwise have had, to investigate the condition and wants of the people, to say nothing about a full inquiry concerning the character and resources of the adjacent country. Nevertheless, the five or six hours I spent on shore enabled me to acquire a great deal of information I could not otherwise have obtained, and much of which I can only properly give to the public through another channel.

Belkofsky is located on the ocean side of the Aliaska Peninsula, not over fifty miles from its southwestern extremity, and is a very neat, tidy, little hamlet of perhaps seventy-five frame houses, all painted, mostly white. It is beautifully located on an elevated plateau, back of which at no great distance is a towering range of mountains covered to the very summit with a natural vestment which would delight the soul of the most enthusiastic of Erin's sons. It is an important station of the Alaska Commercial Company, and the residence of a priest of the Gerco-Russian Church, which has erected at this point the finest church edifice, except as to interior embellishments, in Alaska. The population embraces about an equal number of creoles and Aleuts, there not being to exceed twenty white people in the place. The creoles and Aleuts are principally sea otter hunters, Belkofsky being the point from which the largest number of these skins are obtained, notwithstanding the fact that the best hunting grounds lie at a considerable distance from it. I noticed a considerable number of cattle in and about the village, and could see that there was a wide range of most excellent grazing lands, with a growth of wild grasses, the luxuriance of which I never saw excelled on the richest prairie lands of Illinois or Iowa. I was shown, also, some samples of coal said to have been obtained in the neighborhood, but not having a very high opinion of my own judgment in such matters, and not having seen the vein or veins, I do not care to express an opinion either as to its quantity or quality. As to coal, however, I do not hesitate about asserting that there is enough of that commodity in Alaska, the quality being favorably determined, to supply the whole of the United States for centuries to come. Not only are there extensive coal fields bordering on Cook's Inlet, but veins have been opened at several points on the Aliaska Peninsula—at Coal, Pavloff, Moller and Chignik Bays, and on several of the islands, while immense veins are reported to have been found on the Upper Yukon; and I myself have seen scores of seams, one of them thirty-two feet by actual measurement, cropping out on the shores of the Arctic Ocean.

These people of Belkofsky possess no peculiar traits of character distinguishable from those already mentioned as belonging to the creoles and Aleuts of this part of the territory. That they are a docile people is proved by the condition in which they live, and the wrongs they so patiently endure. They are to all intents and purposes serfs of the Alaska Commercial Company—that and nothing more. With a single exception they are all in debt to the company, and are likely to remain so as the indebtedness of the father is handed down to the son, and is an ever-continuing if not increasing one. This indebtedness was originally incurred through the building of cheap houses for the hunters by the company, for which three times their actual cost was charged against them, and it is now held over them as an every day reminder of their obligations to the humane corporation which charges them three prices for the goods they buy, and accepts in payment furs at from one-third to one-half their value. The able-bodied males are all sea-otter hunters, a most dangerous and precarious calling at the best, and for the skins of these animals they are allowed from $40 to $70 each, while the white hunter is paid from $90 to $125 for pelts of precisely the same quality. If it be inquired why this is so, the answer is that there are no trading stations in all that section save those owned and controlled by the company, and the creole and native hunters, besides being in debt, are compelled to sell to their master under threat of being refused goods at the store, even though they offer cash in payment for them. This is their universal declaration, at all events, and is corroborated by the statements of all the white hunters with whom I have conversed on the subject. In its dealings with them the company pays one-half the price allowed for skins, and retains the other half to apply on the indebtedness of the hunter; but it might just as well deal out the goods instead of the cash, since the latter all comes back to the store in payment for goods, if indeed, any considerable part of it is carried away in the first instance. The white hunters are my authority for the statement that they themselves are charged only 25 per cent advance on goods purchased at the store, while not less than 100 per cent is exacted from the creoles and Aleuts. The white hunters appreciate, of course, and approve or the discrimination made by the company in their favor, and in justification of the latter asserted that the white hunter bought three or four times as much at the store, and as it cost him much more to live he could not afford to pay as high prices or sell his furs as cheap as the creole or Aleut. The creole or Aleut goes out to the hunting ground in his bidarka, with a supply of hard tack and dried fish, upon which the white hunter would starve, and because of that fact he is paid much less for the skins he may be able to secure, and charged a great deal more than the white hunter for the few goods his scantier earnings enable him to buy! That is about the size of it, and is really the only explanation that was offered in defense of the wrongs which Congress has made possible for a great corporation to inflict upon a patient and helpless people. But, stay; I am mistaken; I have heard one other excuse offered—that these creoles and Aleuts wouldn't know what to do with the money if they were permitted to earn and have more—that they would gamble it away among themselves, or—well in fact, no matter how much they might be paid they would not make a good use of it, and would have no more in the end, anyway. Waiving the question as to whether a person can justly be deprived of the right to make any legal use of his money he pleases, after he has once earned and received it, it may well be questioned if the fact, if such it be, that he is not likely to use it for the good of himself and family, can be accepted as a valid excuse for robbing him of earnings gained at the constant risk of his life, as is the case of these creole and Aleut hunters of the sea-otter. If I could have one wish gratified more readily than another it would be that a dozen or more of the great daily papers of the east and west, would each send, incog., an honest, truthful reporter over the route lately traversed by me, to the end that the public at large might be fully enlightened in regard to the semi-legal and wholly illegal doings of this great and overshadowing corporate monopoly.

The weather having moderated, the morning of the 7th found us on our way to Unga, by what is known as the "inside passage," which lies between the islands which line the shore and the mainland, and arrived off the entrance to Unga harbor the same evening. A dense fog prevailing at the time, the ship was "hove to" till morning, when the fog having lifted we ran into the harbor and cast anchor within a mile of the village. When I speak of "the weather having moderated" I must not be understood as referring to the temperature, as it occurs to me your readers may infer; the reference is to wind and wave only. Up to this time, though we had been as high up as the 60th degree of north latitude, we had not experienced at any place a lower temperature than that which the traveler on your great lakes is wont to enjoy in mid-summer; in fact, strange as it may seem, the highest temperature we had thus far encountered was at Kenai, our most northerly anchorage, and that in the early part of June. Aside from an occasional high wind and consequent heavy roll of the sea, and the fogs, which are not more dense or frequent than those of Lake Superior in the region of Marquette, the weather was all that could possibly have been desired.

Unga is the largest of the Shumagin group of islands, and at the same time the westernmost, a channel only six miles wide separating it from the mainland. This group embraces a large number of islands, that of Popoff,

upon which the principal cod-fishing stations are located, lying immediately to the east of and separated from it by a narrow channel. Unga is about twenty-six miles in length from north to south, and about half that in width. A range of mountains extends along the south coast, but to the north and west the land lies in a broad, comparatively level plain, which ends in a low shore on the strait lying between it and the Aliaska Peninsula. And here let me say that this Aliaska Peninsula is a most remarkable tongue of land, the base or inner end of which is marked by the entrance to Cook's Inlet on the east and the head of Bristol Bay on the west, from which opposite points it extends in a southwesterly direction a distance of nearly 500 miles to the Strait of Isanotzky, which separates it from Ounimak, the easternmost of the Aleutian Islands; its breadth diminishes from over a hundred miles in the north to not more than twenty-five in the southwest, the interior being marked by a high mountain range running parallel with the opposite coasts, which last are indented by numerous bays and inlets. In front of this peninsula on the south and east lie the Kadiak, Semidi and Shumagin groups, with numerous other detached islands scattered all along the coast; its northern and western shore is washed by the waters of the Behring Sea.

The Island of Unga was once a very important station of the Russian-American Company, the vessels belonging to which were most generally laid up for the winter in a safe harbor at its northern end, while a trading station at which a great many valuable furs were collected was maintained at what is now the village of Unga, located on a snug little indentation near the southeast point of the island. It was in this last named harbor that our ship dropped her anchor on the morning of the 8th of July. The village consists of about fifty frame houses, some of them belonging to independent white hunters, being of a rather neat and substantial character; the others are occupied by Creole and Aleut hunters, having been built for them and for which they are all indebted to the company, the same as the Belkofsky people. The condition of the creole and native people I found exactly similar to that of the last-named settlement, though they made no complaints against the agent, who appears to be as kind and humane to them as his sense of duty to his employers will permit. The prices paid them for sea-otter skins is about the same as at Belkofsky, and scarcely more than half that which is realized by the white hunters, who have small vessels of their own, and being able to procure supplies from the adjacent fishing stations, are independent of the company, which, however, buys most of their skins at a big advance over the prices at which the creoles and Aleuts are compelled to sell. One thing can be placed to the credit of the company, however, and that is that at all its stations it supplies medicines free to all the creoles and natives, though it retains but two physicians aside from the one at the Seal Islands—one at Ounalaska and one at Kenai. Hence there are only a few points where the people are able to secure any medical attendance whatever, and the fact that their number is steadily, if not rapidly, decreasing, is easily accounted for. There are, perhaps, more white people at and around Unga than can be found at any other point in Southwestern Alaska; aside from the white hunters, the cod fisheries afford employment to a considerable number, while the development of some prospectively rich gold and silver leads in the immediate vicinity, promises a large increase of population in the immediate future. The white hunters are generally married to creole or Aleut women. The law prohibits the killing of any fur-bearing animals in Alaska by any but natives, and the regulations of the Treasury Department recognize as native white men who have married native women, hence, perhaps, these marriages—and these, to their credit be it said, have at their own cost and expense, erected a very neat building for the accommodation of the government school. There was no school at the time of my visit, but a teacher was expected in time to open the winter term in September, one having been employed by the territorial board of education. The children of this mixed parentage I found to be much more than ordinarily handsome, bright and intelligent, of whom their fathers seemed very fond and proud and for whose education they expressed a great deal of concern. As at all the settlements in this part of Alaska of any importance there is a chapel of the Greco-Russian church, but no regular priest—all the Creoles and natives, who are about equal in numbers, being believers in that faith. There is no timber on the island, but there is an abundance of coal, both on the island and the adjacent mainland, the quality of which is, however, a mooted question. I was unable by reason of a dense fog, the prevalence of which rendered the navigation of the narrow and intricate as well as unsurveyed channels around and between the islands wholly unsafe, to visit any of the coal seams, but I was shown samples from several which appeared to be of a very good quality. A party was engaged in opening a mine at Coal Harbor, which lies at the inner end of Zakabarovskaia Bay, an indentation of the north end of the island, where there is said to be an extensive vein, but the few with whom I talked concerning it expressed some doubts as to its quality. I discovered, however, that a controversy existed as to the ownership of the claim, and that those who were doubtful concerning the quality of the coal were friends of the party who had been ousted from possession, but who was, nevertheless, determined to appeal to the law for redress—something he would scarcely do with the view of reclaiming a worthless property. From what I saw of the coal from this mine I am inclined to pronounce it good; but the pile shown me afforded evidence of inexperience in mining, being a mixture of almost as much rock as coal. As we were leaving the harbor on the morning of the 10th we met and spoke a small schooner, the master of which came aboard and stated that he had just come from Chiknik Bay, about 100 miles up the coast of the peninsula, where he had been to obtain a supply of coal. At my request he sent a sack of perhaps a hundred pounds on board, which I tried with the most satisfactory results in the cabin grate. Chief Engineer Lowe, upon whose judgment I rely much more than my own, also made several satisfactory tests and furnished me the following analysis, from which your eastern coal miners may draw their own conclusions:

| | |
|---|---|
| Uncombined carbon | 41 |
| Carburetted hydrogen | 49.5 |
| Moisture | 1.5 |
| Sulphur | 1 |
| Ash | 7 |
| Specific gravity | 2.513 |

Coal is also found in Pavloff and Coal Bays, on the east side of the mainland to the southwestward of Unga, at Port Moller and Ugashik on the west side of the Aliaska Peninsula, and at Coal Bay to the northeastward—the application of the same name to a number of these indentations being suggestive of the frequent occurrence of coal seams along the coast of the peninsula, as well as in Cook's Inlet. When it is remembered that there are not a hundred white men in all this section and that the country is practically unexplored, the known existence of coal measures at so many different points, it seems to me, can but be accepted as a certain guarantee of the development of valuable mines as soon and as fast as their products can be profitably utilized. If, indeed, the coal which can here be obtained in unlimited quantity shall be considered too far removed from the centers of trade and commerce to render practicable the opening of any considerable number of mines, it is, nevertheless, in the utter absence of timber for hundreds of miles in every direction, to prove exceedingly valuable in connection with the auriferous and argentiferous sulphurets of lead which occur on Unga Island and at various points on the peninsula, as well as in the reduction of the free-milling ores, goodly sized veins of which have also been found in this neighborhood.

X.

Aside from coal, the mining interests of Unga and vicinity present a most promising outlook. A mining district such as the law authorizes has been organized, with a Recorder, from whom I learned that no less than fifty-three claims had been located and recorded, and for the development of which several strong companies had been organized. I found work in progress on several different claims, none of which are over three miles from the village, to and from which most of the distance can be made in small boats or a light draft steamer. They are located on both sides of a very pretty little mountain stream, which empties into the head of Delaroff Bay—of which Unga harbor forms a part—the trend of the formation being very nearly due north and south. The veins, or looes, which are exposed by frequent outcrops, cross this creek, on both sides of which the ground rises away abruptly to a mountainous hight, though, nevertheless, much broken by gulches running down to the valley, with alternating high ridges, from the sides of which the ore body can very easily be reached through tunnels of comparatively short length. The original discovery was made by Geo. C. King, Esq., a veteran California prospector and miner, through whose influence San Francisco capital has been enlisted in the effort to develop a number of

FAIRWAY ROCK, BEHRING STRAIT.

mines. In company with Mr. King I visited all the locations near Unga where any work was being done, and candor compels me to say that I was most favorably impressed with what I saw, though anything but credulously disposed at the outstart. I found the veins occurring in a porphyry formation, and the ore an auriferous and argentiferous galena, which I subsequently learned from a large number of assays shown me, carries about equal parts of gold and silver, together with all the way from 60 to 70 per cent of lead. It is just possible that I might be inclined to question the accuracy of these assays, or, at all events, disinclined to accept them as being even partially conclusive evidence as to the quality of the ore, but for the fact that I found at one mine between 500 and 600 tons of ore mined and ready for shipment to San Francisco—a previous shipment of fifty tons having netted the company about $42 per ton over and above all expenses of mining and cost of transportation. Some of the assays shown me would seem to indicate a very much better result in the practical working. I do not care to enter into a detailed description of the several workings here and now; it is enough to say that I found work in progress in several shafts and tunnels, all either in or intended to cut ore of apparently uniform good quality with that I have mentioned as having given such satisfactory results on practical test, while at several claims on which nothing was being done the indications as evidenced by the outcrops were very flattering. Soon after the first discovery was made, and before the character of the ore had been fully determined, a small stamp mill was ordered and delivered on the ground, but it has never been set up. This fact raised a grave doubt in the minds of many as to the value of the reported discovery of rich gold-bearing quartz, a doubt which remains to be set at rest among those who are unacquainted with the real facts. The mill was not set up for the reason that the ore is not free-milling, and cannot therefore be successfully treated by the stamping process, but must be smelted—a fact not known to the original owners, and only significant of a want of knowledge or experience in such matters on their part.

Other gold discoveries at Squaw Harbor, on the east side of the island, were reported to me as being of a promising character, specimens from which seemed to corroborate the statement. At this point, one vein upon which five claims have been located, has been opened out by drifting 114 feet from the end of a cross-cut which strikes the lode fifty feet below the outcrop, and which shows a width of from three to five feet between porphyritic walls. Nnmerous assays of the vein matter show all the way from $2 50 to $53 50 to the ton. In addition to this there are in the same locality several other small, and two large veins, the latter being twenty and thirty feet wide, respectively, and to freely test which the mill lying at Unga will be used. At Portage Bay, on the mainland, galena, similar to that near Unga is found, but as yet no effort has been made to prove its extent or value.

In view of all these discoveries, and of the practical tests which have been made, I feel that I hazard very little in predicting that before many years Unga will become a mining center of no mean importance. The outlook is certainly most promising, and San Francisco mining capitalists being largely interested, I feel certain that the work of development will not be permitted to lag.

In addition to this incipient mining industry, there is still another which I have only

either Unga or some other point in this immediate section a place of great importance. I allude to the cod-fisheries. This fish, though found all along the coast from the southern boundary to the Behring Strait, is, perhaps, found in greater numbers on the banks lying to the eastward of the Shumagin Islands, or, if not so, the fishermen give these grounds the preference because of their close proximity to harbors, which are not only safe but easy of access. It is just possible that other localities may in time be accorded equally favorable consideration, but certain it is, that the time is coming, and that too in the not far distant future, when the cod-fisheries of Alaska will supply the greater part of the United States with this staple commodity. The New England fishermen are turning their attention to our cod-banks, and the time is not far off when the sea in the neighborhood of the Shumagins will be whitened with the sails of ships, large and small, engaged in a lucrative industry. At present, however, there are only three individuals or companies engaged in fishing on the Shumagin banks and these have their stations on Popoff Island, which lies to the eastward of Unga, and separated from it by a strait only about one mile wide. Owing to thick weather I was unable to visit these stations, but have it from reliable authority that their annual catch is from one to one and a half millions of fish per season. These fish will average about eight pounds each, but of course, lose considerable of their weight in the process of curing, so that the catch may reasonably be estimated at not more than 5,000,000 pounds of the marketable commodity. These cod fisheries give employment to a fleet of about thirty sail, large and small, and the number of persons employed may be guessed from the fact that the fish are caught singly by no other means than that of hook and line. It is confidently expected, now that these prolific banks are known to have commended themselves to the favorable attention of New England fishermen, that the catch will be largely increased from year to year until it rivals, if it does not exceed, that of the famous eastern fishing grounds.

There is a good soil on Unga and, indeed, all the adjacent islands, and excellent pasturage for cattle. Turnips and potatoes do well, and I have no doubt most of the vegetables could be successfully grown if properly planted and cultivated. I noticed a few cattle at Unga all in good condition, and can not conceive of a better range for sheep which could be kept at little expense other than that involved in the cost of sheds to shelter them during a part of the winter. Altogether I was most favorably impressed with this part of the territory, and left Unga in the firm belief that it is possessed of natural resources the development and utilization of which in the near future will give it a commercial importance vastly beyond the present conception of the most sanguine friends of Alaska.

Finding it would be impossible to make the contemplated run among the islands, we set sail early on the morning of the 11th, on our return to Ounalaska, but before evening, though running inside the islands, encountered a furious gale which compelled us to run into Beekofsey and anchor till the next morning, when, the weather having moderated, the ship was again headed for the south, before a favoring breeze. During the run from Unga to Beekofsky we were favored with a splendid view of Pabloff Volcano, except that the crater was enveloped in a fleecy white cloud, through which the smoke ascended in heavy black puffs, giving ample evidence of the fires raging within the confines of this majestic volcanic peak, which rises to a great hight

women whom I found occupying the

above the level of the sea. During the following day we ran along the coast of the Aliaska Peninsula, and at 5 o'clock entered Akoutan Pass, from which it was about six hours' run to Ounalaska, where we again cast anchor at 11:30 a. m., July 13. Here we remained till the 19th, taking on coal by lighter, the company's steamer St. Paul being at the wharf and the coaling by lighter causing a delay of three days in our departure for the north. The company's steamer Dora was also in the harbor, and, sailing for San Francisco on the 15th, we were enabled to get away a large accumulation of mail of a personal and official character—I had not at that time been able to prepare any part of this correspondence. On the 16th the revenue cutter Rush arrived from San Francisco, bringing papers of as late date as the 3d, but no letters for any one on board. By the Rush we got our first news of the presidential nominations.

On the 17th the steam schooner Jeannie, mentioned as having been met by us on our way down from the Seal islands, came in from Pat Clarence, where she had been to distribute coal to the whaling fleet, and the Bear departed the same day for the north, intending to remain at the Seal Islands until relieved by the Rush, and then sail for the Arctic. It was arranged between the commanders of the Bear and Thetis that the latter should call in at St. Michaels on the way north, and the former stop at the place on her way back, for the purpose of taking on board and conveying to Victoria the remains of the Catholic Archbishop Seghers, who was foully murdered by a lay member of his own church some two years ago. And thereby hangs an amusing tale, based on a spirit of friendly rivalry between the two commanders, in which the one, to use the expression of the other at first "got away with the turkey and left me (him) the feathers," but the finale of which proved that the feathers were more valuable than the coveted turkey, leaving the honors, if not equally divided, a little more in favor of the one who got the plumage than otherwise. But the story will reveal itself when I get to the Arctic part of the cruise.

Such is the vast extent of Alaskan sea coast that it is simply impossible to embrace other than the most important settlements within the limits of a single summer's cruise, commencing and ending at Sitka, and leaving out of the question all that part of the territory khown as the southeastern section. The distance across the continent in a straight line from Eastport, Me., to Astoria, On., is in round figures 2,700 miles; Astoria is in longitude about 123° west, and Sitka, 1,000 miles to the northward, is in longitude 135°, while the 193d degree marks the western boundary of Alaska. Sailing west by south from Sitka, it is nearly, if not quite, 1,500 miles to Ounalaska, and from thence at least 1,000 miles due west to the boundary line, though our most westerly landed possession, the Island of Attu, falls short of that distance by about 150 miles. Thus, if he cares to make the comparison, the reader will find that should he start from the most easterly extremity of the United States and travel in a straight line to a directly opposite point in Oregon, he could yet continue on nearly 3,000 miles further and at the end of that distance still find himself at home in his own country. Traveling to the northward, and passing the 600 miles of British coast, he would have to cover a distance of not less than 4,000 miles before reaching the most northerly point touched at by the Thetis —Point Barrow—which, by the way, is the extreme northern projection of the North American continent. A glance at the map will disclose the fact that when at Ounalaska I was very nearly in the same longitude with East Cope, the most easterly point of Asia, beyond which our possessions extend a distance of nearly 800 miles.

Unimak is the most easterly of the great Aleutian Island chain, and is separated from the mainland by the unnavigable Straight of Issaunakh, with Akan, Ugamok, Tigalda, Akutan, Avatanak, Unalga, and a number of smaller islands lying between it and Ounalaska, and among which last are three navigable though narrow passes from the Pacific Ocean to Behring Sea. Extending around from Issannakh Strait to the south and west with a curve of about three degrees and ending in very nearly the same latitude, is the Aleutian chain of more than a hundred islands, of which, however, not over fifty are designated on the charts. In all this distance the islands either crowd so closely upon each other, or else are separated by such shallow waters, that in addition to the passes named there are only three channels through which a ship can be safely navigated—two of these being quite narrow and very seldom used. The largest of these islands, west of Ounalaska, are Umnak, Atka, Adakh, Tanaga, Amchitka and Atler—the whole embracing a geographical area of about 15,000 square miles. As I have already said, though once populous there now only a few settlements on these islands, and where, before their conquest by the Russians, there were thousands of native people, uncivilized it is true, but nevertheless self-supporting, and for aught that is known happy and contented, there can now be found only a handful of subdued and dejected human beings, no longer strong and self-reliant as their ancestors are reputed to have been, but the veriest serfs of a corporate master whose will is their only law. Every season they are taken from their houses in vessels of the Alaska Commercial Company and carried to the sea-otter grounds, and returned again when the hunting is over, the company taking the skins they secure at such paltry prices that they are fortunate indeed if at the end of the season they do not find an indebtedness which has been piling up against them for years increased rather than diminished. It is a part of the policy of the company to keep the natives in its debt; they are honest, and a debt owed by one of them is a bond which binds him to the will and service of his creditor. They are an improvident people, however, and it is questionable whether, given the credit, they would not continue to run into debt, even though they were to receive full prices for their furs. But this propensity of theirs to spend all they earn and run into debt besides cannot be accepted as a valid excuse for not paying them a fair value for furs secured at the risk of their lives. If the company which monopolizes the fur trade of all that section would exercise its power and influence in the right direction, their condition could be made one of happy comfort and content.


IF my memory is not at fault I left your readers at St. Michael's, with the promise on my part and the possible expectation on theirs, that I would, as soon as pressing duties might permit, give them some account of my cruise through Behring Strait into the Arctic and to the most northerly projection of the continent, known as Point Barrow, the outer end of which is in latitude 71° 21' north and in longitude 156° 1' west.

St. Michael's, or as it was called by the Russians, Redoubt St. Michael, is located on the inner side of an island of the same name, lying near the southeast shore of Norton Sound, only a narrow street separating it from the main land. It is the most northerly permanent trading station of the Alaska Commercial Company, and consists of not more than a dozen buildings, including the Græco-Russian Church, and excluding the barrabaras, in which dwell from 200 to 300 natives. The company's buildings inclose the two sides and one end of a rectangular plat not more than five rods wide and ten rods long, and are all, with the exception of the log structure across the end, of modern construction; this log building is all that remains of the old Russian fort, which is said to have been a fortress of considerable strength, in and around which occurred many desperate struggles between the Russians and natives before the latter were completely subdued. I found but three white men permanently residing in the place, one of whom, however, has a family consisting of a wife, who is an accomplished lady, and three lovely, interesting children. This good lady appeared to be perfectly satisfied with her surroundings and expressed no desire whatever to return to the "haunts of civilization," notwithstanding the fact that when the last ship departs in the fall she would be completely isolated from the world for the succeeding eight months. This lady does not allow the time to hang heavily on her hands, and aside from the consolation which a well-tuned piano affords, finds amusement during the long winter months in making sledge journeys among the native settlements on the mainland, driving a magnificent team of "five (dogs) in hand." The most ardent lover of that noble animal, the horse, does not take more pride and delight in handling the ribbons over a pair of prancing

NATIVES OF ST. MICHAEL'S.

beauties than was manifested by our fair hostess at St. Michael's, when, having harnessed her team of five powerful Eskimo canines to a sledge, she pointed out their strong points and gave us an exhibition of their great strength and their tractability. In making up these dog teams the most sagacious and well trained of the five is selected for a leader, and where he leads the others must necessarily follow. This leader, if well trained, will obey every order given by the driver seated in the sledge, though in most cases the conductor of a sledge expedition (generally several teams travel in company) leads the way, running on ahead of the spike end of his team. The sledges are made wholly of wood, except that the runners are supplied with soles made of ivory or whalebone. Two handles, similar to those of a plow, enable a man following in the rear to direct the course of the vehicle and tide it safely over the rough places. Though it was midsummer and the ground bare and dry, the St. Michael's lady put her fancy team over a forty-rod course in a way that left no room to doubt their ability to make at least stage-coach time under the more favorable conditions which the winters in that latitude afford. At all the native settlements, from St. Michael's north to Point Barrow, I noticed numbers of these sledges, while appearances certainly indicated no lack of propelling power, in the shape of canines of every degree. Nor is it only for winter travel that these Eskimo dogs are useful; in many places I saw them being used for tracking the large bidarras along the shore, in some instances half a dozen dogs drawing a boat in which were from twenty to thirty persons, in addition to the camping outfit for the whole party. Like their owners, these dogs live principally on fish, and the rottener it is the better they seem to like it. A very fine young specimen of his kind that I brought home with me to Sitka would turn away in disgust from a well-cooked and savory beefsteak or venison chop, and would certainly have starved himself to death had he been unable to find an occasional decayed fish with which to partially satisfy the cravings of a naturally depraved appetite.

St. Michael's is headquarters of the Alaska Commercial Company for the great Yukon River district, from which all goods are distributed to the traders, and at which all the furs are collected from the interior. From this point small river steamers make trips up the Yukon a distance of nearly, if not quite, 2,500 miles. These steamers are small, stern wheel river boats, drawing from two to four feet of water, which is all they can carry through the upper or most northerly mouth of the great river, the only one which has ever been explored. The river discharges its great flow of water into the sea through at least half a dozen channels, the one used at present being that which is nearest St. Michael's, though about 100 miles distant. The several mouths of this great river, (probably the largest in North America) should be surveyed as soon as possible in order to ascertain if there be not a channel which will admit ocean steamers; above the deltas the river is deep enough to be navigated a distance of at least 1,000 miles by steamers drawing twelve to fifteen feet, while an ordinary river steamer such as those employed on the Mississippi, can ascend to a further distance of 1,500 miles. In addition to this a number of its principal tributaries are navigable by light draft steamers for from 200 to 500 miles each, the most notable of these being the Koyukuk, Nowikakat, Sananak, Porcupine, White, Stewart and Pelly. The ice breaks up early in May and forms again early in November, so that there are about five months of navigation in each year.

Scarcely anything is known concerning the resources of the great Valley of the Yukon, other than can be gleaned from the statements of the miners, prospectors and traders. Rich gravel deposits of gold are known to exist, indeed, hundreds of thousands of dollars in fine and coarse gold have been brought out from there and the miners who have wintered on the upper Yukon all agree that the soil and climate are both well adapted to the growth of all the hardier vegetable. The winters in that region are exceedingly cold, but the summers are correspondingly hot. There are, of course, a less number of "growing days," but one day of sunshine in that latitude is equal to at least a day and a half in the latitude of Detroit.

I have seen specimens of apparently very fine bituminous and semi-bituminous coal brought from that section, and have been told by prospectors that the veins are very large, one of them asserting that he had taken coal from a seam at least fifty feet thick. All accounts agree as to the great size and number of the salmon which seek the lower Yukon in their season. They constitute the principal food supply for the natives of the entire region, and the time is not far distant when the canneries to be erected on its shores will be made to contribute more largely than any other section to a staple article of food, the supply of which is not likely to ever equal the demand.

It will be years, however, before the vast interior of Alaska will present any inducements to settlers other than are now found in its fur trade and the rich bars and gravel beds of its numerous creeks and rivers. Not until the mooted railroad from some point on the Canadian or Northern Pacific up to and down through the Yukon Valley to Behring Strait, there to connect with the line now in course of construction by the Russian Government, is built, will the immense coal fields referred to become of any economic value. And such a railroad, let me venture to here assert, would be a project not nearly so chimerical as was that of the building of the Union Pacific when first broached. In my opinion there are persons now living who will yet make the trip by rail from the United States to Europe via Behring Strait and Siberia.

St. Michael's Island embraces about twelve square miles, and lies in latitude about 63°, 30' north. It is wholly timberless, save and except an occasional clump of alders and dwarf willows, but is carpeted with a most luxuriant growth of wild grasses, embellished with a profusion of variegated wild flowers. While on shore I walked through "red-top" at least four feet high, which was then nearly ripe and ready to cast its seed. The soil is a rich vegetable mold, and judging from the samples of lettuce and radishes sent off to the ship, I should say capable of producing all the vegetables which can be grown in the extreme northern states. Here we experienced the highest temperature thus far encountered on the cruise, the mercury standing at 72° in the shade, with mosquitoes larger in size and volume and more assiduous in their attentions than any I had ever before encountered. The Jersey insects are innocent, cooing doves compared to those of St. Michael's. I was told by one of the residents who keeps a record of the temperature that the extremes are 82° and —45°—about the same as in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

At St. Michael's I met Fr. Tosi and three good sisters of charity, who were waiting for one of the small steamers to take them some 600 miles up the Yukon to Kossoriffsky, where they intended to establish a boarding and industrial school for native children. The reverend father has spent some years among the natives on the great river, and informed me that the buildings for the contemplated school would be completed by the time the sisters arrived. The Catholics also have a school, with a couple of priests in charge, at Nulato, which is also on the Yukon, about 800 miles above its mouth. The Episcopalians have two mission schools on the river, one about 100 miles below Fort Yukon, and the other some distance below Kassoriffsky. The Greco-Russian Church maintains a mission at St. Michael's and another some 400 miles up the river. Fr. Tosi, who is better posted in that regard than any other person I have ever met, estimates the whole number of native people on the Yukon and its tributaries, including settle-

women whom I found occupying

ments on the coast as far south as Cape Vancouver, and on Nunivak Island, at not less than 10,000.

Leaving St. Michaels at 7 o'clock on the evening of July 28, and steering a west, northwesterly course, at noon of the 30th we sighted King's Island, the ship having previously run up her distance and come to anchor in the midst of a dense fog. The captain thought we must be near the island, and when the fog lifted found that he was scarcely half a mile out of his reckoning, notwithstanding the strong northerly current which had to be taken into consideration in determining the ship's course from St. St. Michaels. Weighing anchor, we stood in for the island, not over five miles distant, and dropped it again as close in shore as a due regard for safety would permit. King's Island, except as to hight, is a mere speck on the surface of the sea, being not over a mile long and half a mile wide; its shores, however, rise almost perpendicularly from the water's edge to a hight of from 600 to 700 feet, presenting an altogether forbidding aspect. Along the whole of its coast line there is neither bay, cove nor sandy beach, and it is therefore wholly inaccessible except by small boats, and then only when the sea is calm. There is an Eskimo settlement on the south side of the island, at the only point, apparently, where it would be at all possible to construct habitations, even such as those in which I found several hundred people living. This village is located on a rugged slope very difficult of ascent, at a hight of at least a hundred feet above the sea, and at the base of which we landed, not without a good deal of difficulty, from the whale boat which took us off from the ship. This village is the most remarkable feature of the island, upon which neither tree nor shrub is to be seen, and but very little vegetation of any kind. The settlement combines a summer and winter village in one—the summer houses, if such they can properly be termed, being constructed of walrus hides stretched on poles, which last are secured to the almost perpendicular cliffs by lashings and guys of walrus thong. In constructing these singular habitations the ends of two or more poles are fitted into niches cut in the cliff, the outer ends being supported by others standing on end, and to which the horizontal ones are securely lashed—the perpendicular poles extending far enough above the horizontal ones to form the nucleus of a frame-work upon which the hides inclosing the whole are stretched and fastened, the floor and roof being of the same material as the sides. There are, perhaps, fifty of these summer houses, with as many winter habitations, in which live about 400 natives of all ages and sexes. The winter houses consist of excavations in the face of the cliff, the fronts being walled up with stones, chinked with moss, and leaving an entrance just large enough to enable a person to crawl in and out. The denizens of this northern Gibraltar live almost entirely upon the flesh of the walrus and seal, though I noticed while there that some kind of plant indigenous to the island was being prepared for food by the women. They carry on a summer trade with the natives of the Alaskan mainland, and also with those on the Siberian coast, with whom they exchange the skins of the seal and walrus for those of the reindeer and other furred animals not found on their island. They are a naturally bright and intelligent people, all things considered, but exceedingly filthy in their person and mode of living. The men are very expert hunters, using only the kyak (bidarka) in their pursuit of the walrus and seal; the implements used in killing these animals are spears made of ivory, which they throw with great precision.

They very rarely venture far out to sea, however, in a single kyak, but usually lash two together so that they float side by side and are not easily overturned. For long voyages they use the oomiak (bidarra, or open skin boat), which is often large enough to carry from forty to fifty persons. Just before our arrival at the island a large number of the people had left in three oomiaks on a trading expedition to St. Lawrence Bay, on the Siberian side, and an equal number had gone to St. Michaels, the distance in either case being upwards of 200 miles. I only mention this fact as indicative of the substantial manner in which these boats are put together, though no other materials than wood and walrus rides are used in their construction, if we except the whalebone or sinew with which the hides are sewed together—and as an evidence of the adventurous character of the people who build them. They do not, however, always use these boats in traveling; only when the distance is long or the number to be carried considerable. The single-hatch kyak is often made to carry two or three persons for a short distance, though a first glance at one of these frail boats would cause a person to wonder how such a thing could be possible. While lying at Cape Prince of Wales, about two miles off the native village, numbers of kyaks came off to the ship with to all appearances a single occupant in each. I noticed, however, in several cases that after the person seated in the single hatch got out, he was followed first by another who wormed himself out from under the walrus covering forward, he being followed by a third who had stowed himself away in the similar narrow space aft of the "man-hole." In the absence of timber on the island the people are obliged to depend upon what little drift wood they can pick up for fuel, and when that fails they resort to the use of seal and walrus blubber, the foul odor of which while burning was such as to hasten our departure from the island; a German sailor who was on the shore with us remarked, "By shiminy, I vouldn't schmell him some more times for more as a hoondert tollars' wort!" And that was the way we all felt.

Our interpreter having reached a point beyond the limit of his linguistic acquirements, so far as the natives were concerned, we had secured the services of a young Eskimo half breed, at St. Michaels, who could speak the Russian language fluently, though he understood very little English, and by means of a double interpretation I was enabled to converse with the natives of all the settlements we called at on our way to and from Point Barrow. I made some effort to get at the history and traditions of the King's Island people, but could learn no more than that their ancestors came there a great many years ago, from whence, or induced by what causes, they did not know. I can but conclude that they are the descendants of a people, who, being driven from their homes by an enemy more powerful than themselves, fled to this island and located in a position from which it would be next to impossible for all of the other natives of the country combined to dislodge them. It would be exceedingly hazardous for an enemy to attempt a landing in front of their village, or anywhere else on the island for that matter; it is only when the sea is perfectly calm that they can launch their own oomiaks. When the sea is ruffled, and one of their number is desirous of putting off from shore in his kyak, he seats himself in the hatch, and a number of others, taking hold of its ends, toss both boat and occupant over into the water, thus giving him a fair start on his way. So dexterous are they in the handling and maneuvering of these little skin boats that one of them, his person being protected by a kamelyka (skin shirt with hood all in one), the hood of which is closely tied under the chin and the skirt securely fastened around the protruding rim of the hatch in which he sits, will turn himself over sideways in the water, bringing the kyak bottom side up, and then come up smiling, after having described a circle, half in the water and half in the air, ready and willing to repeat the operation for a paltry consideration.

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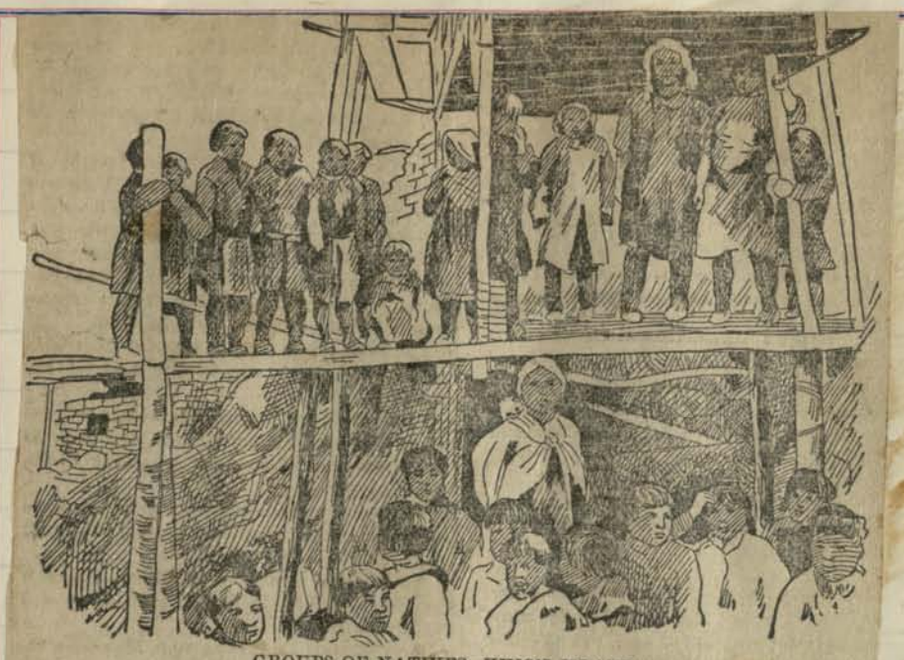
II.


FROM King's Island we shaped our course for Cape Prince of Wales, which is the most westerly point of the continent, and cast anchor in front of the native settlement about 3 o'clock the next morning. Early as it was, half a dozen oomiaks, in one of which I counted no less than forty-two persons, large and small, came off to the ship offering to trade, and, though not permitted to come on board, the people in them all remained until after "quarters" at 9 o'clock. Among them were the oomiaks mentioned as having left King's Island for St. Lawrence Bay, and the people in these, as soon as they became satisfied that they could get neither whisky nor breech-loading rifles for the articles they had to offer in exchange, departed for their original destination, where, they claimed, they could get all they desired of such contraband goods.

The settlement at Cape Prince of Wales is the largest on the coast north of the Alaska peninsula, consisting of nearly, if not quite, one hundred barrabaras, which, though the surroundings were more or less filthy and odoriferous, presented cleaner and tidier interiors than those of most of the villages previously visited. The men and women are rather good looking, as compared with the generality of Alaskan natives; the men are well built and muscular, and it did not take



GROUPS OF NATIVES—KING'S ISLAND.

us long to discover that both men and women are the keenest and shrewdest of traders. In feature they resemble the Mongolian, and it seems to me there can be no doubt as to their Asiatic origin. The women wear long hair, but the men, like those of King's Island and all the Arctic coast settlements, shave the upper two-thirds of their heads, leaving a bare crown, supported by a fringe of hair about two inches in width. They maintain a multitude of dogs, and the number of sledges and snow shoes I saw led me to the belief that they are accustomed to long winter journeys. Their houses are a near approach to the barrabaras heretofore described—more than half cave—the upper part being a rude frame constructed of driftwood or whale's ribs, and covered with earth. Cape Prince of Wales is in latitude 65° 30', and longitude 165° 40', and lies nearly opposite to East Cape, the most easterly point of Asia. It forms the southeast headland of Behring Strait, and is a long, low neck of land which rises abruptly into a range of high hills not far back from the coast, the latter stretching away to the northeast along the south coast of Kotzebue Sound. I found the small area of land lying at the foot of the narrow western slope of these hills, as well as the slope itself, covered with a rich verdure, and was surprised to find a dozen or more varieties of wild flowers in bloom, such as I had never seen elsewhere, and which my limited botanical education did not enable me to name or classify. Pleasing to the eye, they were, however, totally devoid of fragrance, as, indeed, is the case with most of the wild flowers indigenous to Alaska. Here I obtained some very fine specimens of jade, in the shape of stone axes, chisels, etc., as also pieces of graphite which appeared to be nearly pure carbon, and which the natives assured me could be obtained in great abundance from the banks of a small river about two miles distant.

The Cape Prince of Wales natives once permitted on board did not leave the ship till forced to do so when the time came for getting under way, though they were at first badly frightened and made a rush for the gang-way, when the band struck up a kind of music they had never before heard. They soon discovered, however, that there was nothing more dangerous than wind and sound being discharged from the instruments, and finally realizing what it all meant fell to keeping time in a sort of dance that was not altogether devoid of the poetry of motion. These people bear a bad name among the white people who have visited them, and we had been warned to be on our guard; they are said to be dishonest and treacherous, their thieving propensities exceeding those of any of the other natives on the whole coast. A sense of justice impels me to say that, though constantly on the alert, neither myself nor any of the officers were able to discover anything in their conduct which would corroborate such an estimate of their character. It is just possible, however, that, recognizing the difference between a ship of the merchant marine or trading vessel and a man of war, they deemed it wise to put themselves for the once on their best behavior.

At 1 o'clock we are under way for Kotzebue Sound, and during the afternoon pass through Behring Strait, with the Diomede Islands—Kruzenstern and Ratzmanoff, the former American and the latter Russian—in plain sight. This is my first view of a foreign shore, and I can scarcely realize the fact that, running along in latitude 65—6' with a temperature represented by about the same figures, I am in sight of Siberia, and that too of its supposedly most cold, bleak, and inhospitable part. A change of course to the westward would in less than two hours carry us across the boundary line between Asia and America, and to the nearest anchorage in Asiatic waters; but being one of Uncle Samuel's "hired men," nothing but a stress of weather would excuse an "absence without leave" involving the loss of a whole year's salary, and I could not therefore indulge the strong desire I felt to cross the strait if for no other purpose than that of investigating the feasibility of a bridge to connect, in the comparatively near future, the railway system which will ultimately girdle the earth.

At 7 o'clock on the morning of August 1, we crossed the Arctic circle, latitude 66 degrees 32 minutes, astronomically determined, bearing away to the eastward for Cape Blossom, in Kotzebue Sound, with Cape Kruzenstern on the port and Cape Espenberg on the starboard bow. Here, on rising, I discovered a marked difference in the temperature, as compared with that experienced just below the strait, the weather being about that of a moderately clear, crisp October day in the temperate zone—neither too cold nor too warm for comfort in ordinary spring or fall clothing. The commanding officer and chief engineer, together with two of the seamen, were the only persons on board who had ever had any experience in Arctic navigation, and of these only one had ever been in these waters before, the others having been members of the Greely relief expedition which sailed into Arctic waters on the other side of the continent. These last having spent months battling with the ice in Davis Strait and Melville Sound, scarcely realized the fact that they were in Arctic waters, no ice having been encountered and none being expected until we arrive in the vicinity of Point Barrow—unless, indeed, a northerly wind should sweep it back against a strong current which here sets steadily to the northward. In the fall the north winds force the ice southward through the strait into Behring Sea and as far south as the Pribylov Islands, where it forms solidly from shore to shore. In the spring, under the influence of southerly winds, assisted by the current, it moves north again, and is closely followed by the whaling fleet, which is sometimes able to enter the Arctic as early as the middle of June. This whaling fleet is composed of from forty to fifty vessels, steam and sail. On the way north the whalers keep as close as possible to the moving ice, along the edge of which the whales are usually found, and in turn are obliged to flee before it as soon as the northerly winds set in, which is usually not much before the first of October.

At this time (August 1) the sun's declination is about 2 degrees, so we are practically in the "land of midnight sun" or rather would have been had we arrived in this latitude a month earlier. Were we now at Point Barrow we might see the sun at midnight; as it is,

[illegible]
women whom I found occupying

there is practically no night, there being but four hours of twilight intervening between the setting and rising of the sun. One can see to read ordinary newspaper print at midnight without the aid of artificial light, and there is no darkness to shut off from observation any object which might be seen from a distance at high noon.

At 9:30 p.m. the ship came to anchor off Cape Blossom, some twelve to fifteen miles from the entrance to Hotham Inlet, a closer approach to which last is not safe other than to vessels of very light draught. Here we lay the whole of the following day seeing no sign of life on the narrow neck of land which separates the waters of the inlet from those of the sound, while the weather was such as to render a landing by small boats extremely hazardous. The natives were made aware of the ship's presence, however, by a blank shot from the Hotchkiss gun, and the next morning nearly, if not quite, a hundred came off to the ship in four large oomiaks and remained on board until 10 in the evening. Capes Espenberg on the south and Kruzenstern on the north constitute the headlands of Kotzebue Sound, and at both these points there are native villages of perhaps twenty houses each. From the entrance between these headlands, which are about forty miles distant from each other, the trend of the opposing coast lines is to the east southeast from Kruzenstern and almost south from Espenberg, the south and inner indentation being known as the Bay of Good Hope. Directly opposite to Cape Espenberg and nearly due east from it is Cape Blossom, a southern projection of the narrow peninsula lying between the sound and Hotham Inlet. About four miles northwest from the extreme outer point of Cape Blossom, and not far from the entrance to the inlet, there is a small native village which forms the nucleus of a large summer rendezvous for the interior natives, who annually congregate there to trade with their brethren of the coast and to catch and cure a supply of salmon for the winter. Across the inlet, still farther to the northwest, is another native settlement, but owing to the bad state of the weather and the shoal water which renders it impossible for a ship to approach within comfortable boating distance, I did not visit any of these villages save the one at which the interior natives were assembled, and my experience on that occasion was far from being a pleasant one. Among the people who had come off to the ship the day following our arrival at Cape Blossom were several chiefs, all of whom expressed an earnest desire that I should pay them a visit on shore, which I promised to do the next day, weather permitting. As near as we could calculate, the ship lay at a distance of about eight miles from the rendezvous, and on the morning of the 4th I set off in the first whaleboat, which was manned by a crew of twelve men under command of Mr. Wells, one of the junior officers, the chief engineer voluntarily making one of the party, the half-breed interpreter concluding the list. A moderate and favorable breeze prevailed when we shoved off from the ship, and the boat made good progress under sail, with a fair prospect of covering the distance of eight miles in less than two hours; but it was not long before we found ourselves in shallow water, with a sand-spit which extends out some five or six miles from the shore, and marked on the chart "dry at low water," barring our further progress during the encampment. The officer in charge not being acquainted with the "lay of the land," or of the water rather, undertook to run around the bar, and finding no end to it, attempted to cross, and in less time than it takes to record the fact the heavily laden boat was grounded in eighteen inches of water, not less than five miles from shore, with the rendezvous in plain sight. The temperature was far from torrid, the wind had assumed the proportions of a gale that could scarcely be termed a moderate one, and there was no other alternative than for the men to get out and by main force pull or push the boat into deeper water. This done, though not without the most strenuous effort on the part of all hands, the foresail was again spread to the wind and we went to "tacking on and off," vainly trying to find a way around that seemingly interminable bar, all the time getting farther and farther away from the point we were striving to reach, and the boat taking in water with each succeeding wave, when at last the half-breed interpreter, Aleuki, who had been with Stoney in his exploration of the Kowak River, which empties into Hotham Inlet, being asked, pointed to the shore and meekly said: "Channel over there, close by land." We had been looking, as it afterwards transpired, in the wrong direction for a passage around the bar, and as the wind continued to increase the officer in command concluded that, though having little confidence in Aleuki's knowledge of the whereabouts of the channel, it would be much the wiser and safer course to head for the shore. The wind was off shore and a heavy sea running, against which the twelve men laboring at the oars could by the hardest pulling make but very slow progress. The waves breaking against the bow and forward quarters of the boat deluged us with spray, and the men pulling as for dear life at the oars did not exert themselves more strenuously than did the officer in charge and the chief engineer in the work of "bailing ship." Drenched to the skin, and a land-lubber at that, I could do little else than try to dodge the heaviest showers of spray, sing an occasional song, the burlesque of which in a vocal sense tended to keep the men in good humor, while the wish that I was once more safe on shore, though always uppermost in my thoughts, was denied expression. If ever twelve men labored faithfully at as many oars for four of the longest hours I ever experienced anywhere or under any circumstances, to make land only six miles away, it was that same hardy, gallant crew of the Thetis' first whaleboat, on that, to me, memorable 4th day of August, 1885, just off Cape Blossom, in Kotzebue Sound, Arctic Ocean.

But all things have an end, and we finally landed in safety near by an isolated native hut, about two miles above the rendezvous, where, our misadventure having been observed, we were met by one of the chiefs, who kindly offered to pilot us to our destination. A dozen or more men in single hatch kyaks also greeted us at our first landing place, and with these for an escort and the old chief as a pilot, we ran along not much more than an oar's length from the beach in water deep enough to float a man-of-war. In seeking the land for safety we had practically stumbled upon the long sought for channel, which is made close in shore by the united currents of several large rivers that empty into Hotham Inlet, depositing their sands just outside their entrance thereto, and making a channel for themselves around the curve of the peninsula, in which they are assisted by the incoming tides, which, receding, leave the bar formed by the opposing waters dry, thus confining the river currents to a narrow channel between it and the shore.

Reaching the upper end of the encampment, which consisted of a row of tents and partially inverted oomiaks, closely lining the beach for a mile or more, we were greeted by the hearty cheers of at least a hundred people who had gathered to bid us welcome, and who, as we continued on our course, ran along the beach, their numbers constantly increasing, and the welcoming cheers, which were as hearty and vigorous as those which white men are wont to essay on extraordinary occasions, being repeated with every accession of strength, until at length, reaching the opposite end of the village, we landed amidst the altogether too demonstrative congratulations of not less than 2,000 natives of both sexes, of all ages and sizes, and without any perceivable distinction of previous conditions of unwashed filthiness. I first made a state call on the local chief in his tent, which was a large round tepee, similar to those in vogue among the Indians of the western states and territories, except that the frame was covered with walrus hide from which the hair had been removed. Its sole furnishing, aside from a profusion of fur skins which covered the floor (ground) and upon which the inmates sit and sleep, consisted of a small cook-stove or range of modern design and make, minus pipe, and the smoke from which escaped through an aperture in the top center of the tent. This range, sans pipe or furniture of any kind, was evidently the "pride of the household," and was exhibited to me by the chief, a man seemingly of much intelligence, as evidence of a desire and determination on his part to adopt civilized ways of living.

This summer village or temporary encampment, as I have said, consisted of a long line of tents and partially inverted oomiaks. The oomiak is not only used as a means of transportation and travel from place to place, but is made to serve as a shelter or temporary abode during the summer months. When night or a storm overtakes a traveling party the oomiak is drawn out upon the beach, tilted over into an inverted position—one side being propped up just high enough above the ground to enable a person to crawl under, the space thus left open being covered with skins in the way of curtains—and under the shelter thus provided the whole party lodge not infrequently for weeks at a time. More than half the people at the encampment in question were thus utilizing their oomiaks, the fewer number who were living in tents being only the chiefs and, as I could readily see, the more prosperous and consequential of their followers.

That the natives appreciate, to some extent at least, the difference between their own position in life and that of civilized people, I could but infer from the fact that some of them made an apparently earnest appeal to me in behalf of the establishment of schools in their respective settlements, though when questioned they honestly admitted that owing to their nomadic habits it would be difficult

AN ESKIMO CAMP.

to secure an attendance for more than five or six months in the year, and that only in the winter villages, at not more than two or three of which would be found a sufficient number of children to warrant the payment of salaries large enough to secure teachers. I found it very difficult here, as well as at most of the settlements above Ounalaska, to make these simple minded people understand why I could not immediately provide for their wants in this and other regards; they could not comprehend why a "great chief," as they chose to call me, could not do anything he liked in the way of supplying their needs, both physical and spiritual; why I could not inflict summary punishment upon the bad men among them, restrain the white men from killing their whale and walrus, or grant them a dispensation for the purchase of breech-loading arms and whisky, and I am inclined to the belief that on some occasions I left them in grave doubt as to whether I really was the official I claimed to be, and of whose coming they had been advised by the ships which preceded us on the way north. A very little gold lace or tinsel not only attracts and rivets their attention, but impresses upon their untutored minds an exalted opinion of the importance of the person thus adorned. As a matter of course I wore no uniform or other insignia of office, and on several occasions when pointed out to them as the Governor, I thought I could detect a look of incredulity in their faces as their gaze first rested upon me, and was then turned inquiringly upon the commander of the ship or any one of his officers in uniform who happened to be present. Had the commanding officer desired a little fun at my expense, he could have placed me in a most laughable position among the Eskimos by simply pretending that he was the Governor, or declining to vouch for me as the bona fide incumbent of that office; they would have believed him and laughed at my own pretensions in that respect. Had it become my duty to make a second and similar cruise in Alaskan waters, I should certainly have provided myself before starting with a uniform embellished with enough tinsel to convince the average Eskimo that I was a person of more than ordinary or every day importance.

III.

I WAS most hospitably entertained by the dignified and unusually intelligent local chief at the summer village on Cape Blossom, already referred to. He accompanied me in a round of calls upon the other and visiting chiefs, to all of whom he presented me as the representative of the great *Tyone* in Washington, of whom they all seemed to have heard. I was received by these chiefs with much native dignity, coupled with an air of pleasurable satisfaction they made no effort to conceal. I exchanged presents with all of them—a plug of navy tobacco or a paper of needles on my part, and a skin of some kind or piece of carved ivory on theirs. This exchange of presents is esteemed by them as a pledge of friendship on both sides, not lightly to be disturbed. The women, to whom they were at once handed over, were very much pleased to get the needles, with which they appear to be rather expert than otherwise. Among the latter were some very graceful forms and rather pretty faces, and I have no doubt that quite a number of them, after undergoing the renovating process of thorough ablution, would present a rather attractive appearance.

Passing a couple of hours with these chiefs, most of whom had come hundreds of miles from their homes in the interior, while the sailors were engaged bartering everything they had with them for whatever the natives had to offer in exchange, I had an excellent though brief opportunity to study to some extent the character of these nomadic people. I found them—and I assume that they were representative of the entire population of all that vast and practically unknown region lying between the Yukon River on the south and the Arctic Ocean on the north—not only friendly, but even pressing in their proffers of hospitality, such as they had to bestow. While in the tent of one of the chiefs, his wife, noticing a rent in Ensign Wells' trousers, very kindly and rather persistently offered to mend them for him if he would take them off, and seemed very much hurt because he would not accept her proffered kindness, though he was not a little profuse in thanking her, all the same. I found them kind and affectionate toward their children, a trait characteristic of all the natives of Alaska, so far as my knowledge extends. The husbands appear to be very obedient to their wives, instead of vice versa, as is supposed to be the rule among uncivilized people. The wives and daughters are not treated as mere beasts of burden, as are the dusky women and maidens of the forest and plain who live and have their being much nearer the centers of civilization; the husband always consults and generally accepts the advice given by the wife in all business transactions; he follows the chase and provides the means of subsistence; she makes the parkas, the boots and the skin clothing generally, besides doing the cooking.

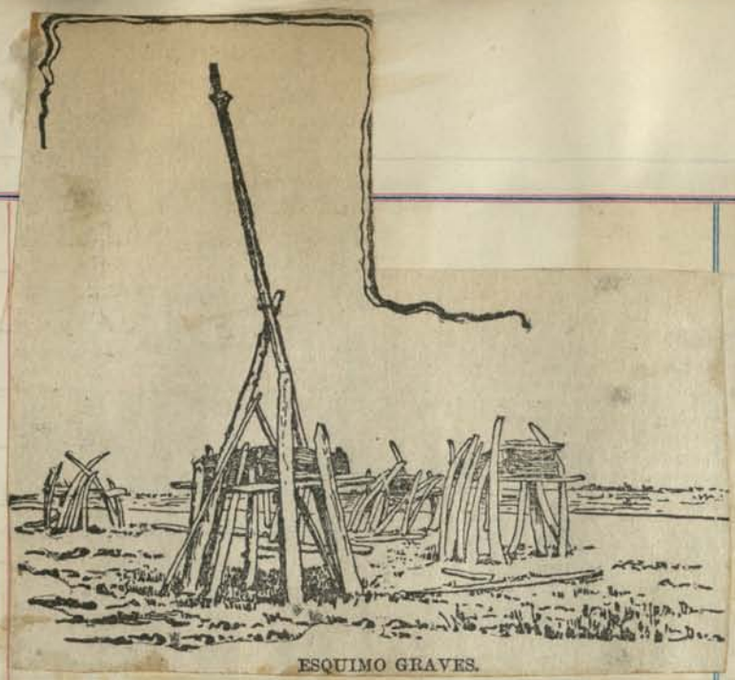
The clothing of these interior bands (they have no tribal organization) like those inhabiting the coast, consists of furs, the skins of the reindeer being more extensively utilized for that purpose than those of any other animal. A full suit of Eskimo clothing consists of a parka, pantaloons, boots, and sometimes includes a fur cap, but except during the winter months the average Innuit scorns anything in the shape of a cover for the head. The parka is usually made double, so as to provide a garment with fur on both sides; the men wear one pair of pantaloons in summer, with the fur inside, but in winter affect an undergarment, generally of tanned reindeer skin; the women wear two pairs of pantaloons, one made of tanned reindeer-fawn skin worn with the fur inside, and the other of coarser material with the fur outside. The boots for winter wear are made mostly of the skins of reindeer legs and reach about half way to the knee; those for summer use are made of hair seal skin, with tops reaching above the knee, the soles being composed of the thick hides of the old bull seal. Some of these boots are elaborately, even richly, trimmed with the fur of the marten, wolverine, or fox, especially those worn by the women. The winter parka is provided with a hood,

women whom I found occupying the

Barrow by the furious gale of the 5th, of the fury of which we had experienced a slight taste while huddled on shore and lying at anchor in Kotzebue Sound. The five vessels in question were lying at their anchorage on the east side of the point when the gale broke upon them—an anchorage that had always been considered perfectly safe as against westerly gales—but the whole five either dragged their anchors or parted their cables, and were then thrown upon the bar lying a short distance to the eastward, except the schooner Jane Grey, which drifted to leeward and was stove by fouling on grounded ice. No lives had been lost, and the Bear had on board all the officers and men, except three or four who had remained at Point Barrow in the hope of finding a lay on some of the other whaling vessels. Capt. Healy expressing the belief that the two ships acting in concert could rescue the last named vessel, which he had left afloat in the ice, though lying on her beam ends, the day before, at the urgent solicitation of Capt. Emory concluded to return with that object in view, though fearful that he might not have sufficient supplies with which to feed all on board unless he made all due haste in sailing for San Francisco.

The two ships were got under way at 1:45 a. m., and cruised all day to the north and east of Point Barrow, the ice pack being sighted early in the morning, but finally returned and dropped their anchors to the eastward of the point without having seen or obtained any information of the whereabouts of the wrecked schooner, though either Capt. Emory or Capt. Kelly, the master and principal owner of the Grey, was constantly in the crow's-nest, keeping a sharp lookout in all directions. The Jane Grey was a new vessel making her first voyage, and in her Capt. Kelly, a most estimable elderly gentleman, had invested every dollar of his means. At the time of being wrecked she had not taken a single whale, and the good captain reluctantly gave her up as lost, but was nevertheless firmly convinced that she must ere then have been completely broken up in the ice. So firm was he in that belief that Capt. Emory was unable to persuade him into remaining on board the Thetis, though he promised that the search should be renewed and diligently prosecuted, and if possible his lost vessel restored to him. He accordingly went on board the Bear, which got under way about 11 o'clock and steamed around the stern of the Thetis, homeward bound, amidst the parting cheers of the officers and crew of the latter, which were just as heartily returned. "There," said the gallant Emory, "goes Healy with the turkey, leaving me the feathers only!" a remark inspired by the regret he felt over the fact that he had not been first on the ground to render assistance to the wrecked vessel; the Bear was returning home with 150 wrecked seamen on board, while thus far the cruise of the Thetis had been distinguished by no one remarkable occurrence that would be likely to reflect more than ordinary credit upon her officers and crew. I really believe our captain felt good naturedly envious of the master of the Bear, and would gladly have taken the inconvenience of having so many idle men on board could he only have had the credit of having rescued them from a by no means perilous situation. He evidently longed for an opportunity that would enable him to accomplish something outside the regular daily routine, and I believe would not have been sorry had the powers above ordered another occasion in which he could have had the pleasure of saving a few lives; the wrecked whalers having all reached the shore in safety before being taken on board the Bear, and were in no immediate distress or peril, as all could and would have been comfortably cared for by the other whaling vessels; yet the revenue steamer would get the credit of having rescued and taken them to their homes, and I could plainly see that our big-hearted commander wasn't at all satisfied to have it so, though he volunteered no other remark than the one I have quoted.

Very early next morning (August 12) the ship was got under way, the captain intending to take a run around among the whaling vessels, some fifteen or twenty of whom were lying at anchor off the east side of the point. From the master of the Rosario, the first ship visited, he learned that the Thetis had been within two miles of the wrecked schooner when she turned back from the search the day before, the Rosario being at the time in her immediate vicinity; her master having no knowledge of the Thetis or her errand, mistaking her for a whaler, of course never thought of pointing out the wreck. Returning at once to his own ship, Capt. Emory sent his navigator on board the Rosario with a chart of that part of the Arctic, for the purpose of locating thereon as near as might be the position of the wreck when last seen the evening before, and at 9:20 the ship was plowing her way to the eastward, the ice pack being sighted at noon, only five or six miles ahead. At 2 she entered the heavy floe ice, and steaming along the edge of the pack a distance of ten or twelve miles, finally sighted the wrecked schooner, or "derelict," as the officers called her. On near approach she was found to be lying on her beam ends, her masts resting comfortably upon a couple of huge cakes of ice. Before entering the floe all the glassware and crockery had been safely secured against breakage—a very timely precaution, for otherwise it would certainly have all been smashed to smithereens. Brought to a dead stand-still by the great blocks of ice, the ship would be backed away from it far enough to get a good run, as it were, and then go into it again at full speed, thus finally breaking her way through all obstacles, though at times she would be brought up with a shock that would well nigh throw us off our feet. A ship not especially designed for such work would certainly have been stove-in forward, such was the force with which she rammed into great and apparently unyielding bodies of ice. As it was, a magnifying glass of a thousand-lens power would not have been able to reveal a speck of paint on her hull, below guards, when she again cast anchor off Point Barrow. The hull and masts of the schooner were found apparently intact, except as to a couple of holes which had been cut into her side shortly after she was wrecked for the purpose of saving some of the most valuable articles in her cabin, and the ice being sufficiently cleared away, lines were made fast and she was hauled alongside. In the meantime a northeasterly wind was bringing the ice pack uncomfortably near, and as soon as possible the wreck was towed out into comparatively clear water, where the ship was brought to anchor in twenty fathoms. Here the holes in her side were securely covered with canvas, lines were made fast to her top-heads, and the falls hooked to the top-mast-heads of the Thetis, and in less than two hours she was right side up, though her main deck was several feet under water, only the empty oil casks she carried keeping her afloat. A coffer-dam was then placed in her main hatch and the others battened down, when the work of pumping her out commenced. In addition to the Thetis' steam pump and her "handy billy," the Grey's bilge pump was brought into requistion, the men who manned the two latter standing at the start, in the ice cold water nearly up to their armpits. When the Thetis first ran alongside the wreck Capt. Emory summoned his officers and crew to the quarter deck, where in a few well chosen words he informed them that he proposed to waive all rights of salvage in behalf of Capt. Kelly, and asked them to do the same, to which they one and all cheerfully agreed. The officers and men worked like Trojans, even the stalwart, but altogether genial paymaster, who is, of course, exempt from such duty, getting down in the water up to his waist, and lending a hand at the pumps. It was altogether a most interesting, if not thrilling scene—a dozen or more men constantly at the pumps, working as if for dear life to rescue valuable property which might have been their own, if in their generosity they had not cheerfully waived all claim, ever and anon breaking out into a jolly song, led by the paymaster, and at intervals of half an hour or so pausing just long enough to be relieved or to take the liquid refreshment passed to them over the rail by the ship's surgeon. The pumps had not been more than fairly started, however, when it was found necessary to get under way, in order to escape the pack which was rapidly coming down upon us, and steaming out a safe distance the ship was allowed to drift from midnight until 11 o'clock the next day, the wreck being securely moored alongside. At the hour last mentioned it was announced that there were not over four inches of water remaining in the Grey's hold, and she was then dropped astern and the Thetis headed for Point Barrow, where she arrived about 1 o'clock on the morning of the 14th. Here it was found that the booms, sails, detachable rigging, etc., of the Grey had been saved by one of the whaling ships while others were able and willing to furnish anything else that was lacking and necessary to put her in perfect trim. An officer and crew were placed in her, but there being no beach nearer than Port Clarence where she could be "hove down" for necessary repairs, it was decided to tow her to that place on our way down, do the work there, and then dispatch her to San Francisco



ESQUIMO GRAVES.

as a present from the officers and crew of the Thetis to Capt. Kelly.

We remained at Point Barrow five days, passing most of the time on shore and in visiting the whaling ships, about twenty of which were lying at anchor in the near vicinity. The Arctic whaling fleet for the season of 1888 was composed of nine steam and twenty-nine sailing vessels, of which last number five had been wrecked before the arrival of the Thetis. The steamers were all to the eastward, together with three or four of the sailing vessels, when we reached the point, while a number had gone to the westward, along the edge of the ice field, where they hoped to find what they had failed to find to the eastward—at least a few bowheads waiting to be tickled with a bomb-lance or an explosive bullet from a bomb-gun. But few whales had been taken; the season was an unusually open one, and the masters were in a quandary which way to venture. If they went too far east or north, a north or northeast wind was likely to bring the ice down and shut them in; but nearly all were inclined to start in the direction of Herald Island, where they would be safe from the ice no matter how the wind listed. The sailing vessels invariably put out from Point Barrow not later than the middle of August, but this was an exceptionally open season, and they had hesitated whether it would not be safe and more profitable to move in the opposite direction. They were generally of the opinion that a steamer properly equipped would find little difficulty in making the northwest passage, and I am quite sure the captain of the Thetis was exceedingly sorry his orders did not permit him to attempt it. In former years some of the whaling vessels had gone as far east as the mouth of the Mackenzie, 540 miles from Point Barrow, and it was believed that some of the steamers then absent in that direction might have ventured beyond that point. The Thetis in her search for the wrecked schooner ran as far north as 72°, without encountering the field ice, and in my opinion the summer of 1888 would have been a most favorable one for Arctic research. The Arctic currents here set steadily to the northeast, and undoubtedly carry the ice with them, sweeping around to the southward on the Atlantic side of the continent.

While lying at Point Barrow the Thetis and the whaling ships were kept engaged in what might be termed a continual game of shindy. First, a west or northwesterly wind would necessitate an immediate change of anchorage from the west to the east side of the point, where the hooks would scarcely get settled in good holding ground before a change in the wind would send them all scurrying around to the other side again, and turning in at night I was always in doubt as to which side I was on when I turned out in the morning. I found time, however, to visit nearly all the whaling ships, finding the masters an unusually intelligent and altogether jolly set of men, whom it would be a pleasure to meet anywhere and under almost any circumstances. They welcomed us with all the hospitality their ships could afford, were generous to a fault, and we soon found that the expression of a desire to buy any of the skins or curios they had secured was tantamount to begging them as a gift; they would give freely and without stint, but would sell us nothing whatever at any price. They were possessed of many things they had bought from the natives, which the officers of the Thetis as well as myself would have esteemed it a great favor to be permitted to buy, but we could not make an offer in that direction without putting ourselves in the position of beggars.

Point Barrow is a low, flat sand-spit, that projects about eight miles to the northward from the main coast line, the latter terminating at Cape Smythe, thence turning eastward for about the same distance and, together with a stretch of sand banks lying in front of it, forming what is known as Elson's Bay. From thence the Arctic coast trends a little south of east to the mouth of the Mackenzie River. This coast is indented by numerous bays, and several large rivers are supposed to flow into the Arctic on the Alaska side of the boundary line, though little is known of any of them, except the Colville, which was partially explored by Lieut. Howard, U. S. N., in 1886. This intrepid young officer, being one of the Stoney party, ascended the Kowak, or Putnam, River in the winter of 1885-6, traversed the Portage between its headwaters and those of the Colville, descending which last to its mouth, he then made his way along the coast to Point Barrow.*

*The Stoney expedition was authorized by the Secretary of the Navy for the purpose of exploring the Kowak River, the existence of which was originally reported to the department by that officer, a lieutenant in the navy. Stoney was one of the officers of the United States steamer Rogers, which was sent in search of De Long and his party, and which was burned in St. Lawrence Bay, Siberia, in the winter of 1880-1. The natives living at St. Lawrence Bay having treated the officers and crew of the Rogers with great kindness, Stoney was afterwards sent by our government as bearer of presents to them, and while on his way home in the revenue cutter Corwin, he was informed by a native chief of the existence of a large river which the chief said emptied into Hotham Inlet, near which the Corwin was then lying at anchor. At his request he was furnished a boat by the commander of the Corwin and, while that vessel was completing her cruise in the Arctic, he found and entered the mouth of the river in question, which he ascended for some distance, being, so far as known, the first white man who had ever seen it. On his return to Washington, on the strength of his repre-

## V.

**There are two native villages on Point Barrow—Ooglaamie, at Cape Smythe, and Noowook, at its extreme northern end. The latter is the larger of the two, having a population of perhaps 250 people, the former boasting not over half that number. On the point, midway between the two villages, there is a summer rendezvous at which the natives gather during the months of July and August to shoot eider ducks, myriads of which are wont to collect in a lagoon which connects on the east side with Elson's Bay. The officers of the Thetis went off to this place about midnight on one occasion and came back at breakfast time with fowls enough to supply the cabin and wardroom messes for nearly a fortnight, and they claimed that it wasn't a very good night for ducks either.**

**Complaints having been made to me by the master of a whaling ship that a still was in operation somewhere in the neighborhood, with which either the natives or some white man was making not only an illicit but a most abominable intoxicating liquor, I went ashore at Noowook, accompanied by an officer and guard, for the purpose of breaking it up in case it could be found. Proceeding to the topek (tent) of the principal chief, I found that august person absent on a hunt. The second chief was also absent, but the men and women whom I found occupying the tent ac-**

NOOWOOK PRINCESS.

knowledged that there had been a still in the village, but said that it had been thrown away, because the natives could get all the whisky they wanted at the Cape Smythe whaling station. That they were able to procure it from some source was evident enough, and their statement in that particular tallied exactly with what had been told me by some of the whaling masters. Not wishing to act hastily, I left a request for the chief, who was expected home that night, to call on me aboard the ship the next day, and took my leave. The chief came in compliance with the request, accompanied by a number of other natives, among them all who were present in his tent the day before. On being questioned they one and all denied most positively having any knowledge whatever either of the manufacture or sale of intoxicating liquor a the whaling station, those whom I had interviewed the day before claiming that their words had been incorrectly interpreted. All efforts at finding out where they procured the vile stuff, and get it they do, were of no avail; but I became pretty well satisfied that the agent at the whaling station, being obliged to live all alone among these people during the entire winter, would not think of endangering his own life by selling them a drink which would craze rather than intoxicate, and thus render a sojourn among them extremely hazardous. Nor could I believe any considerable number of the whaling masters capable of engaging in a trade not only nefarious but actually criminal; but that a few do take advantage of the Eskimo's inordinate appetite for strong drink is absolutely certain. The Point Barrow natives are not unlike the generality of Alaskan native people in their fondness for intoxicants, of the quality of which they are incapable of judging except by the amount of drunkenness they effect, and will barter anything they possess for enough liquor, however vile it may be, to insure a single drunken debauch. By way of illustration: A rather intelligent appearing native and his wife came aboard at Noowook, bringing with them a couple of very fine Polar bear skins, for each of which they demanded a repeating rifle; they would take neither flour, cloth, clothing, powder, shot, lead or anything else that would be useful to them. Some of the officers offered goods to the full cash value of two such rifles as they demanded for each skin, which being refused, I bethought me of a fancy, many colored lap-robe I had in the cabin, and sending for it, I offered that in exchange for one of the skins; but that, too, was peremptorily declined. Being made to understand that it was unlawful to trade or give them breech-loading guns, and that consequently they could get none on board our ship, and all efforts at a trade having failed, I finally selected the best skin and asked the man if he would trade it for whisky, and if so, how much of that contraband commodity he would be willing to take. I would most cheerfully have given him $50 for the skin, and then would not have paid more than half its actual cash value in the market; but they have no knowledge of the value or use of money, and it would have been useless to make him an offer of that kind. The fellow's face brightened up and a broad, expectant smile spread over his not altogether prepossessing countenance when my question was interpreted to him, and he at once answered it in Yankee fashion by eagerly inquiring if I had any whisky and if I would really trade some of it for one or both of the skins. I told him I wouldn't like to say until I knew how much he would take for one or both of the skins, whereupon he walked to the other side of the deck, consulted his wife and a young man and woman whom I concluded were relatives, and coming back in a moment or two, informed me that he would take four bottles for one or eight bottles for the two, indicating with his hands the length and circumference of a quart bottle. I affected great surprise that he should ask so much, and haggled over the matter with him until, dropping a quart at a time, he couldn't have dropped the price any lower without naming it in pints instead of quarts. In short, rather than get no whisky at all, he was willing to trade the skins for a quart of whisky each, and ask no questions as to quality. He was very much chagrined when I informed him that I had no whisky, and that if I had I wouldn't give him a single drink of it for both skins. Then it dawned upon his mind that I was about to read him a lecture, and calling to his people to follow, he threw the skins over the side of the ship into his oomiak and made all the haste possible to get away from a vessel in which he could not obtain what he evidently considered a fair equivalent for what he had to sell. He was determined to have breech-loading guns or whisky for those skins, and the fact that they were next day presented to an officer of the Thetis by one of the whaling captains was pretty good evidence that he finally got one of the equivalents aforesaid. That a few of the whaling captains take advantage of this inherent weakness of these poor people and trade them either pure spirits or the cheapest and most villainous intoxicants for whatever of value they have to barter there is little doubt; but I am fully persuaded that a majority of them are too conscientious to indulge in such a violation of the law, the more especially as, waiving the question of injury done to the natives, they would by such a practice endanger the lives of their fellow officers and seamen, who are liable at almost any time to become castaways among an ignorant people, crazed and made dangerous by drink. The law prohibiting the importation and sale of breech-loading firearms is, however, treated as a dead letter by the whalers, and the native at Point Barrow or elsewhere on the coast or islands to the north and west of Sitka who is able to buy finds no difficulty in supplying himself with a repeating rifle and plenty of fixed ammunition. In fact, the Point Barrow people buy all such arms they are able to pay for, not for their own use alone, but for the purposes of trade with the natives of the interior, from whom they receive reindeer and other skins in exchange. This traffic is carried on to such an extent that the people who live on the Kawak, Nowatag and Sealwik, the three large rivers that flow into Hotham Inlet, many of whom I met at the Cape Blossom encampment, are quite generally supplied with effective, if not indeed the most modern improved breech-loading guns. Though charged, to a certain extent at least, with the duty of seeing this law enforced, I was not inclined to proceed to any greater extent in that direction than might be actually necessary to keep the conscience within me quiet; this, for the reason that I had long before become convinced that not only can no harm come to the whites by permitting the sale of such arms to the natives, but that, on the other hand, it is a cruel injustice to deprive them of the benefits to be derived from their use. They live almost wholly by the chase, and the few whales they may be able to take when the ice first opens near shore in the early summer—on the flesh of the walrus, the seal, the reindeer, wild fowl and whale blubber. In addition to this, all their garments are made from the skins of the reindeer and hair-seal, while the hide of the walrus furnishes the material out of which all their boats are made. The walrus, once so plentiful, is rapidly going the way of the buffalo; where a few years ago there were countless thousands of these animals, so essential to the domestic economy of the natives along the coast of Behring Sea and the Arctic Ocean, there are only hundreds now; their numbers are being depleted every year by white men armed with repeating rifles, by whom they are slaughtered for the ivory alone, and who, following along the ice pack or field, where the native dare not venture in his frail craft, frighten away further and further every year the animals they do not kill. The whales, too, are becoming scarcer every year, and it is seldom now that the natives of Point Barrow have the good fortune to secure one. Our white people go there and take their whales, kill and drive off their walrus, and government enjoins through a solemn enactment of Congress that the people whose every means of existence is thus imperiled shall not be allowed weapons the possesion of which would in some little measure enable them to replace that which the white man has taken, and is taking from them. Years ago, in the interest of a great corporation, Congress enacted a law making it illegal for any

but natives "to kill any fur-bearing animal in Alaska or the waters thereof;" now let it extend a little of its protection to the natives themselves by amending that law so as to include the walrus. Unless that is done it will not be many years before the walrus will have become a thing of the past, so far as the waters of Alaska are concerned. And the law prohibiting the importation of breech-loading firearms into Alaska should be repealed as to all parts of the territory except the seal islands. The natives of the northwestern section *will* have them despite all the laws that can be enacted; if they cannot procure them from the whaling ships there is nothing to hinder their getting them from the Siberian coast, to which they journey every summer for the purposes of trade and barter. It is a law almost absolutely impossible of enforcement, and I know of no legal process by which a native ban be deprived of his gun once he has bought and paid for it, unless the government engages in the very small business of trying to enforce the customs laws against this wholly ignorant and poverty stricken people. But, on the other hand, the most strenuous efforts should be made to prevent the importation, manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors among them. It is apparent, however, that owing to the great extent of Alaskan coast line no very effective measures to prevent the importation of intoxicants can be taken except at the ports from whence vessels sailing for Alaska take their departure. If they are permitted to sail with articles of illicit traffic on board, a dozen revenue steamers constantly patroling the coast would not prevent them from being landed. The whaling fleet, and now and then a government steamer, are the only vessels that venture into the Arctic, and if each of the first named were carefully guarded while taking on supplies, the illegal and pernicious traffic might be in a great measure broken up. A sailor with whom I conversed on the way down told me that three years before a whaling ship of which he was the first officer, had on board fifty barrels of whisky and 100 breech-loading guns intended for trade with the natives; while lying off Point Barrow a steam whaler hove in sight which they mistook for the revenue cutter, whereupon, not having time to land and cache the liquor, it was all poured into the sea, while the cases containing the guns were hung over the side of the ship and sunk out of sight until their mistake was discovered, when they were taken up and afterwards disposed of to the natives.

My stay of nearly a week at Point Barrow, enabled me to inquire at some length into the character, habits and customs of the people who inhabit the Arctic coast, assuming, of course, that being Innuits, or, as they are more commonly called, Eskimos, there is no material difference as between the several villages. They are, to all appearances, a healthy, robust people, in complexion and feature not unlike the natives of southeastern Alaska—copper colored yet lighter than the typical North American Indian—with brown eyes, and straight, coarse, black hair. The men are generally beardless, and I saw but two or three, and they of an advanced age, whose faces carried anything in the shape of whiskers, and in their cases the hairs were short and scattering. The younger women are not at all bad looking, but on the whole rather symmetrical in form and feature; their hands and feet are small, and they are altogether graceful in their movements. They impressed me as being kind and gentle in disposition, exceedingly hospitable, very affectionate towards their children, but not imbued with a very high appreciation of the virtue of chastity. There is no marriage ceremony among them, but they enter upon the marital relation at a very early age, and the wife seems to have an equal, if not controlling, voice in the direction of domestic affairs. She is invariably consulted when a trade is on the 'tapis, and I noticed that when trading with the officers and men the husband never closed a bargain, however trifling, without the wife's assent. In some respects at least they are a smot amiable and accommodating people. In one of the topeks (tents) I found a man and a woman, who I supposed was his wife, but in a conversation during which I referred to the woman as such, he took occasion to inform me that she was not his wife, but the spouse of a friend with whom he had made a temporary exchange of wives. He said that his own wife was younger and stronger than his friend's, and that he had let the friend have his wife to go with him on a hunt in the mountains, and taken the other as a substitute during his absence; when his friend returned his own wife would come back to him, and the substitute return to her own lord and master. On further inquiry I ascertained that such temporary exchange of wives was an established custom, to which the wives themselves very seldom made objection. Though short in stature both the men and women, generally, except those of advanced age, are very strong and possessed of great powers of endurance; were it otherwise, they could not live and dress as they do and long exist in so rigorous a climate. They have no religion, no form of worship, believing in but one spirit and that an evil one, to whom they ascribe their every misfortune, and whom they are wont to frequently exorcise by incantation. They have no means of keeping a record of their ages, but it is safe to assume that because of the hardships and exposures they are obliged to undergo in their hard struggle for existence, none ever attain what would be ordinarily considered old age among a more favored people. They have, necessarily, summer and winter habitations—the latter being almost entirely underground, and habitable only when the earth is solidly frozen: in warm weather, when the ground thaws on the surface, the water takes and holds undisputed possession of their tenements; as soon as the ground freezes in the early fall, they are cleared of the ice and water, and the topeks, which have afforded them shelter in the meantime, are abandoned till the summer comes again, when they are driven by the water from their igloos like rats out of their holes. Except they are a little more subterranean these winter houses are very similar to the barrabaras of the Aleuts which I have already described. The name of the underground dwelling, in their language, is "igloo." I looked into some of them—they were all vacant at the time—and to me it seemed inconceivable how human beings could burrow for eight or nine months of the year in such contracted, miserable holes, and yet live out half the years allotted as the average life of man. The timbers and whale's ribs supporting the earthen walls, and the walls as well, were covered at least an inch thick with a green, damp, nasty smelling mold, and the floor of both hut and entrance gallery or tunnel, covered with ice and water. They one and all consisted of a single room not more than ten by twelve feet in dimension, some not so large, and into such a narrow compass, I was told, half a dozen men,

NOOWOOK CHIEF.

women and children (the latter are comparatively few in number) were wont to live during the long winter months—from October to June. The topeks are constructed of reindeer skins stretched on a frame-work of driftwood or ribs of the whale, and rude and worthless as they appear, can be set up only at the expense of a great deal of time and labor. A whaling captain told me of a Noowook native who had been seven years collecting sufficient driftwood and whales' ribs with which to construct the topek in which he was then living; then the reindeer skins for the covering are only obtained by long journeys into the interior, principally in the winter months, and involving much labor and great hardships. Altogether the lot of the Arctic native, contented as he appears, is not one to be envied by even the lowest and meanest of human beings who live in almost any other part of the world. Nor do I think so filthy a people can be found existing anywhere on the globe.

That they are very social in their habits may be inferred from what I have already said. They never strike or inflict upon their children corporeal punishment of any kind, and, unlike the natives in some other parts of Alaska, are exceedingly careful of and zealous in providing for the wants and comfort of their aged and helpless parents or other relatives. On the other hand, they neither bury nor cremate their dead; the bodies of deceased persons are merely carried out some little distance from the village and laid on the tundra, in which it would be difficult to dig a grave, with no other ceremony than a procession of relatives and friends to and from the place where the body is left. If the dead person be a man, his sled and hunting gear are broken to pieces and laid on the body; if a woman, her sewing kit and perhaps some household utensils she has been accustomed to use are placed at her side, after first having been broken or rendered useless. No attention is afterwards paid to the bodies, which are usually devoured by the dogs.

A NATIVE OF POINT BARROW.

VI.

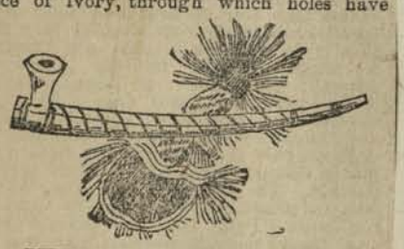
Aside from my own personal observation while at Point Barrow and other points on the Arctic coast, I was able to glean a large amount of interesting information from the Eskimo half-breed interpreter taken on board at St. Michaels. The native whaling season was ended before our arrival in the Arctic, as also the season during which they hunt the walrus and hair seal. The seals are taken through the ice, the season beginning as soon as the water adjacent to the shore is frozen over in the fall, and lasting until the ice is driven off shore in the spring. They have two ways of taking seals—with spears and nets. The reader will wonder how it can be possible to use nets in waters that are covered with from three to seven feet of ice, but the Point Barrow people, I am assured, take more seals in that way than with the spear. The seal must have air, and either makes for himself and keeps open an air hole, or else seeks one already made. When the natives discover one of these air holes, they proceed to set their nets, one of which I saw and examined; it was made of whalebone, with meshes large enough to admit the head of a seal without permitting the passage of his body, and was, perhaps, thirty feet in length and about half that in width. These nets are set by digging holes in the ice about the length of the net distant from each other, through one of which a walrus hide thong, one end of which is attached to the net and the other end weighted with a stone, is dropped, and by means of a long pole with hoop attachment, drawn up through the other. The net is by this means pulled under the ice and into the desired position, its bottom edge being weighted with stones, which causes it to hang taut and perpendicular in the water, the thongs at either end being secured to stakes set in the upper surface of the ice. In this way the air hole is practically surrounded by nets. The seal, making for his breathing place from any direction, encounters the net, usually with such force as to loosen one of the lines from the stake, and in his struggles to get clear entangles himself in the net and drowns, when he is drawn out through the other hole. Another plan is to suspend a single net a few feet under the ice, with a line attached to each corner so as to hold it in a horizontal position, thus completely covering the approach to the air hole. Later in the season a great many are speared at the air holes, but as is the case in netting them, a great deal of silent, patient watchfulness must be exercised. Finding an air hole, the native who prefers the spear to the net places in it what might be termed an indicator, which forewarns him of the coming of the seal. This indicator consists of a small feather fitted into the upper end of a thin strip of bone or ivory, which is set upright in a bar across the hole, into which it projects a foot or more. These air holes are quite small at the surface, and the spear must be thrown with unerring aim to be effective. This feather indicator set, the native stands patiently by and awaits the coming of the seal, and I am told rarely misses his aim. The spear is made of ivory, with toggle-joint, and so fastened to the shaft that it detaches itself when the blow is delivered, a stout line of walrus hide, however, to which it is securely attached being the means by which the seal is secured after he is struck. The watcher at one of these air holes frequently lures the seal out, or hastens his coming, by occasionally scratching on the ice with a set of seal claws fastened on a wooden handle. Having fastened a seal with his spear, the native then sets about getting him to the surface, which he does by enlarging the hole, a task involving considerable labor. This is done with an ivory pick, attached most generally to the shaft of his spear, the ice as fast as loosened being removed by means of an ingeniously contrived scoop or dipper made of walrus thong and having a long handle. They venture many miles out on the pack in pursuit of seal, remaining for days at a time, their food being carried to them by the women and children.

It was a source of regret to me that I was not afforded an opportunity of witnessing the killing of either a whale, walrus or polar bear, and yet, as to the latter animal, the gratification of such a desire would necessitate a winter's sojourn in a region where it cannot be said "there is no night," for the reason that it is all night and no day—though a polar bear is occasionally found on the islands of Behring Sea and on the mainland, where they have been left by the receding ice. That these animals, the terror of the Eskimo, grow to enormous size I can readily believe from the size of a skin which I obtained at Point Barrow—eight and one-half feet wide and ten and one-half feet long when spread out, allowing nothing for the head and leg extensions. This animal must certainly have weighed not less than 2,000 pounds. They are generally found on the ice or in its immediate vicinity, and are the inveterate foe of the walrus; the skins are of little value, except when the animal is killed during the winter.

It must not be inferred from what I have written that all the natives of the Arctic coast engage in sealing during the winter months. A part of them, especially those who are supplied with guns, go far south and east into the interior to hunt the reindeer, trap wolves and foxes, and to trade with the people there, returning in time for the whaling season, which begins as soon as the ice begins to open in the spring or early summer. It would seem, however, that as to the latter pursuit, they would ere this have become at least a little discouraged. Season after season passes without a whale being taken by them at perhaps half the settlements, yet they persevere, and as regularly as the season rolls around the whaling parties are fitted out, and the oftener than otherwise unsuccessful hunt for whales is renewed. Discouraged with their want of success, some go off to the east, others to the south, to barter seal oil and blubber for reindeer and other skins; others scatter along the coast or into the interior to hunt and fish, so that in the summer months the villages are largely deserted. Those who are too poor to own firearms eke out a miserable existence by catching young reindeer, and taking water fowl. In taking the latter an ivory spear with a long and slender shaft, the latter having three or four long ivory barbs in the middle, is used. It is thrown from a hand board with great force and precision a distance of twenty-five to thirty yards, and if the spear itself misses, the middle barbs are almost certain to catch and either kill or disable the bird. Another contrivance for taking birds consists of a number of slender thongs of equal length tied securely together at one end; on the opposite side of each thong or cord a stone of perhaps an ounce in weight is securely fastened; grasping this implement at the united ends of the cords the native hurls it into a flock of birds, and rarely fails to secure one or more. If the bird is not killed one or more of the cords is almost certain to twine itself about its neck, and the weight of the stones prevents him from flying away, or if struck when on the wing is sure to bring him to the ground. They adhere largely to the use of

pipes

bone, stone and ivory implements, and still retain the art of chipping flint and shaping it into spear and arrow heads. Men, women and children all smoke and chew tobacco, and a complete collection of their different styles of pipes, of wood, stone and carved bone and ivory, would fill a fair-sized case in one of the eastern museums. I saw some pipes that were most ingeniously constructed of nothing more than empty cartridge shells, and others the bowls of which were made of the necks of ordinary glass bottles. The ivory pipes, which are generally most elaborately carved, have a flanged bowl from one to two inches in length, with a base not more than sufficiently large to hold tobacco enough for two or three whiffs at most. The stems are made most generally of two pieces of ivory fitted and lashed closely together with seal thong or sinew, the contact sides first being grooved, though I procured some of the stems and bowls of which consist of a single piece of ivory, through which holes have



ESKIMO PIPE AND TOBACCO POUCH.

been drilled from end to end, by what means I was unable to ascertain. What those good people who regard smoking in the light of a pernicious habit as practiced by the white people would say could they see an Eskimo indulging in his or her pipe, would be interesting to hear. The Eskimo smoker first fills the bottom of the bowl with reindeer hair, and on top of that places a bit of tobacco not larger than a buckshot, and then settles down for a single long-drawn draught, which completely fills the lungs with bad-smelling smoke from the combination of hair and tobacco. He or she holds this smoke in the lungs until the smoker must either let go or suffocate—and it is not surprising that, as the Eskimo uses tobacco, a single whiff should constitute a whole "smoke."

Tattooing I found to be one of the fine arts, so to speak, among these people; it is practiced among all the people I met or visited from St. Michael's to Point Barrow, though confined almost exclusively to the females. It extends no further, however, so far as I was able to observe, than to the indelible stain of from one to three stripes extending from the mouth to a point under the chin. I could not learn that it was anything more than a mere fashion, though every woman and girl that I met was thus marked. The only explanation I could get was from an old native at Port Clarence, who said, with a leer doubtless meant for a sarcastic smile, "make look good, heap, plenty."

From a man named Kelly, who has lived several years among the Eskimos of the Arctic coast, and who speaks their language, I learned that they claim to be indigenous to the country in which they live—that they originally inhabited the mountainous region on the north side of Kotzebue Sound before the surface of the Arctic land was changed, and before the northern portion of it rose from the sea.

Altogether, the natives of the Behring Sea and the Arctic coast are rather an interesting people, and I shall always regret that my stay among them was so limited as to preclude a more thorough inquiry into their character, customs and habits.

It was my earnest desire to see a whale taken, and to be permitted to join in the chase, but being short of coal and having the rescued schooner to tow to where she could be hove down and repaired, it was impossible for the Thetis to accompany the whaling fleet to the westward as far as Herald and Wrangell Islands, as was Capt. Emory's original intention. I spent considerable time on the whale ships, however, and from some of their masters gleaned a great deal of, to me, interesting information, being shown the implements with which the huge cetaceans are killed, the manner of handling them, and having explained to me the mode of "cutting in" the whale after he is taken. The whales are generally caught near the ice pack, along the edge of which the ships cruise for hundreds of miles north and east from Point Barrow from July to the last of August, and later to the westward as far as Herald and Wrangell Islands. The ships are obliged to flee the ocean, however, as soon as the new ice begins to form. When the whales migrate to the south is not certainly known, but they are supposed to follow close after the ships, as they are obliged to seek open water. In taking them the old fashioned harpoon is no longer used; it has been superseded by more modern implements called the harpoon-gun and the bomb-lance. Whether it be the harpoon-gun or lance, if the whale is struck he is reasonably certain to be secured, unless the line to which the missile is attached parts, in which case he either sinks or escapes under the ice. The fight with a whale is always at close quarters, the boat rushes upon him when he rises, and the shot being fired, or the lance thrown, from a distance of not more than fifteen to twenty feet. Contrary to the prevailing general impression, the bowhead, (the only species sought in the Arctic), very seldom shows fight, and when one is wounded all that is necessary to the safety of the boats is to keep clear of his flukes. He can only see straight ahead or at right angles, a fact which enables those in pursuit to stealthily approach him and deal him a mortal wound before he is aware of the presence of an enemy. The boats are not infrequently rowed squarely across his back as he rises to spout, and the thrust given or shot fired from a position immediately over him. The size of the bowhead varies, in whalers' parlance, from seventy-five to 100 barrels. His maximum length is about sixty feet, and his approximate weight about twenty-five tons. The head constitutes about one-third of his length; the girth in the the largest part is from thirty to forty feet, and the tail from fifteen to twenty feet from tip to tip and correspondingly thick. His principal value is for the bone, which is the first thing secured when one is taken; the oil alone would not pay the expenses of the voyage, even though all a ship could carry might be secured. The bone of a 100 barrel whale is worth all the way from $7,000 to $10,000, the oil not much, if any, more than one-tenth as much.

*(To be Continued.)*

## VII.

Leaving Point Barrow at 9:30 p. m. August 18, the Thetis stood to the southwest, with the Jane Grey towing astern, and a stiff westerly breeze threatening a gale which would bring the ice down upon her. At midnight there was a heavy fall of snow, with frequent squalls of similar character following at intervals until noon the next day. At 4 o'clock in the morning the ice pack was in sight, and at 11:30 more ice was sighted to the southeast, none of which, however, was directly encountered. At 2 p. m. on the 20th the anchor was dropped off the coal veins, about twenty-five miles east of Cape Lisburne, and a boat sent ashore to a house on the beach where we had been told we would find a man named Kelly, who it appears proposed locating a claim on one of the larger veins, but it was found to be empty, nor did the officer of the boat find any sign of coal near it. The next morning the ship was got under way and steamed slowly along the coast to the eastward, keeping a good lookout for a reported new discovery. Before leaving Point Barrow a couple of men who had belonged to one of the wrecked whaling ships, were shipped as sailors on board the Jane Grey, and one of these asserted that on his way up, his ship had anchored in the vicinity where we then were, and that while on shore he had found an immense vein of coal from which his then captain had mined several tons, and it was this vein we were in search of. Again letting go the anchor, the steam launch was sent off to explore the coast to the eastward and one of the whaleboats dispatched in the opposite direction. Chief Engineer Lowe went in the latter, and I made one of the party in the launch, taking with me the captain's fowling-piece. The chief engineer found a coal vein of goodly dimensions not over a mile from where a landing had been made the day before, but the sailor insisted that it was not *the* vein we were looking for, though it was large enough for all practical purposes—would supply all the coal we would possibly be able to get on board. Accordingly the ship got under way, the launch having returned, and ran about three miles to the westward, where she anchored off what we call Lowe's vein. Going ashore with the mining force that was sent off, the sailor and myself walked along the beach a mile or more to the eastward, seeing numerous veins of coal, some large and some small, cropping out in the face of the high bluffs. These veins, lying in a

nearly horizontal position, one above another, varied from a few inches to eight or ten feet in thickness, the smallest being uppermost. Returning to where the men had begun mining, we continued on another mile to the westward, seeing coal seams varying in size, all the way and finally came upon the one the sailor called his "new discovery." Here I found a vein, the outcrop of which extended on a slight incline down the face of the almost perpendicular cliff to its base, and thence across the beach into the water, beneath the surface of which it could be seen for a distance of several rods. This vein I found by actual measurement to be thirty-two feet thick, and from it hundreds of thousands of tons might be mined without expense in the sinking of shafts or purchase of hoisting machinery. Retracing my steps I found the men had already mined and sacked several tons, but a stiff breeze had sprung up and raised such a surf that it was found impracticable to load more than one boat, and work was suspended until the wind should change. During the night the sea ran heavily, and when the mining force returned the next morning to renew operations they found that nearly a hundred sacks of coal and most of the implements which had been left in what was supposed a safe place, had either been washed away or buried under several feet of sand. There is not even the semblance of a harbor anywhere between Capes Lisburne and Sabine, and an off-shore wind, or practically no wind at all, being necessary to the work of getting the coal off to the ship in the whale boats, we lay at this point until the 27th when, the conditions being favorable, a force was again sent off and began work in the large vein, the ship moving in to within a mile of the shore. The coal, as fast as mined, was filled into sacks and loaded into the whaleboats, four in number, which were towed in pairs by the steam launch, and in fourteen hours the bunkers were replenished to the extent of a little over fifty tons of coal, pronounced by the chief engineer to be of a very superior quality. The wind veering, work was discontinued until the morning of the 29th, in the forenoon of which day about twenty tons more were got off to the ship, when the rising surf again caused a cessation of work, and the force was recalled and the boats hoisted to their davits.

On the morning of the 29th I went ashore for the purpose of more fully examining the coal veins, the large one in particular. I found the men at work directly on the beach, between the water's edge and the base of the bluff, a space of not more than twenty feet, and where the outcrop had been washed comparatively clean by the surf. I found it to be a regular, well-defined vein of the thickness already stated, lying in a sandstone formation, and apparently with nothing but clean coal of the variety known as semi-bituminous lying between the under and overhanging strata. The seventy tons taken on board the Thetis, being necessarily obtained from an exposed part of the vein, where it had been subjected to the action of both air and salt water, perhaps for ages, could not have been a fair sample as to quality; moreover, a great deal of sand was taken up and went into the furnace with it when used. Nevertheless the chief engineer gave it as his opinion that when mined cleanly and away from where its quality has been impaired by the action of the elements, it will be found a very superior coal for steaming purposes. That taken on board gave sixty horse-power for 5.28 pounds, burned freely, and left 17 per cent of ash as fine dust and 2 per cent of slag. Walking back from the beach a couple of miles in the bed of a small stream—walking in a stream when the water is not too deep is preferable to traveling over an Arctic tundra—I found the same quality of coal outcropping in many places. While hunting on previous days I had seen many similar outcrops on the higher lands further back from the coast. For miles along the water front these immense coal seams can be seen protruding from the nearly perpendicular sandstone cliffs facing the sea, and indicating the existence of a coal field the extent and value of which, were it but within easy reach of the centers of trade and manufacture, could scarcely be overestimated. But there is no harbor anywhere in its near vicinity, and if there were the coal could not be shipped by water during a season of more than three months in each year. A railroad 250 miles in length would cover the distance between the mines and the most feasible shipping point on Norton Sound, but would add only about one month more to the season during which shipments could be made by water to San Francisco and other ports on the Pacific. Therefore, however extensive these Arctic coal measures may be, they will never be utilized to any appreciable extent until the railroad, which it is predicted will sooner or later girdle the earth, is completed to Behring Strait, when they can be reached by branch lines of no greater length than many of the roads which now carry millions of tons of coal from the mines of Ohio, Pennsylvania and other states to the great cities on the lakes and the Atlantic coast.

The first day ashore at the coal veins I shot half a dozen grouse (ptarmigan), though my shells were loaded for much larger game. A day or two later I bagged twenty-nine of these birds, which, together with those killed by the officers off watch in a single day, were sufficient to supply the cabin and ward room tables for a long time, with some to spare to the petty officers. The ptarmigan is a splendid game bird, tender, juicy and of fine flavor, and their numbers may be inferred from the fact of our being able to bag so many in so short a time without the assistance of a well-trained hunting dog. The first day off the coal seams a herd of reindeer came dowh close to the shore, apparently to take a look at the ship, but before a landing could be effected they were over the hills and far away. Wolf and bear tracks were plentiful in the wet sands of the beach and along the creeks, but not having lost any animals of that description, neither myself nor any of the officers went very far in the direction they appeared to have been going. Barren and forbidding as the coast appears to be, the country adjacent is by no means devoid of animal life. Great herds of reindeer roam over the hills in the summer, the Arctic wolf and fox are plentiful, and in addition to these there are, I think I might say without exaggeration, millions of little animals popularly known as the Siberian squirrel, but which I think more nearly resemoles the prairie dog of the plains. Like the latter it burrows in the ground, is about the same in size, possibly a little larger, and emits a similar bark when startled or disturbed. In every direction we could see hundreds of these little rodents sitting erect on their haunches, or scampering away for their burrows, and might have killed thousands of them had we desired to do so. The men dressed and cooked one that I had shot, but found the flesh tough and unpalatable. They are of no value save for their skins, which are made up into blankets and parkas by the natives, and sometimes used as a lining for the last named garment. But whatever it may be in winter, there is certainly enough game, independent of the fish in the streams and lakes, along the Arctic to afford subsistence to all the people, civilized, or uncivilized, who are ever likely to make it their home.

The coast of Behring Sea, as well as that of the Arctic, is entirely barren of timber, save here and there a batch of dwarf willows. Viewed from the deck of a passing ship the country adjacent to the coast presents the appearance of a vast stretch of high rolling prairie, clothed with a rich verdure; but on landing it is found to be nothing more than an immense tundra—practically a morass overlying a solid field of ice. By August in each year the surface of the ground has thawed out to a depth of not more than twelve to eighteen inches, and the vegetation which looks so luxuriant from a distance is just sufficient to hide from sight the numerous holes filled with water, which render locomotion extremely tedious and laborious; beautiful and attractive to the eye when viewed from afar, the Arctic land-cape proves itself a delusion and a snare the moment you set your foot upon it.

Leaving what has been christened "the Thetis Coal Mine," and which has since been taken possession of by a man named Bayne, with a view to supplying the whaling ships with fuel, we rounded Cape Lisburne the same evening, and set our course for Point Hope, where there is, perhaps, the largest Eskimo settlement on the Arctic Coast. But, approaching Point Hope, the sea had grown so boisterous the captain deemed it unsafe to venture into an anchorage with which he was wholly unacquainted, and the ship was headed on a direct course for Behring Strait, through which we passed during the forenoon of September 2, entering Port Clarence the following morning.

Passing southward through Behring Strait we were favored with a second and better view of the Diomede Islands, and also of Fairway Rock, which last stands like a frowning sentinel at the south entrance and about midway between the opposing shores. This rock is simply a huge conically shaped pillar rising out of the water to a hight of several hundred feet, standing solitary and alone, washed on all sides by a tempestuous sea in the summer and abraded and polished by great masses of moving ice in the spring and fall. The Diomedes are both inhabited, the people of the one owing allegiance to the Russian and those of the other to the United States Government. They are but a few miles distant from each other, it being a fact not generally known that not more than half a dozen miles inter-

venes between the land possessions of the United States and Russia at the point of their nearest approach to each other.

From Fairway Rock the course is east by south sixty miles to where we next drop anchor at the head of Port Clarence and near the entrance to Grantley Harbor. Port Clarence is a capacious bay formed by a long, low, semi-circular point projecting out from the main land to the west and north some fifteen or twenty miles. Grantley Harbor is an inner basin not nearly so large, but connected with it by a narrow channel, presenting in itself more the appearance of a lake than an arm of the sea. It is surrounded by high cliffs of slate, and a river of very considerable size flows into it from the mountains which form the water-shed of the large peninsula lying between Norton and Kotzebue Sounds. There is a permanent native settlement on the south shore of Port Clarence, and a summer village on the narrow strip of land which lies between the outer and inner basins. We found quite a number of natives at the summer rendezvous, most of them from the little Diomede, or Kruzenstern Island, all engaged in hunting and fishing, but did not visit the permanent settlement, from which we were told nearly all the people were absent. There were, however, at the summer village a few people from the interior, among them a rather intelligent old fellow who could speak a little English, and who said his name was "Go-be-low"—so called because of his having once been carried away on a whaling ship to San Francisco, where he spent the winter. The old fellow's recollection of the city did not extend beyond the unlimited number of glasses of beer with which he claimed to have been regaled, and he appeared not only willing but anxious to be carried away a second time to a land which flows with a beverage much more to the liking of an Eskimo than would be a mixture of milk and honey. He was accompanied by a ruddy faced young fellow, handsome in feature and rotund in form, who was about 21 or 22 years of age, and a buxom lass of darker hue some years younger, the two being either lately married, or else on the eve of joining their fortunes in a matrimonial venture. Their billing and cooing and frequent exchanges of the gum they were chewing was a source of much amusement to all on board, save to the youngest watch officer, upon whom it had only the effect of an increased longing to be once more in the presence of the girl then supposed to be anxiously awaiting his safe return from o'er the dark blue sea. While the other natives were on board trading or inspecting the to them many curious things in and about the ship, the two lovers appeared totally oblivious to all things sublunary save and except their own existence, and remained in close and blissful communion with each other in one end of the family oomiak, until the old man, who I supposed was the father of the boy, ordered him to come on deck. Even then he ascended the ladder with considerable reluctance, leading his inamorata by the hand, of which he never let go for a single instant until both were safe back in the oomiak an hour later.

Old "Go-be-low" brought me large specimens of graphite, apparently almost pure carbon, of which he assured me any desired quantity could be found in the banks of the river which falls into Grantley Harbor. He was very urgent in his desire to have me accompany him on a two days' journey into the mountains where, he said, he could show me great seams of coal, intimating at the same time that gold and silver also existed in that direction. The river which empties into Grantley Harbor is the northern outlet to a chain of lakes which are in part drained of their surplus water by Fish River, which flows south into Golovin Bay, a northern arm of Norton Sound. On this last named river are located lead and silver mines belonging to San Francisco parties, the development of which has been in progress for some years past with most satisfactory results. The ore from these mines, of which I obtained specimens from a ship at St. Michaels partly laden with it, yields by smelting from 70 to 85 per cent lead and from $100 to $150 silver to the ton, while the indications are that they are but a small part of a mineral belt extending all the way from Grantley Harbor to the head of Golovin Bay. I was assured by "Go-be-low" of the existence of large forests of timber along the rivers mentioned and in the mountains, but all the country adjacent to the coast is treeless.

The first thing to engage the attention of the commander of the Thetis on her arrival at Port Clarence was to find a place where the Grey could be safely beached and hove down for repairs. Such a beach was found just inside of Grantley Harbor, to which the schooner was towed, and by means of block and tackle made fast to her top-heads, she was then turned over on her beam ends, so that new planks could be placed in her bottom wherever needed, the work being accomplished in just six days. A crew under the command of Ensign Dewey was then placed on board, and on the 9th she was towed to an offing and set sail direct for San Francisco via the Amuhkta Pass, there to be presented to Capt. Kelly, with the compliments of Commander Emory, his officers and crew. I afterwards learned that she made the passage in just thirty days, but Ensign Dewey did not have the anticipated pleasure of being first to announce to Capt. Kelly the fact that his vessel had been rescued—the officers of the revenue cutter Rush, which sailed from Ounalaska for San Francisco about ten days after the Grey left Port Clarence, carried the news ahead of him. It is enough to say that Capt. Kelly received his schooner with heartfelt thanks, which were supplemented by a banquet tendered the officers of the Thetis by the San Francisco Board of Trade some two or three months later. So the tables were turned, and the Bear found out soon after her arrival in San Francisco that instead of getting away with the turkey she had, in fact, only gathered in the feathers; but the gallant Emory was too generous to ever allude to the subject in terms other than complimentary to the Bear and her commander.

(CONCLUSION.)

Prior to the departure of the Bear from Point Barrow the commander of the Thetis, in view of the large number of wrecked whalemen taken on board the former and by reason of which it was necessary that she should sail direct for San Francisco, consented to return by way of St. Michaels for the purpose of conveying the remains of Archbishop Seghers from that place to Victoria, B. C., a duty which had been assigned to the Bear in compliance with a request preferred by the Canadian Government. Accordingly, from Port Clarence the ship's course was shaped for St. Michaels, where she arrived and cast anchor about 10 o'clock on the morning of September 11. Here we found about seventy miners who had made their way down the Yukon from the gold diggings on "Forty-mile Creek," all of whom were naturally clamorous for a passage to some point from which they might be enabled to reach their homes. By order of the Treasury Department notice had been sent up the river during the summer to the effect that it would be useless for miners to come to St. Michaels expecting transportation on the revenue cutters, as it would certainly be denied them, and it at one time looked to the miners as if Capt. Emory was inclined to be governed by the orders of the Treasury Department to commanders of the revenue cutters, in the absence of any instructions from the Secretary of the Navy. The only ships that call at St. Michaels are the government steamers and those belonging to the Alaska Commercial Company, and the Thetis would be the last one of the season. It therefore followed that unless the commander of the Thetis took them on board the miners would be left where they then were for the winter, and a careful survey made by a commission appointed for that purpose, revealed the fact that there were not more than sufficient provisions at that station for the support of the resident population until the first ship would be due in the spring. The company's agent, appreciating the fact that if the miners were left behind it would be a mere question of the "survival of the fittest," was not less anxious to get them away than they were to go, and under the circumstances Capt. Emory concluded that he would rather run the risk of reprimand for having performed an altogether human and charitable act, than provoke what he felt would be a just criticism on the other hand; accordingly the men were notified to be ready for embarkation the following day, and it is needless to remark that none were absent or tardy when the hour came. In the meantime, an officer and guard had been detailed to exhume and convey on board the remains of the archbishop, which task accomplished, and the miners having been embarked, at 1:40 on the 12th the ship was again under way, homeward bound.

These papers would not be complete without something more than a mere allusion to the existence of Alaska's great river, the Yukon. And, after all, what I may be able to write concerning it will amount to very little more. It is without question the largest, if not indeed the longest river in North Amer-

ica. It discharges its waters through half a dozen or more wide but shallow channels, into Behring Sea, the channels and intervening deltas covering a width of about seventy miles. So far as known, it cannot be entered by craft drawing over five or six feet, but for a thousand miles above its deltas there is water enough to float the largest ocean steamer, while the river itself is in many places from twenty to thirty miles wide.

Nor is it, as might be surmised from this statement of its great width, a slow moving or sluggish stream; on the other hand, it is more like a great roaring torrent whose rapid and irresistible current carries everything before it, as is shown by the alluvial deposits known as the "Yukon flats," which extend out a distance of more than fifty miles into Behring Sea, the whole east coast of which is thus rendered unnavigable except by vessels of very light draught. In its upper part, where its waters are in places confined to comparatively narrow channels between almost perpendicular walls of rock, navigation by small boat is dangerous and the current so strong that even a powerful steamer can make but slow progress against it.

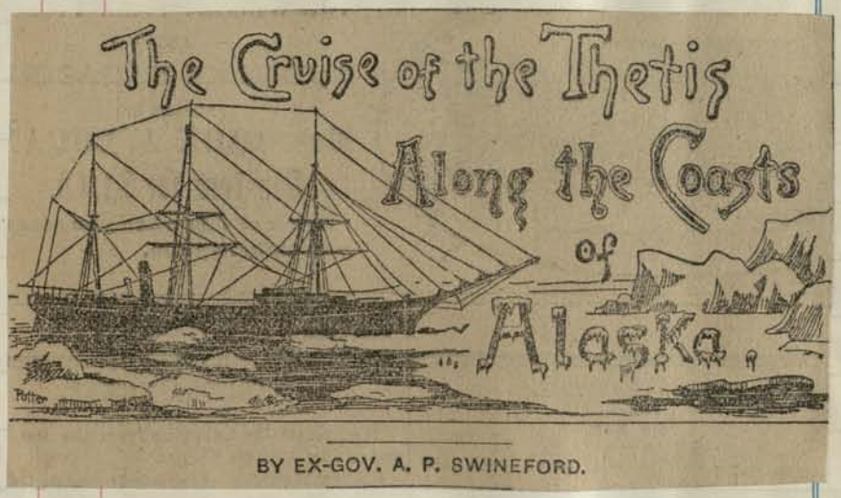
The question will readily suggest itself to the mind of the reader—"Large as this river may be, what does it amount to in the economy of nature? What are its resources, and is it likely to ever become the theater of any considerable business or commercial activity and importance?" To such a mental inquiry my answer would be one not at all in consonance with the preconceived opinions of the general public, and wholly at variance with the statements so studiously disseminated by the paid penny-a-liners of the greedy and altogether selfish corporation which holds nine-tenths of Alaska in its tenacious grasp, and which for reasons that must be apparent would have the world believe that it is a region of perpetual snow and ice, habitable only by wild beasts and therefore wholly worthless save for the trade of which they themselves possess an absolute, and so far as Congress can make it, perpetual monopoly. Laying no stress whatever upon the gold to be found in the bars and banks of its many tributaries; of the immense seams of coal, of the existence of which there is no longer any question; of its timber, and conceding the utter absence of soil and climate adapted to the growth of agricultural products, yet I do not hesitate to assert that the time will come when the Yukon will contribute many millions annually to the food supply of the world. Let those who may be inclined to doubt this prediction turn their minds for a moment to the Columbia, with its numerous salmon canning establishments, which in many instances have yielded immense fortunes to their owners, and make a mental calculation of what that river has been worth to the trade and commerce of Oregon in the past fifteen or twenty years; then let them multiply the result by ten and they will have just a faint idea of the grand results certain to follow a similar employment of capital in taking and curing the larger, better and incomparably greater numbers of salmon which annually seeks the wide waters of the great river of the north. It is only a question of time when the Yukon fisheries will be utilized, when hundreds of canning establishments will line its banks. Even now, the question of locating canneries there is under consideration, the only hindrance in the way being the shallow water, which prevents the entrance of large steamers, and renders the employment of a much more than ordinary amount of capital necessary. Nor am I prepared to admit that other resources of wealth do not exist in the vast stretch of country drained by the Yukon and its tributaries. Sooner or later its coal seams will acquire a value they do not now possess; with the utilization of its fisheries will come cheaper transportation and cost of living, and then the gold placers, many of which cannot now be wrought at a profit, will be made to yield millions of dollars annually. As to the climate and soil, and the adaptation of one or both to agriculture or horticulture, I know nothing of my own personal knowledge; but I have conversed with many prospectors who have lived on the Upper Yukon winter and summer, and they all agree that it is not without its advantages in that regard. The wild grasses grow luxuriantly, ripen and cast their seed, and if there is any reason why grain may not do the same it remains yet to be demonstrated. I have met a number of more than ordinarily intelligent Scandinavians who have summered and wintered in the Upper Yukon region, and they all unite in pronouncing it a better and more inviting country than either Norway or Sweden. But for all that, even were it the most inviting field for the agriculturist, a veritable Garden of Eden, forsooth, I shall not expect to see it peopled to any considerable extent so long as Congress persists in treating Alaska as an outlying province, undeserving of the fostering care and encouragement heretofore extended to all other territories.

The run from St. Michaels to Ounalaska, a distance of 850 miles, was accompliished in a little more than four days, the ship running most of the way before a gale which was anything but conducive to the pleasure and comfort of the landsmen on board. I have read of storms at sea, and though assured by the commanding officer that the gale in question was but a summer's flaw, comparatively speaking, I have no desire to ever experience its like again. It was thick weather, too, and being unable to "obtain a sight" the commanding officer could only form a guess as to whether the course he was on would bring the ship clear of the dreaded Yukon flats. "We are all right if we don't strike the bottom, but if you feel her pound just once, then say your prayers quickly as you can," was the only answer I received in reply to an inquiring look. One after another the great waves would roll up astern of the ship, rising to which the stanch vessel would for a moment assume a position not less than forty-five degrees from the horizontal, her stem buried deep down in the trough of the sea, and the next she would be standing on her heel with stem high up on the crest of the mountain wave which a moment before had threatened to sweep her decks from taffrail to bowsprit. The miners had a sorry time of it, and so far as I could observe didn't seem to take the least interest in what the wild waves were saying. For a time the scuppers on the main deck were inadequate to the performance of the extra duty laid upon them; indeed, I am quite sure that whatever of "bile" those miners possessed when they embarked not a particle of it remained with them when they landed at Ounalaska a few days later. It is needless to remark that all were glad when on the morning of the fifth day out we sighted the entrance to Ounalaska harbor, entering was loath to sever a companionship altogether the most pleasant and agreeable I had ever been permitted to enjoy outside the domestic circle. And the hearty, rousing cheers from a hundred men at the yards and in the rigging, when after a few words addressed to the sailors I bade them all a final adieu, and took my seat in the launch which was to convey me ashore, was a most grateful assurance that I carried with me the friendship and respect of the officers not only, but of as gallant a crew as ever manned a ship.

In conclusion let me say that in what I have written I have been animated by the sole desire of giving to the public the real truth concerning the resources of Alaska and the character, habits and condition of its native people. The sections visited, and of which I have written, are remote from that part of the territory which is annually visited by tourists, and concerning them I knew absolutely nothing of my own personal knowledge prior to the cruise of the Thetis. I am perfectly well aware that my statements will be criticised in some quarters and denied in others; a single person, writing no matter how truthfully, cannot expect that his statements will be accepted in the face of preconceived ideas wholly at variance with them; but if what I have written shall have the effect of directing attention to Alaska, of awakening in the public mind a desire to know more concerning that far-off country, I shall be content to bide the far more searching inquiries sure to follow, and which will either confirm or refute my estimate of the territory and its resources. Though in the foregoing papers, as well as in my official reports, I have stated nothing but that which I believe future investigation will fully corroborate, I am frank to admit that a few years ago I would have scoffed at and derided such a statement of facts concerning Alaska coming from any one else; until a year or two prior to my departure for that country in an official capacity, I entertained the opinion, born of ignorance, which still generally pervades the public mind, and for years, through the public press and from the political rostrum, had denounced and ridiculed its purchase as an inexcusably reckless waste of the people's money. I was wise then in my own conceit; what I didn't know about Alaska, if written, would have filled a larger book than that into which I could now crowd what I have learned concerning it from actual travel and personal observation; the vast domain which I was wont to refer to as "the great national refrigerator" I now know to be a country of great, incomparably great, natural resources. What shall we do with it? Shall the worse than do-nothing policy which has prevailed ever since its acquisition more than twenty years ago be continued, or shall it be accorded that fostering care and encouragement under the influence of which the number of dependent territories is being rapidly reduced

and the number of sovereign, independent states correspondingly augmented? I do not hesitate to aver that had Alaska been afforded the same chance to work out her own destiny which has been accorded to every other territory, she would now have a thrifty, enterprising white population of from 50,000 to 100,000 people. With a climate, the mean annual temperature of which is about that of Maryland and Virginia, only far more equable, with natural resources waiting only for the investment of capital and labor to insure most profitable returns, why, let it be asked, is Alaska, after more than twenty years of federal ownership and control, practically an unknown country? Is it because men can go there and procure titles to homes? Is it because its lands, which the average Congressman holds to be worthless, were long ago thrown open to homestead, pre-emption, cash-entry and actual settlement? Because American citizens can go there and, taking their citizenship with them, exercise the privileges of local self-government and stand on an equal footing with the people of the other territories? In short, it is because the conditions precedent to the rapid growth and development of a new country, and the prosperity and happiness of its people have been provided by Congress, or is it because of the absence of all these inducements? Congress alone can answer, and provide the proper remedy.

A. P. SWINEFORD.




BY EX-GOV. A. P. SWINEFORD.

# Russian Occupation of

foocy

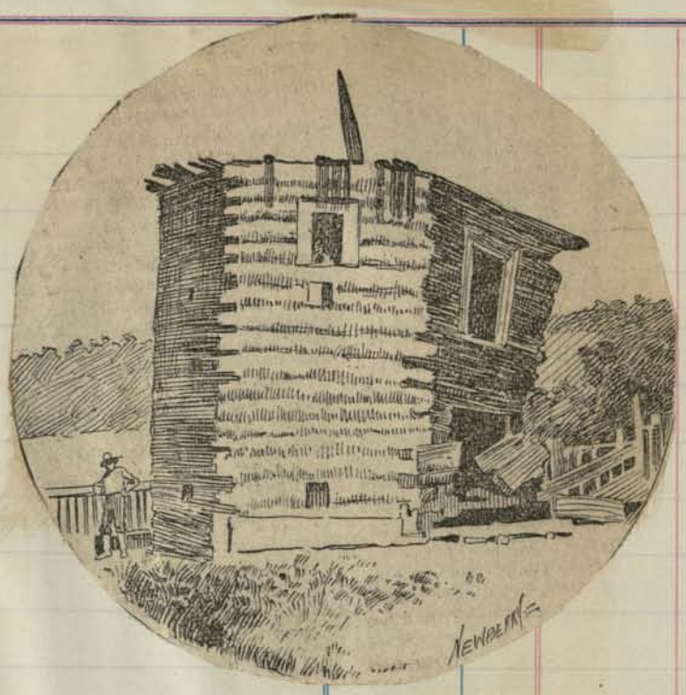
(58yrs later)

NOTHING, perhaps, but the accident of the establishment of the Hudson's Bay Company and the Northwest Fur Company saved Northern California from becoming a Russian province. Vitus Behring closed a life of adventure by planting the Russian flag in Alaska in 1741. Four years later Sitka was founded. A quarter of a century elapsed before the Spaniards undertook their first northward advance from San Diego and Monterey. If the English fur hunters had not intervened between the two, Spaniard and Russian would have gravitated toward each other, and in that case the chances are that the Golden Gate and the Sacramento would have been the dividing line between them.

Until the close of the eighteenth century hunting and fishing on the Alaskan shores were conducted by individual enterprise. The fur seal and the sea otter were hunted by Siberians, who sailed the stormy seas of the north in craft sewn together with thongs and caulked with moss. They belonged to the primitive order of savages among whom robbery, outrage and murder were the ordinary events of the day, and at whose hands the meek Aleut bent his neck to the knife as the inoffensive Peruvian had crouched before the countrymen of Pizarro a century before. In the last year of the eighteenth century order was established in Russian America. A company, called the Russian American Company, in which the members of the imperial family and the Muscovite nobility were shareholders, was founded on the plan of the British East India Company and the Hudson's Bay Company. Exclusive rights of hunting and fishing were conferred upon it. Its jurisdiction within its territory was as broad as that of the Czar himself. The Aleuts and their neighbors held their lives and property at its mercy. They were not only slaves, but no slave code threw over them a semblance of protection. Over this corporation was set General Baranoff, whom Astor's agent, Hunt, described as "a hyperborean veteran, overflowing with hospitality, who, if his guests do not drink raw rum and boiling punch as strong as sulphur, will insult them when he gets drunk, which will be shortly after he sits down to table." He served the company faithfully for thirty years, and then was thrown over to starve at the age of 72.

The affluence which flowed into the coffers of the British East India Company, the Dutch East India Company and the Hudson Bay Company might have been shared by the Russian American Company but for one drawback. There was no food in Alaska. The soil was too sterile to grow grain and the opposite shores of Siberia and Kamchatka were equally barren. Life could be sustained for a while on the flesh of the seal and the bear, but a certain proportion of vegetable food was necessary to avert scurvy and starvation. Baranoff was glad to welcome to Sitka an American captain named O'Kain, who arrived with a cargo of California wheat and barley. This was the beginning of a trade which became active. Sea otters were abundant in the waters of California. The Spaniards were not a success as hunters, but the Aleuts were extremely expert.

Baranoff supplied O'Kain with a party of Aleuts, who caught otters all the way down the coast from Fuca straits to the Golden Gate. And though, under the intelligent Spanish laws of the day, Californians were not allowed to trade with foreigners, either by way of selling to them or buying of them, the mission friars were not fools enough to submit to be deprived of their natural

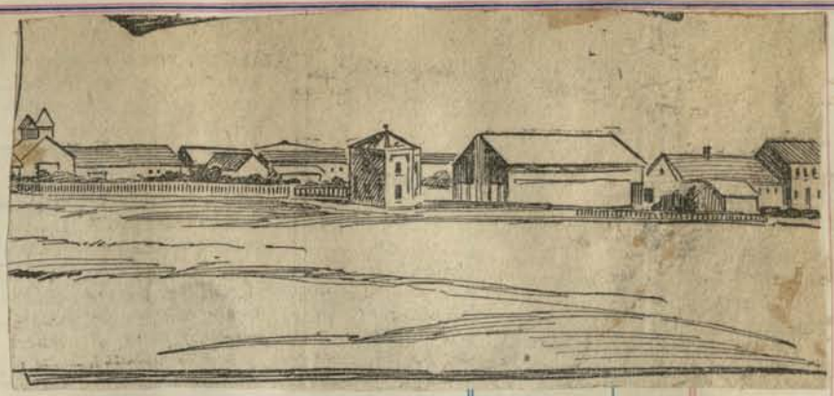


liberties by such absurd regulations. Under cover of night the otter skins were brought into the mission storehouse and were paid for in wheat, barley, beans, pease and fruit. Encouraged by the helplessness of the Spanish officials the Aleut hunters took otters in the very bay of San Francisco.

Still, the supplies of food obtained from California were so scanty that starvation often reigned at Sitka. The condition of the colony was so desperate that Chamberlain Nikolai Rezanoff, Russian Minister to Japan and Imperial Inspector of Russian America, undertook a voyage to San Francisco in the ship Juno to obtain food. It was the story of Joseph's brethren going to Egypt for grain in the time of the famine. The Spanish laws against the exportation of grain were clear and emphatic. Governor Arraga told the Russians that his bowels yearned for their necessities, but that he must enforce the ordinances of the King. He would neither allow his people to sell grain, nor to buy the European goods, which Rezanoff had loaded the Juno with for purposes of barter. It was then that the romance of Conception Arguello showed the beneficent uses to which true love might be put. The diplomatic Muscovite told his fifteen-year-old sweetheart that he would die rather than return to Sitka without food for his people; black-eyed Conception assured her father that, if he died, she would accompany him to the grave; old Don Jose Arguello bade the Governor—who was a friend of thirty years' standing—regard him as his enemy forever more if he was the means of robbing him of a daughter who was the apple of his eye; the friars declared that it was a plain flying in the face of Providence to deny them access to a market for their grain. Thus, assailed on all sides, the Governor yielded. Rezanoff bought the grain he needed for cash, and simultaneously sold his goods, also for cash; the Juno was loaded and sailed for Sitka.

After this a regular trade sprang up between the missionaries of California on the one side and Sitka and other Russian trading posts on the other. A regular tariff of prices came to be established. Brandy was worth $50 a barrel; a fat beef, $5; a sheep, $2; wheat, $3 a fanega, or cental; maize and pease, $1 75; beans, $2 50; butter, 2½ pounds

# California at Fort Ross.



for $1; cows, $8; hogs, $6; beaver skins, $3 a pound. Otter skins became very scarce in the thirties. In California the sea otter skins were worth in 1840 from $35 to $40, and from $60 to $70 in Mexico. Fresh-water otter skins were only worth $2 and $3. Skins of the fur seal sold for $3 to $4. On the other hand, the goods which the Russians brought from Cronstadt sold at various prices. Men's shoes were worth $4; riding boots, $15; men's socks, $10 a dozen; ladies' silk stockings from $2 50 to $5 a pair; linen thread, $4 a pound; silk handkerchiefs, $2 each; sugar, five pounds for $1; nails, 37 cents a pound; calico, 50 cents a yard; a reboso, $150; a serape or cloak, $200 to $300; a saddle, $300. Freight and passage on the slow sailing craft of the day were high. It cost $80 to go to the islands, $150 to go to Boston, $200 to go to Callao.

During the intervals of his love-making Chamberlain Rezanoff did some serious thinking. He wrote to the Russian-American Company advising the establishment of a Russian settlement on the mouth of the Columbia, and another connecting with it at San Francisco. "In this way," he added, "in the course of ten years we should be strong enough to make use of any favorable turn in European politics to include the coast of California in the Russian possessions. The Spaniards are very weak in these countries; if, in 1798, when war was declared by Spain, our company had had an adequate force on the ground, it would have been very easy to seize a piece of California stretching as far south as Santa Barbara."

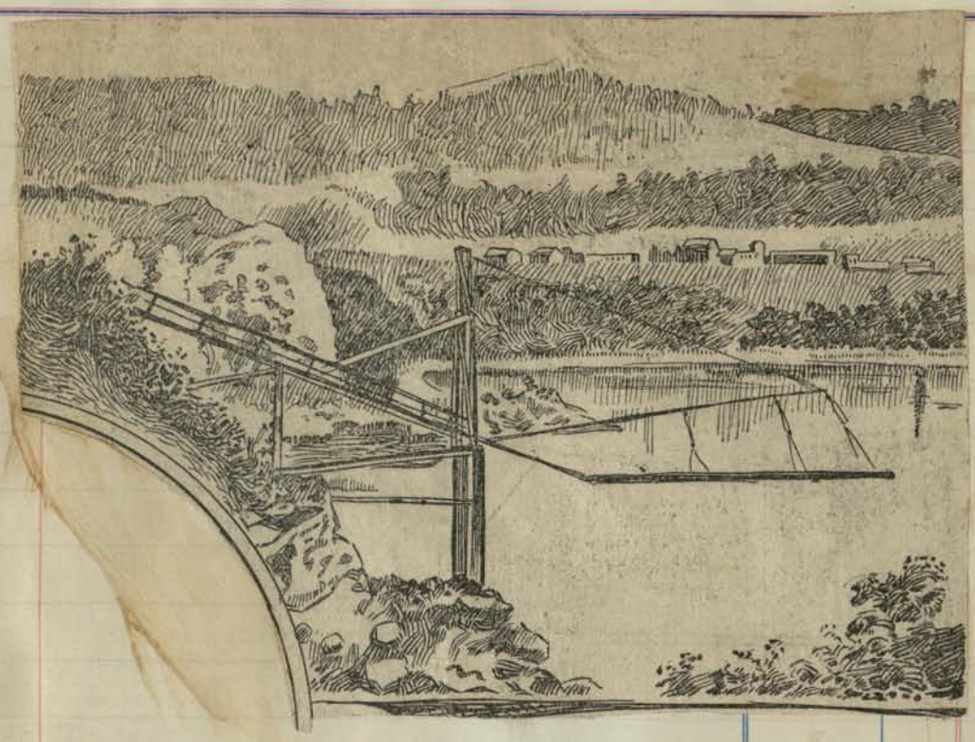
The company thought well of the suggestion. In October, 1808, a vessel named the Kadiac was fitted out at Sitka, nominally for the purpose of hunting otter, but in reality on a filibustering enterprise; she sailed south and held on her course till she cast anchor in Bodega bay. The commanding officer was one Kuskoff, a wooden-legged veteran, who had been many years in the company's service; he reported that he had found a tolerable harbor, a fine building site, tillable land, a mild climate, an abundance of fish and fur-bearing animals, tribes of friendly Indians, and no Europeans. The Spaniards at San Francisco did not molest him, but they forwarded a protest to Madrid, which was duly transmitted to St. Petersburg. Alexander read it through and notified the Russian-American Company that he would not interfere, but that it might rely upon protection if "occasion should require it." This was in 1810.

A year or more was consumed in surveys and negotiations. In 1811 a piece of territory eighteen miles north of Bodega bay was bought from the Indians for three blankets, three pairs of breeches, two axes, three hoes, and some beads. There was no anchorage, but in respect of soil, timber, water and pasturage the spot was preferable to Bodega, and better than any location which could be found on the coast. Here, in April, 1812, just as Napoleon was massing his forces for the invasion of Russia, a party consisting of ninety-five Russians, of whom twenty-five were mechanics, and eighty Aleuts, were disembarked and all hands set to work at felling timber for the buildings which were in contemplation. By the month of September a fortified village and fort had been erected on a bluff a hundred feet above the sea, overlooking at a distance of some eight miles the mouth of the Slavianka, now known as Russian river.

The huts of the Indians were of earth, but the fort and structures connected therewith were of redwood. The main inclosure was about 250 by 300 feet square, and was formed of beams set upright in the ground twelve or fifteen feet high and surmounted by a horizontal beam on which was a chevaux-de-frise of wooden and iron points. The stockade was pierced with loopholes near the gateways, and at the corners were hexagonal towers which commanded the whole inclosure and which mounted cannon of formidable caliber. It was so strong a work that an experienced Spanish soldier who was ordered to attack it reported that he would require a large artillery and infantry force to do so with any prospect of success.

Within the quadrangle were the commandant's house, two storied, with glass windows; a chapel with orthodox pictures on the walls, officers' quarters, barracks and store houses. Without stood the huts of the Aleuts, a windmill, farm buildings, granaries, cattle yards, a tannery, workshops, a blacksmith shop and bathhouse. Circling round these was a well kept vegetable garden. Altogether, the establishment, which took the name of Fort Ross, had an air of permanency about it which seemed to prefigure a prolonged Russian occupation.

For ten or twelve years trade between Fort Ross and San Francisco was fairly active, though it was contraband. The Spanish-Californian authorities never repealed their prohibition of commercial intercourse with the invaders, but neither did they thrown any obstacle in the way of free exchanges. In 1817 the padres founded San Rafael, which the Russians regarded as a menace, but they retaliated by sending gifts to the church for its altar. Soon afterward Canonigo Fernandez of San Francisco paid a visit to Fort Ross, and there told Commander Schmidt, who had succeeded Kuskoff, that as a representative of Mexico he must insist on the evacuation of the place by the Russians within six months, or force would be used. Schmidt set the proper value on the threat when he glanced at his hexagonal towers, and no attempt was made to carry it into effect. He observed to his visitors from the bay that this region had not been in the possession of any other power when the Russians occupied it; that the original title, such as it was,



had been in the natives; that they had freely consented to the Russian occupation, and that he would pay no attention to the pretenses of the Spaniards, but would meet force with force. Similar views were expressed by Shalikoff and Kostromitinoff, who succeeded Schmidt in command at Fort Ross, and though the authorities at Monterey and San Francisco never acquiesced in the pretensions of the men of the North, they tolerated them as neighbors and dealt with them so openly that had things turned out differently the Russians might have claimed a title by prescription.

Whether the interior of Fort Ross bore a closer resemblance to a Parisian salon than to the habitual abodes of the Russian denizens of Russian America, it was visited in 1830 by one of the most distinguished officers in the Russian service, Baron Wrangel, after whom the well-known fort in Alaska was named. The Baron was the most famous personage connected with the Russian-American Company. He had spent many years in Arctic exploration and was an authority on many sciences. He was a statesman, a savant and a sailor. The company engaged him as the Governor of its American territory, and submitted to him the question what was to be done with Fort Ross, on the evacuation of which Governors Victoria and Figueroa were strongly insisting. Wrangel was a typical Muscovite diplomat. He wrote smooth letters to Figueroa, protesting that, whatever men of other nationalities had done, the Russians had always conformed strictly to the laws of California, and had always refused, greatly to their own loss, to enter into contracts with less scrupulous foreigners who wished to hunt otter. These playful flights of fancy did not deceive the Mexican Governor. Figueroa sent General Vallejo to Ross to spy out the land. He reported that the Russians were not likely to be aggressive, but, simultaneously, Wrangel established a trading post at Sausalito, and opened a negotiation with the Governor at Monterey for the cession of San Rafael. Vallejo retorted by planting a settlement at Sonoma.

Wrangel was farsighted. He resigned his post, returned to St. Petersburg, and reported to his company that unless it could annex the country eastward to the Upper Sacramento valley and southward to San Francisco bay, Fort Ross had better be abandoned. It was costing, one year with another, from 45,000 to 70,000 rubles, and the income from the sale of furs and other products ranged from 8000 to 25,000 rubles. There was no prospect of any improvement. The company endeavored to persuade the Government at St. Petersburg that it would be to the advantage of Russia to secure a slice of California before it changed hands, but Nesselrode was afraid of embroiling his country with the United States, and turned a deaf ear to the proposal. On this, at the suggestion of Governor Kuprianoff, who succeeded Wrangel, the board of directors passed a resolution in April, 1839, directing the abandonment of Fort Ross. Kuprianoff offered to sell the whole establishment to the Hudson Bay Company for $30,000; the offer not being accepted, the property was offered to Governor Alvarado, who simply reported the proposal to Mexico.

Then came a transaction which, if Russia had been covetous of territory, might have led to a war and a change of national boundaries. When Kuprianoff resolved to evacuate he withdrew his guards from Bodega. An American vessel, commanded by one Spalding, came to an anchor there and held intercourse with the shore without paying anchorage dues or customs duties. The fact coming to the knowledge of Governor Vallejo, he sent a file of men to occupy the landing and to hoist the Mexican flag there. Rotchef, the commandant at Fort Ross, hastened to the place, hauled down the American flag and hoisted the Russian in its stead. Vallejo addressed a protest to Rotchef, but the Russian refused to receive it. Here was as pretty a casus belli as a hot-blooded belligerent could seek.

But Governor Kuprianoff wanted no war. He invited Vallejo to settle by buying the Russians out, and named his price, $30,000, half cash and half wheat, to be delivered hereafter. Vallejo offered $9000 for the live stock, declaring that the Russians had no salable title to the land. Then John A. Sutter loomed up in the case.

Sutter was a man who was always ready to buy property on credit. On December 13, 1841, a formal contract of

sale was signed in the office of the Sub-Prefect at San Francisco between him and Kostrominitoff, representing the Russians, by which the latter assigned to the former all the property at Fort Ross and Bodega for $30,000, payable in four payments, two of $5000 each, both in wheat, a third of $10,000, also in wheat, delivered in San Francisco, and the fourth, $10,000, in money. The sale included the buildings, but not the land on which they stood. The transaction was witnessed by Vioget and Jacob Leese, and was approved by Alvarado and Vallejo.

On the day before this deed of sale was signed, namely, on December 12th, Manager Rotchef executed a private deed assigning to Sutter for $30,000, the receipt of which was acknowledged, all the lands held by the Russians at Fort Ross and Bodega. At the time of the transfer of the buildings and the movable property this deed was kept a secret. Its existence seems to have been unknown to Alvarado. But eighteen or twenty years afterward, when property on the Russian river had acquired a value, it came to light, and many ranch owners paid Suttor sums of money for quit claim deeds. Russia never set up any claim to sovereignty over Fort Ross, nor was there any reference to the subject in the negotiations which preceded the Alaska purchase.

Russian dominion in California expired with the departure of the Russian garrison from Fort Ross in the ship Constantine in February, 1842. Manager Rotchef, one of Mrs. Atherton's heroes, went with them. A single Muscovite remained as watchman over the property until the arrival of John Bidwell, who took charge on behalf of Mr. Sutter. The cannon, farm tools, other movable property and most of the cattle were removed to New Helvetia.

The Russian-American Company did not find it easy to collect their debt from Sutter. He was absolutely impecunious. For three years nothing was paid, either in wheat or in money. Then there was a small payment on account in the shape of a consignment of wheat. It was believed at Monterey that Sutter was negotiating with Americans for the transfer of his estate of New Helvetia; to prevent this it was proposed by Alvarado, Pico and others to pay off the Russian claim so as to acquire the company's mortgage on Sutter's property, but before the transaction could be consummated California passed into American hands. The company recorded its mortgage, but the influx of people which followed the annexation set Sutter on his legs, and before 1850 he seems to have paid off his debt in full. It is said that the last installment, $15,000, was embezzled by the company's agent at San Francisco, and that the corporation never received a penny of it.

So ended the Russian occupation of California. JOHN BONNER.

San Francisco, Cal.

August 4th 1886.

1715 Powell St.

KOSTROMITINOFF-KASHEVAROFF WEDDING.

On last Wednesday evening at half past 7 o'clock, at the Russian Church, Miss Natalia P. Kashevaroff of this city was married to Mr. George S. Kostromitinoff of Sitka, Alaska, the ceremony being performed by Rev. Father Mitropolsky, assistant rector of the church. The attendance was very large, about two hundred persons being present. Among the ladies some very handsome toilets were noticed.

The ceremony was performed according to the Russo-Greek ritual, and was long and imposing. The church was brilliantly illuminated with wax candles, and the clergyman attired in rich vestments of cloth of silver, with gold embroidery. The happy groom is a prominent resident of the Alaskan capital, where, as also in this city, his family are highly esteemed by all who know them.

After the conclusion of the ceremony the invited guests followed the newly married couple to the pastoral residence adjoining the church, where the health of the happy pair was drunk. Toward midnight a bountiful supper was served. At the close of the banquet all present joined in singing the Russian national hymn, "God Save the Czar," and returned to the reception hall, where dancing was continued till about 3 o'clock in the morning. The reception was given by the bride's brother, Rev. Andrew Kashevaroff, one of the clergymen of the church, who showed admirable taste in his management of the entire affair.

Among the invited guests were Mrs. M. I. Kashevaroff, mother of the bride, Rev. Father and Mrs. Metropolsky, Rev. Ivan and Mrs. Soboleff, Rev. Basil and Mrs. Kashevaroff, Consul-General and Mrs. Olarovsky, Mme. Kedrolivansky, Mmes. Klinkofstrom de Sedletzky, Miss J. Koschkine, Mrs. and Lottie and Lizzie Elliott, Misses Militsa and Mariana Grosetta, Mrs. Martinovich, Miss Elliott, Mrs. Dabovich, Misses Mary and Anna Dabovich, Misses Georgiana and Amelia Dabovich, Miss Natalia V. Kashevaroff, Mrs. Bollman, Mrs. Frannetta, Mrs. Captain Zantman, Mrs. Baum, Miss Virginia Baum, Miss Meinecke, Miss Margarita Gilkyson, Miss Nellie Gilkyson, Mrs. Hay, Miss Hay, Miss Minnie Fish, Miss Emma Kratzenstein, Mr. and Mrs. Guerlin, Mrs. Petroff, Mrs. Pietson, Mrs. Weaver, Captain J. B. Coghlan, U. S. N., Lieutenant D. Delehanty, U. S. N., Mr. E. P. Alexine, Mr. N. W. Pietsen, Rev. A. P. Kashevaroff, Mr. W. P. Dye, Mr. W. C. Stadtfeld, Mr. J. J. Reindl, Mr. A. C. Rodriguez, Mr. George H. Redding, Mr. John Bollman, Mr. Vadimir Bollman, Mr. C. I. Krueger, Mr. Basil P. Kashevaroff.

On Friday the happy couple started for their future residence in Sitka, Alaska.

JUNE 13, 1891.

N FRANCISCO, SAT

# THE BEAR.

## What the Revenue Cutter Has Been Doing.

### The Legend of Pirate Cove---Searching for Witnesses in Criminal Cases---The Liquor Traffic.

Letters and advices received from the North tell of an already busy cruise for the United States revenue cutter Bear. Not only are the sealing interests to be protected this year, illicit liquor supplies to be confiscated, protection to be given to the distressed, aid rendered to shipwrecked whalers, mail to be distributed, supplies to be apportioned at the various stations, the condition of the settlements reported and other duties performed, too numerous to mention, to which every year attention is to be given, but this season the claims of justice and the legal rights of men living under the protection of the flag had to be forwarded. There were, especially, criminals on trial for murder, who demanded their quota of witnesses. This is no easy work, when it is considered that these witnesses are to be collected at great expense and trouble from widely distant islands, or along the ice-bound coast line, and then conveyed to Sitka.

In the case of one man, arrested for murder, a requisition for subpenaing ten witnesses was demanded. To collect the witnesses, pay them for time and mileage would cost between seven thousand and eight thousand dollars. To economize for the Government, the Bear and its officers were called into service.

About the middle of April the cutter left Sitka, taking on board Governor Knapp, United States District Attorney C. L. Johnston, and the Deputy United States Marshal, George Kostrometenoff. It returned to Sitka early the second week of May, having not only accomplished its task of collecting witnesses, but having also picked up and brought to port the crew of the schooner Premier, which went on the rocks off Cape St. John, April 6th.

The Premier, when it came to grief, was engaged in transferring a cannery for the Arctic Packing Company from Ozernoy to Bristol Bay, a distance of five hundred miles. Captain Paulson, with a crew of fifteen men, worked his way, after the loss of the schooner, across the waters to Pirate Cove, where the Bear rescued them.

Mrs. Healy, who accompanied her husband, Captain Healy, north this season, in a letter, recently received by friends in this city, gives the following interesting and probably until now unwritten history of the first settlers of Pirate Cove, ante-dating Russian occupation of Alaska. She prefaces the account with the remark that the period is so remote that no exact or circumspect account can be obtained; but the story runs as follows:

PIRATE COVE.

Years and years ago Pirate Cove was the favorite haunt of a powerful and warlike people, who subsisted by raiding neighboring tribes. From these they exacted tribute in skins, furs and other products of the country. They never thought of hunting, fishing, trapping or earning a living except by a well regulated system of confiscation and robbery. They usually made their piratical raids in large skin boats, which were ever kept ready for such purposes.

These people were accounted not only brave, bold and blood-thirsty, but expert and adventuresome mariners. They were the terror of the Shamangin Islands, and under their tyrannical control the people groaned for many years. After suffering for years the scourges of oppression and rapine, the Kodiak natives formed a determined and well-concerted plan to battle with their merciless despots. Under cover of a dark, dismal Alaska night, they surprised the Pirate Cove natives, who little thought an enemy was within many miles. Taken unawares, they fell easy victims to those who had suffered every indignity at their hands. The enraged avengers wiped out their wrongs by the complete massacre of every soul in Pirate Cove. Even to this day numberless bones are found underground; also, the remains of houses and forts and primitive implements of war. The ruins and human skeletons are all that remain to tell of the piratical crew that once occupied this little cove where now stands, perhaps, the largest codfish establishment on the Pacific Coast.

SEARCHING FOR LIQUOR.

During the search for witnesses the Bear put in at "Sand Point," a noted place of rendezvous for the whalers, just before entering Behring Sea, and is naturally a point where much contraband liquor would find its way. Captain Healy knew that somewhere in the vicinity was a stronghold where the much-treasured ardent spirits were stored, and was bent on finding and destroying the repository. Lieutenant Jarvis has given the following account of the store-house: "The cellar was the most ingeniously contrived affair imaginable. It was apparently bare. To the right was a large bulkhead that looked as if it were built solidly against the bank. A match-safe and a box holding fire extinguishers were hanging against it. Under the box were some small bolts and a thumb-piece of iron. By turning the thumb-piece it worked a catch in the floor on the inside of the bulkhead, and the half of the bulkhead—it was cut across the center—turned out and up on hinges. The hinges were hidden by cleats that were nailed across, and certainly looked innocent enough. Beyond was another bulkhead. About the center of this and near the floor was a bolt with a square head. It ran through one of the uprights that seemed to protect the bulkhead. A piece of gas pipe, nothing more in appearance than cast-away iron, was lying near the bolt. The end was hammered to fit the bolt-head and serve as a key to turn it. Turning the bolt opened a door a foot thick and revealed a second secret closet about eleven feet deep and six feet square. The place, though newly repaired, had evidently been in use for several years."

It was empty at the time of the visit of the officers of the Bear, as it is too early in the year to have the season's stock in store, but Captain Healy ordered it to be totally demolished and felt that in finding and destroying the place that his labor was well rewarded and he had no reason to regret the delay it caused.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

The past winter has been severe and the snow was deep on the mountains and islands when the Bear sighted them. From Seattle to Sitka and the Seal Islands the cutter had a delightful trip. The weather, wind and waves were favorable all the way. Some days it was like yachting, all was so calm and beautiful, while the mountains in their snow mantles presented a picturesque appearance. Nor has it been all unending labor and contending with grim, legal technicalities (Captain Healy has this year been appointed Justice of the Peace of all Alaska in order to facilitate the course of justice and law). There was a wedding in those northern regions, a wedding in high life, conducted with all the ceremony and dignity of religious and military surroundings, and on the return trip of the Bear, from Sitka to Seattle, she brought the bride and groom, Judge and Mrs. Tarpley, down on their bridal trip, and then on to Oonalaska, where they will remain until autumn.

The last of May the Bear again steamed out of Seattle Harbor bound for the North and the Arctic Ocean. It will be December before the southern course is again thought of. Rev. Dr. Sheldon Jackson joined Mr. and Mrs. Healy on the 25th of May, and will accompany them. He is going on missionary duty. Captain Healy is much interested this year in the enterprise of stocking the northern regions with a quantity of reindeer, which he confidently believes will be a great blessing to the natives, furnishing them above all things with a proper food supply. He is ambitious this trip to make the preliminary steps toward introducing the animals, and there is little doubt that with aid from the Government authorities at Washington he will succeed.

WINNIPEG, MANITOBA,

MONDAY,

OCTOBER 17, 1892.

# GOVERNOR OF ALASKA

## EN ROUTE TO THE WORLD'S FAIR DEDICATION.

**An Interesting Exhibit will be Made From the Northwest Peninsula—A Talk with the Governor at the Manitoba.**

Lyman E. Knapp, governor of Alaska, arrived in the city yesterday afternoon from the west, accompanied by one of his aide-de-camps, Colonel Kostrometinoff. Governor Knapp is on his way to Chicago to attend the dedication of the buildings of the World's Fair, to which his territory is contributing an important and interesting exhibit.

In answer to the Free Press man's enquiries as to the nature of Alaska's exhibit, Governor Knapp replied: "Our exhibit will chiefly be of an ethnological character, representing the men, the customs, and the industries of our inhabitants. The Thlinkets, the Hydahs, and Isimpseans, (three of the Alaska Indian tribes,) will be well represented, while the Aleuts, the Eskimos and the Athabascans will have smaller exhibits. There will also be a smaller exhibition of our minerals, while our fisheries will of course not be overlooked."

"What sort of a place is Sitka, your capital?"

"We now have a white population of 500 inhabitants, about half of these are of Russian descent, but have obtained their American citizenship by purchase. Then there are about 1,200 natives, making a population of 1,700 inhabitants."

"What are the principal and most valuable industries?"

"In the first place, our salmon fisheries, which mean an annual produce of over three million dollars; then our cod fisheries, which are worth from seven to eight hundred thousand dollars a year; then the herring fisheries, oil and guano manufactures."

"And what about your seals?"

"Under present difficulties the seal fishery is of no large results or value, but there is a large trade done in furs; 1,700 sea otters worth from $1,50 to $2 50 apiece, was the turnout last year for this valuable fur."

"You have a large number of visitors nowadays?"

"Yes, and we are glad to see a good many of you people visiting us. This last summer we had 3,000 visitors, and they leave a lot of money behind them, perhaps on an average $20 apiece. It only takes seven days to get from Sitka to Tacoma now."

It is four years ago since Governor Knapp first went to Alaska and he says he has a pretty fair idea of where the north pole is now.

Col. Kostrometinoff, who accompanies the governor, is of Russian parentage, born in Alaske, and is one of the most influential Russians in Sitka. He is the court interpreter.

Two other of the governor's aide de camps, Col. Isham and Col. Willard have already preceded Governor Knapp to the east, and will join him for the ceremonies at Chicago.

PIONEER PRESS:

MONDAY,

OCTOBER 17, 1892.

**Alaska's Governor.**

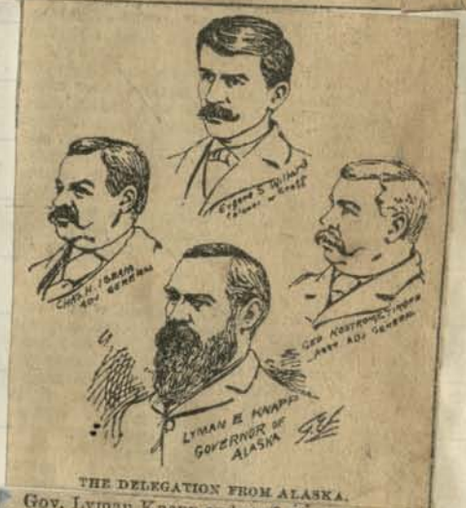
Winnipeg, Special, Oct. 16.—Lyman E. Knapp, governor of Alaska, is here en route to Chicago to attend the dedicatory exercises of the world's fair buildings. He is accompanied by his aid-de-camp, Col. Kostrometrioff, and goes south in the morning.

"Chicago"

THE THURSDAY

OCTOBER 20, 1892.

MORNING NEWS RECORD.




THE DELEGATION FROM ALASKA.

Gov. Lyman Knapp and staff of Alaska were in something of a flurry last night in parlors F and H at the Palmer house. The governor arrived over the Chicago & Northwestern yesterday morning, together with Adjt.-Gen. Charles H. Isham and Lieut.-Col. George Kostrometinoff. Col. Eugene S. Willard was in advance of them several weeks, and was the only one to meet them at the Northwestern station.

Arriving at the hotel and casting about them they decided, with the exception of Col. Willard, to attend the reception and ball at the Auditorium. When the governor looked for his tickets, however, he remembered having left them at home in Sitka.

Col. Isham immediately started out to effect a compromise. He applied to the management of the entertainment and was told to have no uneasiness on that score, as an escort was assigned to each governor, who would see that they took their position at the reception.

The Alaskan.

SATURDAY, MARCH 17, 1894.

## BURNING OF BARANOFF CASTLE.

The old and cherished landmark "Baranoff Castle" is no more, and the crest of the hill, the Kekoor, upon which the building was erected, outlines itself this morning against the sky, as Baranoff saw it almost a century ago, when he came from Kodiak Island hither to extend the dominion of the Russian-American Company which had then recently been chartered by the energetic Empress Catharina II.

The loss of the Castle is irreparable for Sitka. It is known all over the civilised world by the thousands who have visited this sublimely picturesque coast, and have become acquainted with its legends and the events connected with the historic building.

It was about 2 A .M. this morning when Sergeant L. Delmore, of the Marine Garrison, who was on duty as Sergeant of the Guard, discovered fire issuing from between the rustic underneath the building's foundation, about in the middle on the east side. The long roll was immediately sounded, and the firealarm gun discharged, while a member of the guard was sent to Firemen's hall to ring the fire bell. Lieut. Jos. H. Pendleton and his command was, as usual, among the first on the ground and discerned Commissioner Robert C. Rogers, the only occupant of the building at night, standing in front of his bedroom window, near the northwest corner of the structure, on the second floor. Mr. Rogers was perfectly composed, and upon seeing Lieut. Pendleton shouted: "I cannot find my way out on account of the dense smoke;" to which the Lieutenant answered "don't be afraid, we will help you out." The officer then went to the front door to gain entrance to the building, but was driven back by suffocating smoke, as soon as he opened the door. He then ordered a ladder to be brought up; at that time the ladder truck of the Fire Brigade arrived at the scene of the fire and one of its ladders was brought up, but was too short. Mr. Wm. G. Jack brought up a second ladder and with the aid of that one Mr. Rogers was saved through the window, having nothing on but an overcoat hastily thrown over his nightclothes. This was all the gentleman saved from his valuable belongings; his faithful dog "Bret Harte" also losing its life in the flames.

Soon after the Marines reached the scene, the second signal gun was fired, notifying the Pinta that assistance from her was required. The bluejackets under Lieut. David Peacock, the gunboat's executive officer, and Ensign Rust did effective service in protecting the adjacent District jail building and the Custom House from catching fire. The eastern wall of the jail was saved from igniting by sails which Lieut. Peacock ordered from the Naval store house, the canvas being kept wet continually by the sailors and the Mission boys, all working with a will. Barrels were placed on the roofs of the aforementioned structures and kept filled with water, as soon as they were emptied. The Fire Brigade and the Marines commenced to attempt to extinguish the fire in the Castle itself, but it was soon realized that this was a hopeless task and everybody then turned to protecting the adjacent Government buildings, and the Marines commenced to remove the portable property of District Judge Warren Truitt and District Attorney C. S. Johnson, who have their apartments on the third floor of the Jail building; the same force taking everything back as soon as the danger had passed.

The massive Castle gradually succumbed to the raging flames, its eastern wing falling in first; at 5.30 A. M. the western wing was consumed and gradually fell to the ground leaving nothing of the structure's timbers standing erect.

Deputy Clerk Adolph A. Meyer was a busy man, he putting the District Court records and the official papers of the Marshal's office in readiness for removal in case the other buildings should take fire.

All worked to their utmost to save what could be protected from the attacks of the fire fiend and it is due to the united efforts of the Marine Garrison, the Pinta's command, the Fire Brigade, the Mission boys and of almost every citizen that the conflagration was limited to the Castle.

Governor James Sheakley, always kindhearted, served out hot coffee to the workers, in which he was assisted by his son, Mr. F. E. Sheakley.

Mr. Reuben Albertstone took seventeen photographs of the Castle while the flames were consuming it.

THE EVENING STAR.

PUBLISHED EVERY EVENING,
SUNDAYS EXCEPTED.
AT 30 SOUTH SEVENTH STREET,
BY
JOHN BLAKELY.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, 1893.

## —PHILADELPHIA,

The Alaska Herald, published at Sitka, Alaska, in its issue of February 6, contains a very interesting translation of an article from the Russian magazine, Kolokol, published at Moscow, Russia. Contributors to the fund to help the starving Russians will be pleased to see the very grateful terms used in it in speaking of the donations and sympathy of America to their starving fellow beings in Russia. The article was translated by Mr. George Kostrometinoff, United States interpreter at Alaska. The following is an extract from the article:

"In the hard year of the local failure of the crop, it is agreeable to note the manifestation of sympathy of the great American people for the suffering population in the famine districts in most of the counties of Russia. The aid from the far off West, with whom we have no entanglements and have never had any collision, and no alliance, comes in a measure and form agreeable and precious to us as a proof of disinterested humanity and enduring sympathy. But co-operation shown us by the Americans in dealing out benevolence by its own dimension and by its form, illustrates how Americans unite in generous action, and this plan is vividly realized by us. We see before us a fact, it may be said incomparable in the history of international relation, a phenomenon, to open to itself a new era in respect to civilized nations' usage with each other, and contrast of principle in a lively struggle for material interests and forcible predomination, a great covenant, 'love each other.' * * * *

"Co-operation of Americans astounded by its own measures and by its own form. In reality the value of the first cargo brought on the Indiana exceeds $100,000, not counting the cost of freight and insurance. After Indiana comes Missouri with no less a cargo, and then the steamer Iowa. Besides this a considerable sum of money is gathered, so that the whole total of donations, wheat and money, equal about a million roubles. Never has such a large donation been given by one nation to another! Such donations by Americans characterize the practical surroundings and high spirit of enterprise of her people.

"Cities, commercial houses, farmers, flour merchants, the owners of railroads and transportation companies, from the largest capitalists to the smallest laborers, in all a few thousand persons, took the active part in subscription and co-operation in transporting the cargo. Without delay the measures have been taken of transporting the wheat from different cities to the loading of the ships and sending it away, and in less than two months the grain was all gathered in Minnesota, New York, Pennsylvania, Kansas, etc., etc., and was on the various railroads to the different counties where the horror-stricken people were suffering from the famine on account of the failure of the crops."

The Alaska Herald

MONDAY, JULY 31, 1893.

The gunboat Pinta left here last Thursday morning with John G. Brady, Assistant District Attorney, and George Kostrometinoff, Special Deputy Marshal and court interpreter, for Prince of Wales Island, Klawack, Shakan, and Karta bay. They will call at Wrangel and take along with them Hon. W. A. Kelly, U. S. Commissioner. Complaints are made of trouble among the natives of Prince of Wales Island which needs official attention. At Klawack there is a row between the whites and natives regarding the fishing grounds. It is asserted that the whites have stretched their nets across the mouth of the river impeding the run of salmon depriving the natives of their usual stock of fish for winter use. At Shakan it is asserted that the natives are manufacturing hoochinoo in large quantities. At Karty bay a witch case is reported, the victim being a native, who is being subject to all manner of barbarity by his heathenish brethren.

Juneau City Mining Record

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1892.

Col. Isham and Col. Kostrometinoff passed through Juneau on the Topeka on their way to Sitka from Chicago where they have been attending the dedication of the World's Fair building. In one of the Chicaga papers we noticed the pictures of both of these gentlemen. Col. Isham visited Washington city and in the daily *Post* of that place of October 25 we find the following: "Col. Charles H. Isham, adjutant general of the territory of Alaska, arrived in the city yesterday, and will remain here for a week on a visit to his family. Col. Isham is a Washington boy, and prior to his going to Alaska two years since was an active member of the National Rifles for many years. Last evening he visited his old command and took part in the Monday night drill. He received an ovation from the boys and was accorded the company cheer and afterward handsomely entertained."

# The Alaska News.

DECEMBER 24, 1896.

## IN DAYS GONE BY.

### Legend of Baranoff Castle During the Wrangel Regime.

Few people have ever visited Alaska that have not seen or at least heard of the Baranoff castle, as it was popularly termed, which until its destruction by fire a few years ago was the federal headquarters of the territorial officials at Sitka. It occupied a most commanding positon on the summit of a slight eminence and from an architectural standpoint the term castle was extremely applicable, so strongly was it built and with such staunch belongings. Twice before the last conflagration which so completely wiped it out of existence, was it destroyed and as many times was it rebuilt by the old Russians who saw in it a reminder of the baronial days of the stern Romanoff. The first calamity to befall this ancient relic of the White Czar occurred over eighty years ago when the fire god razed it to the ground. It was immediately rebuilt and a number of years later it toppled over a mass of ruins from the effect of a severe earthquake. Again was it rebuilt and for many years it stood an object of attraction to tourists and one of special veneration to the residents. When Alaska was transferred to the United States the castle was taken as a sort of official headquarters and as such was it occupied until the torch of an incendiary again laid it in ashes. Tourists found much to admire in the old and equally massive brass chandeliers and huge bronze hinges that had adorned it in its days of glory. The building had a semi-deserted and melancholy appearance but was one of much interest, speaking as it did of a grander history when Sitka was the metropolis of the Pacific coast of North America, from the centre of which such undisputed power eminated. The presence in Juneau during the past two weeks of a number of Sitka's old residents is responsible for the following hitherto unpublished legend concerning the old castle. It is well known among the Russian families where it has been handed down from generation to generation and the veracity of the relator can not be doubted:

It runs that when Baron Romanoff was governor he had living with him an orphan niece and ward, who like all orphan nieces in feudal castles, was beautiful beyond compare. A distinguished prince who was a guest at the castle became deeply enamored of her charms and determined to carry her back to Russia his bride. His suit found favor in the old baron's eyes, for he was wealthy and possessed much influence at the court of the czar. The niece, however, would not listen to the pleadings of the impetuous prince, as she had months before given her heart to a young lieutenant then attached to the garrison. Finding his efforts were in vain the impassioned lover sought the assistance and good offices of the old baron, before whom the trembling and frightened girl was summoned to appear. To the redoubtable baron she poured forth her tale of woe, explaining with eyes brimming full of tears that her heart had been given to another, that she could not love the prince, and ended by refusing peremptorily to marry him. The old governor, like the rest of his race in traditional accounts, was an accomplished diplomat, and instead of flying into a furious rage at once feigned an interest in the young lieutenant. This interest apparently increased in a short time and it was not long until he was sent off on an expedition which the unsuspecting man thought would result in honors being heaped upon him on his return. Once out of the way preparations were hastily made for her marriage with the prince. Deprived of the support of her lover's counsels and presence, she finally yielded to the threats of her uncle and the ceremony was solemnized. Half an hour after the marriage, while the gayety was at its height, the young lieutenant strode into the ball room, his traveled stained dress and haggard appearance contrasting strongly with the glittering costumes and gay faces of the revelers. During the silence which followed his ominous and unexpected presence he stepped up to the hapless girl and took her hand. After gazing for a few moments on the ring that the prince had placed there, he without a word and before anyone could interfere drew a dagger from his belt and stabbed her to the heart. In the wild confusion which followed he escaped from the castle, but the same evening, overcome with grief and unable to live without her whom he so fondly loved, yet ruthlessly murdered, he threw himself into the sea, from whose cold embrace his body was never recovered. Ever after her spirit was seen on the anniversary of her wedding night, her slender, svelte like form robed in heavy brocade, pressing her hands on the wound in her heart, the tears streaming from her eyes. Sometimes before a heavy storm she would make her appearance in the little tower at the top of the castle once used as a light house. There she would burn a light until dawn for the spirit of her lover at sea.

# The Alaskan

*Entered at the Postoffice, Sitka, Alaska, as Second-class Mail Matter.*

THREE DOLLARS A YEAR.

SATURDAY, MARCH, 3, 1888.

Mr. Frank Guertin, formerly Lieutenant in the U. S. Navy, arrived by the last steamer from Oakland, California. Mr. Guertin was in Sitka seven years ago stationed on board the U. S. Ship Jamestown, when he was married to Miss Nadia Kostrometinoff, sister of Mr. George Kostrometinoff, of this city.

The Alaskan,
*and HERALD combined.*
PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY.

SATURDAY, MAY 4, 1895.

## RUSSIAN EASTER.

Although this festival is known to all as the celebration of the resurrection of Christ, the ceremonies of the Groeco-Russian church are understood by only a few.

The feast itself is annually observed throughout Christendom. The word Easter, Anglo Saxon, Eostre, Eosten; German, Ostern, like the names of the days of the week is a survival of the old Teutonic Mythology. According to Bede it is derived from Eostre, or Ostern, the Anglo-Saxon goddess of Spring, to whom the fourth month, answering to our April—thence called Eosten month—was dedicated. This month, the same authority informs us was the same as the "Mensis Paschalis," when "the old festival was observed with the gladness of a new solemnity."

There is no record of the celebration of Easter festival in the New Testament or in the writings of the apostolic fathers. The ecclesiastical historian, Socrates, states with perfect truth that neither Christ nor his apostles enjoined the keeping of this or any other festival. He says "The apostles had no thought of appointing festival days, but of promoting a life of blamelessness and piety;" and he attributes the introduction of the festival of Easter into the church to the perpetuation of an old usage, "just as many other customs have been established." The first Christians being derived from, or, at least, intimately connected with the Jewish church, naturally continued to observe the Jewish festivals though in a new spirit, as commemorations of events of which these had been the shadows. The Passover, ennobled by the thought of Christ, the true Paschal Lamb, the first fruits from the dead, continued to be celebrated and became the Christian Easter. Thus the human instinct which everywhere craves for the commemoration of marked epochs in the personal, social, ecclesiastical or national life, found its legitimate gratification in the celebration of the events which are the foundation of the Christian faith.

The first day of the Passion Week celebrated in the Russian church is Palm Sunday, at which time a tree is placed in the church and palms are distributed amongst the worshippers. On the Thursday following, called Holy Thursday, the eve of Good Friday, the priest reads twelve passages from the scriptures relating to the occurrences of Passion week. In the mother country the Metropolitan washes the feet of twelve bishops in Moscow, St. Petersburg and Kief. On Good Friday the service commences at 2 p. m., during which the image of the Savior in the tomb is brought from the Altar room or Holy of Holies and placed in the center of the church upon a carved dais called the Katafolga; Each member of the congregation stands with a lighted taper in his or her hand and upon the completion of the service they approach the image imprinting a kiss upon the hand and upon the Bible which is placed upon the breast of the image and a third on the feet. Saturday at 2 a. m. commences the burial service, when the representation of the Christ is carried around the exterior of the church, the congregation following with lighted tapers. High mass is celebrated at noon. Shortly before 12 midnight the priest robed in black velvet vestments trimmed with silver lace reads a prayer before the image and then returns it to the sanctum sanctorum, or Holy of Holies, where it is placed upon the altar; at midnight precisely a gun is fired, the bells toll, the doors of the Sanctum Sanctorum are thrown open and the priest comes forth in silver vestments with the cross and carrying a triple candlestick, with lighted candles, representing the third day after the crucifixion or day of Resurrection. In his right hand he swings a censer containing burning incense, the aromatic fumes of which gently pervade the building. Following the priest are two of the clergy one of whom, (Rev. A. P. Protopopoff) carries the Holy Bible, whilst the other, (Rev. A. M. Archangelsky,) carries the depiction of the resurrection. They proceed around the church once the action being representative of the journey of Mary Magdalene to the tomb of Christ whither she went with balsam and spices to anoint her Lord's body: The congregation sing, "We have seen the resurrection of Christ." The procession

See next page

Cont. from page 121.

stops at the entrance of the church and the morning service commences with the song "Christ is risen from the dead." The doors are then opened and the procession enters and the full service commences. The priest facing the congregation sings "Christ is risen," and they, as did the angel to Mary and her companions, answer "He is risen!"

This late service was fully attended, the church being literally crowded. The beautiful decorations of paintings, the gold and silver and precious stones shone brightly in the brilliant illumination created by the hundreds of candles. George Kostrometinoff, the curator deserves the highest praise for the careful attention which he devotes to the appearance of the church and its chapels. Everywhere is neatness and cleanliness, and it is extremely doubtful whether any more beautifully decorated or untarnished edifice can be seen on the coast.

The Russians regard Easter in the same light that Americans view the New Year's day. On the first day the gentlemen do the calling, and the ladies visit on the second day. Upon entering the house the visitor presents to the host an egg, and saying "Christ is risen" kisses him three times, once on the left cheek, once on the right and lastly on the lips, and receives an exchange egg. This is the greatest holiday that the Russians observe.

The Alaska Herald

*Saturday, June 30, 1894.*

## *THE U. S. S. PINTA RETURNS.*

The Pinta arrived home Tuesday evening, leaving Juneau last Monday afternoon: She brought back Bishop Nicholas and party. The dedication of the new church at Juneau took place last Monday. after which mass was held and Deacon Ivan Bartnovsky was ordained priest and will be pastor of the new church. Mr. A. P. Kashevaroff lead the choir. The church was crowded to witness the ceremonies.

The Bishop and his party are indebted to Capt. W. T. Burwell for the passage over to Juneau and also to the officers of the Pinta for the courtesies shown.

Bishop Nicholas will leave Sitka for the Westward to inspect the various churches around the country and expects to return to San Francisco in September. He will go from the latter place to Washington, D. C., to report church matters. The Bishop was highly pleased with Juneau and made the acquaintance of many of Juneau's esteemed people.

The Alaska Herald

MONDAY, JANUARY 30, 1893.

the right place.

## *A Trip of the U. S. S. Pinta to Cape Fox.*

The U. S. S. Pinta left Sitka on the 21st day of January 1893, at 11:30 a m for Cape Fox, with Charles S. Johnson, U. S. District Attorney, and Geo. Kostrometinoff, Special Depnty Marshal, on board. Arrived at Wrangel on the 24th inst. at 8 o'clock p m., took W. A. Kelly, U. S. Commissioner on board and left Wrangel the next morning Jan. 25th at 6 o'clock. Passed steamer Topeka at 9 a m and dropped anchor at Ward's Cove, Tongass Narrows, at 8 o'clock that evening. Left Ward's Cove, Jan. 26th at 7 a m and arrived at Mary Island at 10:30 a m.

Immediately upon the arrival at Mary Island, Deputy Marshal Kostrometinoff went ashore with search warrants and warrants of arrest for two white men living on that Island.

The house situated about half a mile from the Custom House and in possession of one Carl Jonson was searched first. Found one 10 gallon keg partly full of whisky, one bottle and one gallon demijohn of whisky. The house that is situated about one eighth of a mile from the Custom House and belonging to P. Peerson was searched Found two cases and seven bottles of foreign whisky, (Canadian rye.)

The liquor found in both houses was seized and Carl Jonson and P. Peerson were arrested and taken on board the Pinta.

Left Mary Island at 1 o'clock p m and arrived at Cape Fox village at 3 o'clock p m. Commissioner Kelly, District Attorney Johnson, and Deputy Marshal Kostrometinoff, went ashore.

There are two villages at Cape Fox three miles apart. The boat was first rowed to the nearest village from the ship. Not finding anybody there they immediately went to the further village. The latter is the largest and has 15 houses, about 500 inhabitants and is one of the cleanest and nicest Indian villages in Alaska. It is open to the sea and has no harbor except for canoes and sloops, surrounded by long reefs and rocks and it is very dangerous for sh ps to attempt to come near the shore. As soon as the boat landed the officers went to the chief's house and there they investigated the trouble which occurred in December last.

The story of the Indians is as follows:

The white men wh are now living on Mary Island are well known to us for a long time. Before he Custom House was built on that island these white men used to come to our village in the sloop and sell whisky to us, and now they live on that island where the Custom House is and when we want whisky we go there to buy it.

A few days before Christmas Invat-kat, his brother Kan-ya, Ke-yak, and his brother Nah-li-ay-ta-tin went to the island to buy whisky. When we g t to the island the three white men were all together in one house, namely P. Peerson, Carl Jonson and John Nelson. We bought $45 worth of whiskey of them, (18 bottl s at $2.50 per bottle). Before we left the house the white men treated us several times and when we left the Island we were all drunk. On the way to the village Kan-ya and Nah-li-ay-ta-tin got to quarreling and finally to fighting with knives, and when we got home both men were dead from loss of blood and cold weather, as it took us a long time to get home. On our arrival home there was a great excitement and the news spread abroad that the Indians were fighting among themselves, but now every thing is quiet as we have had a peace dance and every body has a good tum-tum.

We also brought with us the two surviving Indians, Inval-kat and Ke-yak, as witnesses against the white men. Left Wrangel on the 26th inst., at 3 o'clock and arrived at Sitka at 12 o'clock M. on the 29th.

The Alaska Herald

*Saturday, July 21, 1894.*

### *More of the Shakan Murder.*

The U. S. S. Pinta left Sitka on Sunday the 8th inst. for Shakan to investigate the late killing of a white man, known as Jenson, by Indians. Governor Sheakley, District Atty. Lytton Taylor, Deputy Marshal Wallace and Special Deputy Geo. Kostrometinoff were aboard. Ta-ak (Indian) who was arrested lately for being implicated in the affair, was taken also in order to identify the other murderers. The Pinta arrived at Point Ellis Monday the 9th and staying there several hours rounded Cape Decision that night arriving at Shakan Tuesday morning. From the latter place they went to Wrangel the same evening, landing Deputy Marshal Wallace. Leaving Wrangel at 10 p. m. they made Metlakatla on Thursday morning. There the Governor and party were kindly received by Rev. Robt. Duncan, superintendent of the episcopalian mission. Appropriate addresses were delivered by Governor Sheakley, District Attorney Taylor and Capt. W. T. Burwell. The canneries at Metlakatla are running in good shape there being a big run of fish this season. They left Metlakatla Thursday evening and arrived at a place called Ketchekan. From there to Kake village, near Hamilton bay and thence to Chilcoot and Hoonah which latter place they left Monday and arrived home on Tuesday afternoon.

THE MURDER.

The following story was told by Ta-ah "Some months ago myself, two Indians, a squaw and a boy were in a canoe making for Shakan. We met a white man in a sloop. He invited us on board and gave us some whiskey. After we had drank he asked us to pilot him to Shakan. The Indians agreed to pilot him over. Before we started I went back to the canoe which was taken in tow. The remainder of the party stayed in the sloop. As we were starting for Shakan I heard Ka-tinch say: 'This is a good opportunity to get even on the white man for causing the death of my uncle who was arrested several years ago by Marshal Geo. Kostrometinoff and taken to Sitka, where he was tried for killing a squaw and was sent to the penitentiary for ten years, where he died from consumption.' After we had got on the way the white man was rowing the sloop in a standing position his back being turned toward the tiller.

"Tla-koo-yel-lee was steering the sloop. Ka-tinch took his gun and shot the white man through the back. He fell dead. They immediately commenced to search his pockets and found $70 in silver, pistol, gold ring, silver watch and chain. All these were divides between us. I got $25 in cash and a ring. Tla-koo-yel-lee got the watch, chain and pistol and portion of the money. Ka-tinch kept the balance of the plunder and whiskey. After we took all we wanted away from the sloop Ta tinch and Tla-koo-yel-lee made fast a heavy stone to a rope and putting it around his body dropped him overboard. We then tied the rudder, set the sails and let the sloop adrift."

After the Pinta left Shakan she went to the place where the murder was committed, just off an island three miles from Shakan. A boat was sent out with Ensign Rust, two deputy marshals and the Indian Ta ah. The latter showed where the body was thrown overboard. They dragged for several hours for the body but without success.

Ta-tinch and the squaw were in jail at Wrangel and when the squaw was questioned by Interpreter Geo. Kostrometinoff regarding the body of the white man she said it was not thrown overboard as stated by Ta-ah, but was secreted in the woods on the island; that Tla koo-yel-lee shot him, but the shot not proving fatal Ta-ah took an axe and struck him twice on the head, which act ended the man's existence Ta-tinch corroborated the squaw's statement. District Attorney Taylor and Commissioner Kelly held a consultation and it was thought best to leave the squaw at Wrangel so that she could show the place of murder and body on the island. Ka-tinch was brought to Sitka with Ta-ah.

News came up on the Topeka that the body had been found at the place of murder on the island. A corner's inquest was held and several wounds were found on the head. From this last information it would appear that Ka-tinch and the squaw's testimony is correct. However, all four seem to be implicated in the deed and are in jail to await the October term of the district court.

The Alaska Herald

MONDAY, AUGUST 7, 1893.

## *A TRIP TO KLAWAK ON THE U. S. S. PINTA.*

Following is the report of George Kostrometinoff, Special Deputy United States Marshal:

On or about July 25th, one Skookum Bob an Indian, a native of Klawak, came to Sitka on the tug Baranoff and made complaint to the authorities that traps had been placed across the mouth of the river at Shaka, near Klawak, by Superintendent Wadleigh of the North Pacific Packing and Trading Company, thus hindering the run of salmon, depriving the Indians of their yearly stock of fish for support of themselves and families. Superintendent Wadleigh also threatened to charge Skookum Bob $10 rent for the ground he was occupying, Bob's house being located upon the same.

Upon said representations the U. S. S. Pinta left Sitka, July 27th, with J. G. Brady, Assistant District Attorney and George Kostrometinoff, Special Deputy United States Marshal, arrived at Wrangel on the morning of the 28th, and took aboard W. A. Kelly, U. S. Commissioner, arriving at Chican on July 30th.

On Monday July 31st, the steam launch Alhambra, having on board Lieut. Commander Burwell, U. S. N., U. S. Commissioner W. A. Kelly, Assistant U. S. Attorney, J. G Brady, Special Deputy Marshal Geo. Kostrometinoff, Ensign R. E. Coontz, U. S. N., in charge of the expedition left the Pinta and proceeded to Klawak taking the inside passage. En route to Klawak called at a settlement, Shaka, examined the stream and found it obstructed, piles being driven across and netting stretched from shore to shore. Two white men were found in charge fo the traps, one of them being the partner of Mr. Wadleigh, Superintendent of the cannery at Klawak. Upon examination it was found that the fish had been taken out of traps two days prior to the arrival of the expedition.

Left settlement at 9:30 arriving at Klawak at 7 p. m, A complaint was filed against A. S. Wadleigh, he being placed under arrest. An examination was held by the U. S. Commissioner and Wadleigh was placed under bonds in the sum of $3,000 for his appearance before the Grand Jury at the next sitting of the U. S. District Court.

On August 1st, the expedition left Klawak at 9. a. m. returning again to Shaka, reaching there at 8 p. m. Complaint was filed against Peckman, partner of Wadleigh's, and he was placed under arrest. An examination was had and he was placed under bonds in the sum of $500 for his appearance before the Grand Jury at its next sitting. Left at 9 a. m. returning to the U. S. S. Pinta, arriving at Chican at 2:30 a. m. August 2nd. Leaving Chican at 5 a. m. August 2nd, an board Pinta, arrived at Red Bay at 2 p. m. Leaving the steam launch there the Pinta proceeded to Loring, arriving at 9 p. m. August 3rd. At 4 a. m. August 4th, Assistant Attorney and Deputy Marshal went ashore to examine the stream and found it obstructed, piles being driven from one shore to the other and netting stretched, the trap being full of fish. Upon inspection it was found that the trap contained three or four tons of salmon. J. A. Hackman in charge was arrested, waived an examination and was placed under $2,000 bonds for his appearance before the Grand Jury at the next term of court.

That morning the U. S. S. Hassler arrived at Loring. Left Loring at 1 p. m. arriving at Port Chester at 7 p. m. Left Port Chester at 9 p. m. arriving at Wrangel at 10 a. m. August 5th, where U. S. Commissioner Kelly left Pinta. Left Wrangel at 11 o'clock taking in tow the steam launch Alhambra, arriving at the mouth of Peril Straits at 4 a. m. August 6th. At 5:30 left on steam launch Alhambra arriving at Sitka at 7:30. Pinta sailed for Killisnoo from there to go to Juneau.

Instructions were left where streams had been obstructed that any further violation of law would be visited with arrests and punishment.

# The Alaska Herald.

SITKA, ALASKA, SATURDAY, APRIL 14, 1894


## Russian Lent Festivities

Apropos to the Russian Lent festivities at present observed in Sitka, the following correspondence in the Victoria News in worthy of perusal:

Easter is the great national religious festival of Russia. Not only the Russian at home, but the exile in foreign lands, thrills responsive at the name of Easter as that of no other feast on the calendar, for with him it awakens all the sympathies and tender recollections that we associate with Christmas. It is the great time of holiday, of home gatherings, of gifts, of good will toward all men.

It is also the welcome sequel to the longest and most vigorous fast observed in any country—the Russian Lent. Seven weeks of penitential vigil are endured before the dawn of Easter day brings a much needed relaxation and relief. During the first four weeks no animal food is partaken of, and the thing is carried so far by some people as to prevent them from using sugar, because that commodity is supposed to be clarified by bullock's blood.

The one thing that stands by the Russian in the midst of his Lenten tribulations is the abundant supply of fish. Few places in the world approach Russia in this regard, and Providence is duly appreciated.

It is only fair to state, however, that the ordeal of Lent, in its fullest acceptation, is only undergone by the masses. It is the "common people" who persevere to the end. The higher classes content themselves with keeping the first and the last weeks of Lent only. It has already been said that the celebration of Easter is the great festival of Russia; it is also the principal event of the year in the eastern church. There is no micareme in a Russian Lent, but our Palm Sunday, which the Russians call Willow day, affords a mild substitute.

In order to observe to the best advantage the strikingly picturesque features of this feast there is no better place for the stranger to visit than the time honored capital where all the Tsars have been crowned--historic Moscow.

On Willow day eve it is well worth while to visit the Krasnol, as the great Red square in front of the church of Saint Basil by the Kremlin is called, and see the interminable rows of booths, three deep, ranged along under the Kremlin wall, and filled with every imaginable kind of toy and sweetmeat dear to the children of the people. Quaint dolls, angels, cakes made with poppy seed, fastastically decorated Easter eggs, and, above all, sacred branches of the emblematic willow are on sale and are selling rapidly everywhere and to everyone.

The way is thronged with peasants and bourgeois, passing and repassing in an endless living stream, in and out, forward and backward, among the gaily decked booths, ever seeking to and finding some new object to interest them and attract them. Watching these proletarial pleasure-seekers and enjoying themselves in an equal degree according to their own fashion. The aristocratic occupants of handsome carriages form a long procession of their own. These people have come out to look on and see for themselves how the other half lives.

It has been said, by one of themselves, that the English are a people who like their pleasures seriously, but if this be true of the English it does not apply to the Russians. Upon this little stopping place in the long Lenten pilgrimage—this Willow day eve—they temporarily "break the fast" of asceticism and plunge for the moment into a brief forgetfulness of gloomier things. They are completely given up to pleasure and their gaiety is of the whole-souled kind.

At 6 p. m. vesper services are held; every one who attends carries a lighted candle and receives from the priest a sprig of willow which has been agreviously blessed. This ceremony corresponds to the serving out of blessed palms in the Catholic church and typifies the entrance of the Savior into Jerusalem.

Holy week ushers in a constant season of prayer and soberness. The clubs are closed and street musicians forbidden to ply their trade. The shops and stores are open, however, and the rush of shoppers is tremendous. This is because Easter is the time for giving presents, just as Christmas is with us, and every one puts on a new suit of clothes on Easter morning.

At this period the deliveries and purchases from the dry goods stores are of amazing volume, and by evening every one you meet is bound to be laden down with parcels of one kind and another. The shopping fever only rages during the latter half of the week for on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Holy week all commerce is suspended.

Another great feature of Russian Eastertide is the house cleaning, which every good and pious housekeeper is sure to inaugurate. The house is "turned out o' windows" with a vengeance; cleaning, painting and polishing become the order of the day. The floors of the principal apartments are turned into what a stranger might suppose was a skating rink, but is actually the effect produced by two or three men skimming the boards with brushes fastened to the soles of their feet, and sometimes accompanying the motion with song.

At Easter time in Russia cleanliness, instead of being the next thing to, actually is, godliness, and in observance of this maxim there ensues one great universal Muscovite wash; the public baths are crowded, and he who neglects to bathe "early and often" is regarded as a pariah.

A celebration which takes place about once in three years is the making of the Holy Chrism, a ceremony performed invariably either at Moscow or Kief. The chrism oil is used for baptismal purposes; for the consecration of the metropolitan attends at the sacristy of the patriarchs in Moscow, lights a fire, pours in a gallon and reads the gospel, and after this the oil is kept boiling for three days and nights while monks stand over and stir it with silver ladles, priests reading the gospel meantime. Eight hundred or nine hundred pounds of olive oil, mixed with about fifty gallons of white Lisbon wine are used, and this is perfumed with frankincense and other things. The final ceremony takes when the oil is put into two silver caldrons upon a porcelain stove and stired with silver ladles by six deacons in vestments of black and silver.

In the center of the room is a large silver vase, the gift of Empress Catharine II., and into this the chrism is poured to receive the benediction. At the side are placed a number of smaller silver vases in which the oil is eventually sent away. People attend in crowds to dip bits of cotton wool into the holy mixture. On Holy Thursday there is a procession from the sacristy to the cathedral of the assumption with the oil vases, and mass is said by the metropolitan. In the intervening years when there is no making of the myro that ceremony is replaced by the washing of the feet of the poor.

Thursday at 6 o'clock in the evening a remarkable service is held in the Cathedral of the Assumption at Moscow. The congregation hold lighted candles and twelve passages are read from the gospels. Good Friday, during the daytime, a wooden box called the Tomb of Christ is brought into the middle of the church. At 2 p. m. vespers are sung and the body is placed in the tomb. The body consists of a figure painted on silk.

Opon Good Friday may the great bell of Moscow be heard from its tower in the Kremlin, excepting of course when a czar or a metropolitan dies.

Its deep and sonorous thunders roll upon the air with each recurring anniversary of the great day of Christian mourning, while within the dimly lighted church the dean reads the prayers in front of the "royal gates" and the choir, at intervals, solemnly responds "Gospodi Pomilui." In the middle of the nave is the platform where every czar has been crowned throughout the centuries, and at the side the great iconostaris, a mass of precious metal reaching to the ceiling and bearing the sacred picture painted by St. Luke, that Vladimir, the first Christian czar, brought from Korsun long ago. Then the passages from the life of the Blessed Virgin called the "tears" are read, and the body of Christ is carried around the cathedral and again laid in the tomb.

See next page ↓

Con. from page 127

Six o'clock in the morning has arrived and a grand mass is celebrated in the cathedral, the gospel being read in four languages—Russian, Salvonic, Greek and Hebrew. One notable thing is that no flowers are used in the churches at Easter. The music is altogether vocal, and the best place to hear it sung is probably at the cathedral of St. Isaac in St. Petersburg.

After 10 a. m, Easter Sunday becomes a day of social enjoyment. Our American custom of making New Year's calls prevails and is kept up well into the week. Visitors at houses where they are on intimate terms fee the servants, the amounts given varying according to the social status of the host and guest. The streets are gay and brilliant with a concourse of brightly dressed people who are constantly embracing and exchanging eggs. There used to be a generally recognized custom of universal kissing. Everynne was privileged to kiss everyone else, but this has fallen into disuse of late years except among intimates.

In Moscow a very interesting features of Easter week is the people's promenade on the Podnosky boulevard, which is lined with cheap theaters and booths for the sale of odds and ends. Swings and merry-go-rounds are temporarily erected; als concert and dance halls where the Kozatchok and Trepalnare danced with enthusiastic vim and stirring national songs are sung.

# Destruction of the Neva.

Several days ago some Indians came to town with an air-tight copper tank, oak timbers and utensils supposed to be remnants of the wreck of the Russian vessel "Neva," and which they found near Mount Edgecombe. Below we narrate the catastrophe which befell the Neva:

It was in the year 1812, when the Neva, a full rigged Russian ship, weighed anchor at Okhotsk, Siberia. Amid deafening cheers from the multitude on the shore she unfurled her mass of canvas and before a stiff breeze plowed the waves and was soon undisernible, bound for Sitka, Alaska. The ship was under the stern command of Lieut. Podushkin, of the Russian navy, and was owned by the then powerful combination known as the Russian-American Fur Company. Her cargo chiefly consisted of merchandise, Okhotske, Siberia, being at that time the principal distributing point of supplies for Alaska. But the purport of her voyage was the conveying of the treasure and fixtures designed for the Grecco-Russian church at Sitka. The most prominent passenger who perished on board this craft was Collegiate Counselor Barnovolokoff, who had been appointed governor, Baranoff's successor. The survivors were Lieut. Podushkin, the mate Nerodoff, Cadet Terpegoroff, a quartermaster and twenty-one sailors and laborers. Three of the latter died soon afterward. Under a clear sky and favorable weather she reached the vicinity of Mt. Edgecombe—twelve miles west of Sitka—on Jan. 9, 1813, where she encountered a heavy snow storm, and after a fearful struggle with wind and snow was dashed upon the rocks. The intelligence of the wreck was first brought to Sitka by two sailors who were sent overland by Lieut. Podushkin with a letter to Governor Baranoff. After reaching this side of Kruzoff island the men sighted an Indian canoe and approaching it begged of the Indians by signs to take them to Baranoff. They apparently agreed, but instead conveyed them to an Indian village situated on Crab Apple island, about two miles distant. When there the Indian chief inquired, through a Russian interpreter, from whence they came. The men being anxious for the safety of their comrades, whom they had left at the place of the disaster, told the chief that they were out fishing, were caught in a storm, lost their bearings, and were inhabitants of Sitka.

After the usual Indian ceremonies and a big pow-wow they agreed to convey the men to Baranoff Castle, for which services they demanded the equivalent of fifty blankets. The men under these circumstances were forced to this contract. So accordingly they were safely landed at Sitka, but in a pitiful condition, half dead from cold and hunger. The arrival of two strangers was at once reported to the governor by a guard. He gave orders for the strangers to be immediately brought before him. As soon as the men entered his chamber he anxiously inquired: "Do you bring tidings of the Neva?" She was then two months overdue. It was then they related their tale of woe, handing him the letter. After reading the epistle he was overcome with emotion and cried bitterly. The Indians received the compensation demanded. The two messengers were cared for by the hospitable inmates of the Castle—which is no more.

The following day he ordered a cutter to be manned with eight stalwart sailors, and boarding the vessel himself, set out to rescue the unfortunates near Mt. Edgecombe. After cruise of two days and nights, he was compelled to abandon the search on account of a snow storm appproaching. Ten day of painful suspense passed. Once more he ventured, taking one of the newsbearers, who by this time had sufficiently recovered from his feeble condition. The cutter left Sitka in the early morn and before nightfall they sighted the survivors on this side of Kruzoff island, while they, not hearing any tidings of the two men they had commissioned, and apprehending some evil, had started overland themselves. Baranoff took them aboard and brought them to Sitka.

The captain of the Neva told Barranoff he had placed the valuables saved in four barrels, interring them by a creek and near a large spruce tree, which could be indentified by a notch cut in the the bark. After the wreck they proceeded to build a stockade and huts for shelter, fearing hostilities from Indians, who in those days were warlike and constantly avenging themselves upon the Russians for the persecution they had received at the hands of Baranoff, some time after the massacre at Old Sitka, which is six miles north of the present Sitka.

It may be stated here, that they had nothing to fear from the Indians in that vicinity, as at that time the caves were supposed to be haunted by witches. Many years prior to the wreck a volcanic eruption took place, forming the exisiting crater between Mt. Edgecombe and the camel back mountain. The Indians to this day believe the water in the crater of Mt. Edgecombe to be deadly poison. Tourists and others who climb this mountain generally deposit a sealed bottle containing a note, bearing their name and date of their visit to the crater.

Governor Baranoff made several attempts to discover the remains of the wreck, but never succeeded, for the survivors themselves could not exactly locate the wreck owing to fact that they had no charts. The exact spot was not know until the summer of 1867, when it was discovered by a Russian surveying party, who found a large quantity of oak timber, booms, three cannons and the foundation of the stockade. They immediately came to Sitka and reported to Prince Maksootoff, who was the governor of Alaska. The Prince sent a party out to investigate the matter, but could not find the treasure. The sand being constantly throw up by the action of the waves has hidden the treasure and costly fixtures, comprising handsome paintings, jewels, elaborately decorated crowns, crosses, and vases of gold and silver.

And such was the destiny of the illfated Neva. Ah, who knows but what some forlorn and weary prospector in search of that bright yellow metal, in the solitude of the mountains, may accidentally stumble upon this bonanza, which would enable him to live in ease and luxury, for the remainder of his life.

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The above article was written by G. Kostromitinoff for the "Alaska Herald" by request.

"Neva" was purchased by Captain Lisiansky in London, Great Britain, in 1803 for the Russian American Co— She was 374 tons burden and had 14 guns on board. Her English name was "Tsaritza" and after the purchase the Russians renamed her. She had 6 officers & 45 men.

The Alaska Herald

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6. 1893.

An interesting article appears in the Herald this issue, "What the Russians say about Americans," translated from the Russian by our townsman, Geo. Kostrometinoff Mr. Kostrometinoff, although a Russian, is pretty thoroughly Americanized and appreciates and encourages the courtesies between Russia and America. He like many others believe that a mutual reciprocity of kindly fellowship between the two countries may in the future bear fruit, taking into consideration the gloomy outlook in Europe to remain much longer upon a peace footing.

## *WHAT THE RUSSIANS SAY ABOUT AMERICANS.*

The following article is published in the Russian Magazine Kolokol, at Moscow, and is translated for the Alaska HERALD by George Kostrometinoff:

"In the hard year of the local failure of the crop, it is agreeable to note the manifestation of sympathy of the great American people for the suffering population in the famine districts in most of the counties of Russia.

The Russian press, without exception refer to the manifestation of fellow-feeling for Russians in terms of greatful acknowledgement and as an act significant of great historical importance.

The aid from the far of West, with whom we have no entanglements and have never had any collision, and no alliance, comes in a measure and form agreeable and precious to us as as a proof of disinterested humanity and enduring sympathy. But co-operation shown us by the Americans in dealing out benevolence by ts own dimension and by its form, illustrates how Americans unite in generous action, and this plan is vividly realized by us. We see before us a fact, it may be said incomparable in the history of international relation, a phenomenon, to open to itself a new era in respect to civilized nations usage with each other, and contrast of principle in a lively struggle for material interests and forcible predomination, a great covenant, "love each other."

Co-operation of Americans astounded by its own measures and by its own form. In reality the value of the first cargo brought on the "Indiana" exceeds $100,000, not counting the cost of freight and insurance. After "Indiana" comes "Missouri" with no less a cargo, and then the steamer "Iowa." Besides this a considerable sum of money is gathered, so that the whole total of donations, wheat and money equal about a million rubles!

Never yet has such a large donation been given by one nation to another! Such donations by Americans characterize the practcal surroundings and high spirit of enterprise of her people.

As soon as it was known to the representatives of American society and to the press, a conviction was ripened of the amount of suffering Russia is undergoing, and in due time the help has been given, just as soon as the idea was grasped it led up to execution, and notwithstanding all the obstacles and difficulties, it has been realized in a measure worthy the aims of a great and wealthy nation.

Cities, commercial houses, farmers, flour merchants, the owners of railroads and transportation companies, from the largest capitalists to the smallest laborers, in all a few thousand persons, took the active part in subscription and co-operation in transporting the cargo. Without delay the measures have been taken of transporting the wheat from different cities to the loading of the ships and sending it away, and in less than two months the grain was all gathered in Minnesota, New York, Pennsylvania, Kansas, etc., etc., and was on the various railroads to the different counties where the horror stricken people were suffering from the famine on account of the failure of the crops.

Official representative of the United States, Consul General Crawford, at a dinner given for American guests in the city of Libavoi, said, "that everything that has been done in this instance by the American people, it makes them look pale in comparison with the service shown 30 years ago by Russia to the United States; despatching a Russian fleet to our (American) Coast with the intention to assist us in saving our union and independence, and in view of a threat to those powers, who intended to blot from the beautiful American flag many of its most brilliant stars."

The Alaskan.

SATURDAY, FEB. 26, 1898.

The U. S. S. Wheeling left here on the 9th of February and returned last Sunday. Through the courtesy of Comdr. Sebree, Gov. John G. Brady, Commr. C. W. Tuttle and Court Interpreter George Kostrometinoff took passage on her. She called at Killisnoo, Haines Mission, Dyea, Skaguay, Hunter bay, Hoonah, and Yakutat. Whilst about 180 miles district from Mt. St. Elias the weather being bright and clear, they saw the hoary-headed giant rearing his snow-capped head against the deep blue sky, cut as might be a sheet of white paper, sharp as with scissors and laid upon a blue background. Perhaps no scenery in all Alaska is grander them that of the Fair-weather range when viewed thro a clear atmosphere. Their loftiness is not realised until one thinks of the distance intervening between them and the spectator. On the return trip the ship encountered a heavy gale, with piercing cold, and when she returned to Killisnoo she was covered with ice. Her rigging was a mass of icicle and she resembled one of those glass vessels, so deftly put together by expert hands, and which glisten as if of diamonds in the flashing light of the sun.

Good and worthy vessel is the Wheeling; Staunch and of good speed.

Commissioner Tuttle is a regular old sea-faring man as is fully evidenced by the recent trip he took on the Wheeling to Yakutat. Even the doughty Colonel complained of that tired feeling when the sea was heaviest, but the commissioner ever kept his face towards the wind.

doughty. храбрый.

## DECISION OF THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR RELATIVE TO THE LANDS OF THE GRECO-RUSSIAN CHURCH IN ALASKA.

The following decision has been handed down by the Secretary of the Interior.

"All lands owned by the Greco-Russian church in Alaska at the time of cession continue to be the property of said church without diminution or enlargement in quantity. The possessory right subsequently conferred by Congress does not affect lands owned by said church at the time of the treaty, but only extends to public lands, occupied as mission stations at the date of such Congresional action, not exceeding six hundred and forty acres in any one tract.

The present jurisdiction of the Interior Department over any Greco-Russian church lands, or missionary stations in Alaska, is limited to excluding the same entry and acquisition by others under the mining, townsite, or trade and manufacture law.

"No statutory provision has been made that authorizes any separate and independent proceeding for the survey and identification of the church lands in Alaska, the ownership of which was secured to the resident members by the treaty of cession.

"The scope of paragraph 24, in the amended departmental regulations of June 3, 1891, is limited to the consideration of private claims, and the claims of the Greco-Russian church, when asserted adversely to an application to enter lands for townsite purposes."

The Alaskan.

SATURDAY, JAN. 8, 1898.

The question has been asked many times why it is that the Russians celebrate their Christmas several days later then we do, and in view of that fact we requested Col. George Kostrometinoff, to give us the desired information and he kindly furnished us the following:

The Russians and all members of the Greco-Russian Orthodox church celebrate their Christmas on the 6th, and the New Year on the 13th of January every year. Both dates being according to the Julian calendar which is still in use by the Russian Empire. Apropos of this calendar all dates in Russia are twelve days later than according to the calendar used by Americans. This was true of all Europe until 1582. Its error consisted in giving the year a length of 365¼ days, which is about eleven minutes too much, an error which to the present time has now amounted to about twelve days. Pope Gregory XIII ordered October 5th, 1582, to be called the 15th, and that all centurial years which do not multiply of 400 should not be made leap years; thus 1600 was a leap year, and 2000 will be the next that falls on a centenary year. This is called the Gregorian calendar, and is at present used in all Christian countries except Russia. The change from Julian to Gregorian reckoning was not made in England until September, 1752.

The Alaskan.

SATURDAY, JAN. 15, 1898.

TO THE EDITOR
OF THE ALASKAN.

Dear Sir:—For the sake of truth kindly allow me to contradict the statement, made by Col. Kostrometinoff about the Julian and Gregorian calendars, which was issued in your newspaper of the 8th of January, as there is a serious misconception in all the matter.

Speaking about the chronological errors of the whole Russian Empire, Col. Kostrometinoff would not even take the trouble to show the ground that the American and the Russian chronologies are built upon as well the ground he was standing on. He obviously thought it sufficient to say that the one is right and the other is wrong, in order to make the people believe in the errors of Russia. It is however easier to ascribe errors to an individual mind, than to the mind of entire nation—especially to a nation, civilized upon the same principles of science on which the Americans are civilized. I wish here to show that there is no sufficient reason for a nation to boast against another.

Both the Julian and the Gregorian chronologies were, at different times, calculated upon *the ground of the revolution of the earth around the sun.* The Julian calendar supposes that the earth, starting to move from a definite point on her orbit, always returns to the same point after 365 d. 5 h. 48 m. 46 seconds. and that this length of time makes the real year. But, as you see, the fractional figures here could not be left out without bringing each fouth new-year's day for one day earlier than the new-year days in the three preceeding years; and the same figures could not make each fourth year equal to 366 days, because more than 44 minutes were wanted to make these leap years. In the year 46 B. C., Julius Caesar ordered to count all the years at 365¼ days, wherein were about 11 minutes more than the real revolution of the earth had permitted. It is "about 11 minutes too much" in every year as says Col. Kostrometinoff; and for these provisional minutes, he blames the Julian calendar, also finding in them, not

only the errors of Russia, but the entire difference, by 12 days, in the Russian and the American chronologies. Whereas in reality, the same Americans reckon their years at 365¼ days, and keep their ordinary leap years at the same time and on the same footing with Russia. Why should then Col. Kostrometinoff call this fact an error with the Julian calendar and not an error at all with the Gregorian? I know why,—because he supposed that the 11 minutes of the provisional time were being expended for the difference in the dates of the two chronologies. And as he further says, that "the error of counting the years at 365¼ days has now amounted to the difference of 12 days; and that all the centurial leap years with the Americans consist of the above 11 minutes." But this is a still grave misconception, than the preceeding one. For, the additional 11 minutes amount to 3 days 1 hour and 20 minutes in each four centuries, and not to one day which according to his mind ought to make the centurial leap years.

In 1582, Pope Gregory XIII once ordered to change the dates for more than 11 days, thus producing the difference in the two chronologies, and his calendar is obliged to change the future dates again. . . The 25th leap years, for instance, must necessarily be considered as common year, and this error must occur in the opposite direction.

The Gregorian calendar supposes that the earth revolves round the sun in 365 d. 5 h. 48 m. 50 sec., approximately, or at about 11 minutes less than 365¼ days. This is the length of American year, and just as in the Julian calendar, they add about 45 minutes to every four years years or "to each fourth year as they say, 45 minutes too much is added. In 400 years this would amount to 3 days and 3 hours. These three days must be added to the three 25th leap years, which must, however, be regarded as common years, the dates of these days being actually lost for nothing. And what remains for the centenary leap years that should be divided by 400, and which make the difference between the Julian and Gregorian calendars?

There remains nothing but about 3 hours in four centuries, and not 6 hours in each century, as the Gregorian calendar provided for these leap years. It is plain that there is an error upon error in the American chronology as well as in the Russian, and both the Julian and Gregorian calendars are nothing but fictions without real bases.

For, Julius Caesar thought that the length of the year was 365 d. 5 h. 48 m. 46 seconds, and Pope Gregory XIII thought it was 365 d. 5 h. 48 m. 50 sec. But the modern astronomic observations have incontrovertibly proved that the time required for the earth to move on her orbit from the point of the vernal equinox, as the most convenient for such observation, around to the same point again, is 365 d. 6 h. 9 m. 10·7 sec. This record was true in the year 1880, and in the year 1900, the same planet will make the same revolution in 365 d. 6 h. 9 m. 15·1 seconds, which year must be 5 seconds longer than the 1880th year. And it has also been proved that after 100 trips around the sun, the earth always comes for 22 seconds of time later to the vernal equinox, than she ought to do after our expectations. This retarding for 22 seconds in a century means, that the earth's orbit makes more than 53 miles of increase in its circumference while the earth loses her kinetic energy equal to 40 miles of running in every hundred years, so that the length of our years becomes longer and longer. This fact of enlarging the earth's orbit alone baffles with all the existing calendars, and destroys their sense.

And it has further been proved that the length of our day, some thousands of years ago, was 24 hours. Whereas at this time its real and axact length is 23 h. 56 m. 4 sec., because the rotatory rate of motion of the same earth increases in velocity at about 4 seconds per every century. Hence the years are growing longer and the days grow shorter, and all this is going on in accordance with fundamental laws of the planetary motions. And such facts certainly have a direct bearing upon our chronologies in proving them both to be false. If it were not so, the Russians would long ago accept the Gregorian one, but it appears as groundles as the Julian chronology. What is the use then of talking in favour of one calendar, and in disfavour of another, when they differ in nothing but in being the younger and older errors of opposite directions.

B. Bouroff.

# The Alaskan.

SATURDAY, JAN. 22, 1898.

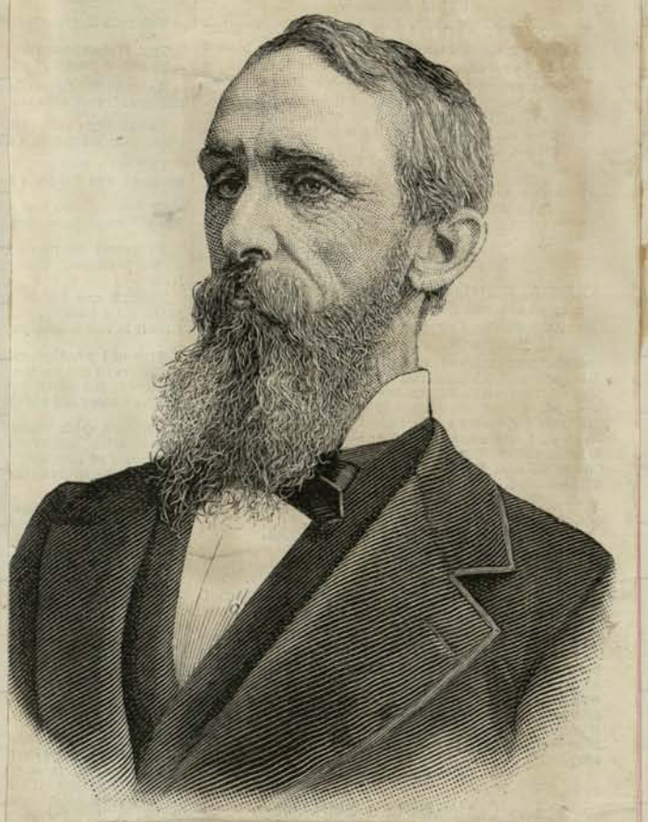
TO THE EDITOR
OF THE ALASKAN.

Dear Sir:—

I read with great pleasure in your issue of January 15th, Professor Bouroff's monograph of the revolution of the Earth around the sun. I must confess that I have not been so highly entertained since I studied the "Copernican theory" when a little boy at school. The fact is however that all the civilized world with the exception of the Russian Empire uses what is known as the "New Style" or the "Gregorian calendar," and the Russian Commerical world uses it also. We have to take facts as we find them, and in my former communication to you I tried to show you in the simpliest manner possible, why it is that the Russians celebrate Christmas and New Year twelve days later then all the other nations of the Earth. As to who is right or who is wrong is a matter of individual opinion and cuts no figure in the matter. Whether or not the days are growing longer or shorter, or the years lengthening out or not, or the sun revolves round the Earth does not change the fact that the entire business world including the Russian people uses the "New Style" and that there is twelve days defference between it and "Old Style."

I sincerely trust that Professor Bouroff's article may have a wide circulation and even if it does not succeed in causing those that are using Gregorian calendar to discard it and go back to Julian calendar that it will at least convince the business people of Russia that they are "in error" in using the New Style and "for the sake of truth" should only use the Julian calendar.

Very Respectfully,
GEORGE KOSTROMETINOFF.



HON. M. D. BALL, DELEGATE FROM ALASKA.
FROM A PHOTO. BY DILLON.

## HON. M. D. BALL,
### THE DELEGATE-ELECT FROM ALASKA.

WE give on this page a portrait of Hon. M. D. Ball, who since December last has been in Washington claiming admission to Congress as the duly chosen representative of the people of Southeastern Alaska. It will be remembered that the memorial of the people of the Territory was some time since presented to that body, and that on the 10th of March last the minority of the Committee on Elections submitted a report in favor of Mr. Ball's admission as a Delegate, with all the rights and privileges of Delegates from other Territories. In support of this conclusion the report says: "The interests of this Territory cannot be properly understood or advanced without an authorized representative. To be competent for such a charge, one must thoroughly understand the wants of his people, and no member of this House has the time to acquaint himself with the needs of another district than his own, so that he could fully and fairly represent it. Still less can the care of a district be safely intrusted to the collective House. There is but one way to begin to discharge the obligation of the Government to this people, and that is to accord them, at once, the privilege here claimed, as one of those which were pledged them by treaty and are due them of right, and that one which they show to be primarily essential for the proper presentation of their claims to such others as may be required." Whether Congress will finally adopt the view here stated is yet to be seen.

Hon. M. D. Ball, who appears as Delegate, was born on the 23d day of June, 1835, in Fairfax County, Virginia. He was educated at the Episcopal High School, near Alexandria, and at William and Mary College, receiving the degree of Master of Arts from the latter institution. He then taught school until the war broke out. He raised a company of cavalry, after the John Brown raid, and was mustered into the Confederate service, April 25th, 1861, and ordered to Alexandria. He was captured, with part of his company, when that town was occupied by the Federal forces in May, 1861, owing to orders given him to stay behind and remove stores, under a supposed agreement under flag of truce. Being exchanged at the first regular cartel, September, 1862, he reorganized his company, and was assigned to the Eleventh Virginia Cavalry of Jones's, afterwards Rosser's, command. He saw continued service from that time, was three times wounded, and at the close of the war was colonel of his regiment. Retiring to civil life, he practiced law in Alexandria from 1865 to 1872, then founded the *Virginia Sentinel*, and conducted it as an independent political paper successfully till 1876. In that year he took a strong stand for the Republican party nominees, which caused the downfall of the paper, by the withdrawal of all its valuable local patronage. In January, 1878, he was appointed Collector of Customs for Alaska, and held the office till removed by President Garfield, June 2d, 1881. In September last he was chosen to represent Alaska in Congress, having received 236 votes to 57 for another candidate.

The Alaskan.
PUBLISHED EVERY
SATURDAY, FEB. 12, 1898.

# A SEDITIOUS TIME IN SITKA AFTER THE REMOVAL OF U. S. TROOPS FROM ALASKA IN 1877.

After the United States troops were withdrawn from Alaska in 1877, the people of Sitka were left without any protection whatever, and the Indians, thinking that the United States Government had abandoned this country for good, got to be very abusive and troublesome. The first thing they did, one week after the Army left here, was to chop the stockade down, which divided the town from the Indian village. While they were cutting the stockade down, chief Anna-hootz was making a speech to the white men, saying: "The Russians have stolen this country from us and after they have gotten most of the furs out of the country they have sold it to the "Boston men" (Americans) for a big sum of money, and now the Americans are mad because they found that the Russians had deceived them and have abandoned the country, and we are glad to say that after so many years hard fight we get our country back again."

The second thing they did was to go into every unoccupied government house, taking windows, doors and even partitions down.

The white men had to submit to all their abuses because the Indians were in a majority.

In the spring of 1878 a schooner came up here from San Francisco and after she had hired seven Indians, all of whom were members of the Kake-sat-tee clan, whose head chief was Kat-tlan, the schooner left for Bering sea on a sealing expedition. One day, while her small boats were out sealing, a storm came up suddenly and upset the boats and the men were drowned with the exception of the mate and the Indian cook, who were on board the schooner and brought the vessel down to San Francisco. When the Indian returned to Sitka and told his people what had become of the remaining party, the Indians got very much excited went to Collector of Customs, Col. M. D. Ball, the only official at Sitka at the time representing the U. S. Government, and demanded pay from him and all the white people of Sitka, for the six Indians lost in Bering sea, and stated that if this demand was not granted they would kill six white men for the lives of their lost brothers.

The pow-wow (interview) lasted for four long hours and after Col. Ball explained to them that they had no right to make such a demand and promised to write to the owners of the vessel and ascertain whether there was any back pay due to the sealers, the Indians went home. This was done to stay off the Indians so we could have time to inform our Government of the dangerous situation we were in.

Our women and children were barricaded in three houses, viz: the Russian parsonage, the Castle and in the Custom house.

Letter after letter and petition after petition was sent to Washington but without the slightest avail. Finally the Indians got tired of waiting for their money and went to the Hot springs and killed the keeper, a man by the name of Brown. Two days afterwards they were coming in to town at 2 o'clock in the morning, all drunk, to kill the white men here, but fortunately they were stopped by the Kak-quan-tan clan who were friendly to the whites and would not permit the Kak-sat-tee clan to kill the whites; a fight them took place between the two clans and that saved us from being murdered. Next day the mail steamer came in and those that could afford to send their families below did so, but the majority of the people had to stay. The same steamer took a petition to Victoria, B. C. asking the British Government for protection. Three weeks afterwards the British man-of-war Osprey came up here and remained at Sitka until she was relieved by the American man-of-war Alaska, and from that time up to the present we have had a man-of-war stationed in Alaskan waters.

THE VETERAN.

Sitka, February 8th, 1898.

"Alaska Herald"

DAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1894

## THE U. S. S. ADAMS OF YORE

### How Her Daring Captain Bombarded Hootz-noo-oo.

The U. S. S. Adams cleared this port at 8 o'clock on Monday evening. While she was steaming out of the harbor the crew swarmed on the deck and smote the still. clear night with ringing cheers of farewell. She will round Capes Ommaney and Decision and take the inside passage to Port Townsend, thence to Mare island, where she will go on the dry dock and receive a thorough overhauling and be repaired. It is rumored that she will come back to Sitka and relieve the Pinta. It will be remembered by some of our oldest citizens that the Adams was stationed here for three years, prior to the coming of the Pinta, which latter ship relieved her in 1884. The famous and daring Capt. Edger C. Merriman then had command of the Adams. It was he who bombarded the Hootz-noo-oo Indian village, which is two miles from Killisnoo. The story is as follows:

In the year 1882 the now existing Alaska Oil and Guano Co., at Killisnoo, was known as the Northwest Trading Co. The Killisnoo station was in charge of the late John M. Vanderbilt, of Sitka. One day while two of the employees of the company and an Indian doctor were out in a whaling boat, testing a new gun the gun exploded and killed the Indian doctor. Getting back to the station they reported the accident and the Indians became excited and demanded a potlatch of 200 blankets from the company. In those days the Hootz-noo oo Indians were noted for their hostility.

The Indians on being refused the blankets proceeded to a lagoon where two white men were fishing for herring and imprisoned them. The agent fearing that the Indians might destroy the company's property came over to Sitka and asked protection from the captain of the Adams. Unfortunately the Adams was undergoing repairs, but the revenue cutter Corwin, commanded by J. M. Healy, was lying in the harbor. Merriman asked Capt. Healy for assistance which was granted. The Corwin proceeded to Hootz noo-oo village with a company of marines and Capt. Merriman aboard. On arriving at the village, Geo. Kostrometinoff, who was then employed as Russian and Indian interpreter by the naval department, went ashore and requested the chief of the tribe to come aboard. When the chief came aboard Capt. Merriman sternly upbraided them for incarcerating the white men and demanded their immediate liberation. The Indians were intimidated and produced the two men, but the captain's anger was not yet appeased and he decided to play a little "potlatch game" himself. For the misdemeanor the Indians had committed by the confinement of the two men he demanded a potlatch of 400 blankets, and if the blankets did not materialize he would wheel his guns on the village and clean things out. The Indians rustled in vain to raise the tax imposed upon them. Several hours passed and they succeeded in raising 40 blankets only. The captain would not come down a single blanket, so accordingly he told the Indians to clear out and he then blazed away at the village. The ship's crew also went ashore and set fire to every house and cabin in the village. No lives were sacrificed. That was that last days of Hootz-noo-oo. Capt. Merriman did this act to teach the Indians a lesson and the scheme seems to have resulted in success, for these Indians who were then the most hostile are now the most peaceful in Alaska.

Capt. Merriman was afterwards relieved by Capt. J. Coughlan, who did some good work with the Adams in surveying Warngel Narrows, Peril straits and Lynn canal, near Juneau.

"Port. Oregonian"

## AN ALASKAN VISITOR.

### Col. Chas. H. Isham in the City.

Col. Charles H. Isham, a special custom house official, stationed at Sitka, Alaska, is on his way back from Chicago and the east, and was at the Gilman last night. Colonel Isham is Adjutant General of the Alaska militia and chief of Governor Knapp's staff. When asked about his trip and about Alaska, he said:

"I went to Chicago in company with Governor Knapp, Colonel Willard and Lieutenant-Colonel Kostrometinoff to attend the dedicatory ceremonies of the World's Fair, and we had a grand time. We four represented Alaska, and were guests of the city. In the parade we appeared in uniform, and were given an ovation all along the line. As we drove along we heard many remarks such as this: 'These are pretty healthy fellows to come from such a cold country.' The press comment was that 'even far away Alaska was represented in the parade.' We seemed to be the great object of curiosity, and were continually overwhelmed with all kinds of laughable questions. Several people seemed very much surprised when they were told that Alaska was not contiguous to Washington. One of the gentlemen in our party had never seen a railroad until he arrived on the Sound, and when we reached Chicago he said that he did not wish to go further, as that was as big a city as he wanted to see.

I have lived in Alaska three years and find the climate very pleasant. On the coldest day we had last winter the thermometer registered 18 degrees above zero.

The combination formed by the salmon-cannery men kept the out-put down pretty low this year. According to the agreement made, only 400,000 cases were turned out. Outside of the combination a few independent canneries put up about 50,000 cases. The codfish industry was pursued to a greater extent than ever before. The catch was in the neighborhood of 2,500,000 fish. The first shipment was 250,000 fish. Two San Francisco firms handled all of those fish, but labor is so high on the Pacific Coast that it is at present difficult to compete with the eastern prices. It is anticipated that this industry will receive a great impetus in the near future, as it is rumored that orders are likely to be received from the east for large shipments.

The fur trade is not as extensive this year as it has been in former years. It is safe to say that the total number of seals taken this year will not exceed 70,000.

We have plenty of gold in that country, but, as it is low-grade ore, it takes a large amount of capital to get it out of the quartz. The Tredwell mine on Douglas island, is reported to have netted its stockholders, during the last fiscal year, the sum of $360,000. There is no doubt that the same amount of capital invested in the vicinity of Silver bay, would produce equally as good results.

By a natural barrier Alaska is almost equally divided in two parts. The barrier is the range of mountains in which Mount St. Elias is situated. This range is known as the 'Alps,' and is almost impassable. These divisions are commonly known as 'Southeastern Alaska' and 'Western Alaska,' and it has often been suggested that the government make them separate territories.'—Portland Oregonian.

# A BLOOD FEUD IN ALASKA.

*IT BEGAN EVER SO LONG AGO, AND A PHONOGRAPH MAY SETTLE IT.*

**The Romance of Wank, the Stickin Warrior, and Sanik, the Belle of the Kak-wan-tons, and the Mess True Love Kicked Up—Efforts at Peace Vain Till Tony Albertstone Came.**

Long and long ago, before the Americans thought of purchasing Alaska, before the ghost of the beautiful Princess began to sweep her rustling skirts through the halls of old Baranoff Castle, or to toll the great bell at midnight on Christmas eve, even before the belfry had been put up outside the castle, so long ago that the oldest of the Kak-wan-tons have forgotten the time and tell the tale vaguely, speaking of "many winters ago," began this blood feud between the Stickins of Wrangel and the Kak-wan-tons. Through all the years the feud had been kept up. Time after time the United States authorities have endeavored to settle it. The United States ship Jamestown made a special cruise once to try to get the Stickins and the Sitkas to make peace, but all the efforts failed, until Tony Albertstone of Sitka came along with his phonograph, and now the feud may be settled.

Wank was a Stickin warrior, very brave and very handsome. When he was two and twenty years old he had killed fifty bears. He was the greatest bear hunter of Wrangel, and when he came over to Sitka it was no wonder that the beautiful Sanik fell a captive to his charms. Sanik was the belle of the Kak-wan-tons. She wore great gold earrings, and her hair was smoothed down with bear's grease. So she went back with Wank to the great bear hunter's illahee. Now Sanik had been promised to Tchoo-Atak, the bravest of the Kak-wan-tons, and because of her desertion to the Stickins there was great trouble in the Sitka villages.

Tchoo-Atak took his cedar canoe, and setting out from Sitka in the night paddled without stopping till he came to the Stickin village, where Wank had taken his beautiful bride. He called a council of the head men of the Stickins and told them how Wank had betrayed him. His honor and his home and his tribe, he said, were disgraced, and he demanded reparation. There was a great pow-wow over Tchoo-Atak's story, and in the end the tribe decided against Wank, and ordered him to send the beautiful Sanik back to Sitka with Tchoo-Atak.

Now, it is an old custom among the Alaskan Indians that when it is decided that one tribe or family has wronged another tribe or family a great feast or potlach shall be given to the injured by those who have done the wrong. So, besides giving up Sanik, whom Wank believed he had won in fair contest, he was obliged to give a great feast to Tchoo-Atak and his family. The potlach was given, and when it was over Tchoo-Atak took Sanik and put her into his canoe ready to start back to Sitka, but just as he was about to get into the canoe himself Wank came up, and with all his might stabbed Tchoo-Atak through the heart with a dagger concealed under his blanket.

Tchoo-Atak's family paddled back to their village as fast as they could go with the news of Wank's double treachery. The Kak-wan-tons held a council and determined to go back to the Stickin village in force and demand blankets or pay from Wank's relatives. That is always the custom among Alaskan Indians. They do not demand a life for a life, but when a man has killed a man of another family and is convicted of it he must pay to the dead man's family what the dead man is determined to be worth in blankets. The custom is even carried so far that it is said by those who know the Alaskan Indians best that sometimes when a man grows old and feeble and can no longer be of service to his tribe, if he can provoke a fatal quarrel with a man of another tribe he will do it, so that his tribe may profit something by his death.

Eight canoes of the Kak-wan-tons left Sitka for the Stickin village to demand reparation for the death of Tchoo-Atak. Upon their arrival they were met by the whole Stickin tribe, who greeted them kindly and asked them to come ashore, promising them a great potlach for the injury which Wank had done. But Wank's spirit in killing Tchoo-Atak had pleased the old men of his tribe, and their promise to the Kak-wan-tons was a snare. No sooner had the Indians from Sitka left their canoes and come upon the beach than they were attacked by the Stickins with spears. They were utterly unprepared for a fight, and of all who came only two canoes escaped.

But even this was not enough. A little while afterward the Stickins caught the young son of the head chief of the Sitka tribe while he was hunting in Peril Straits and killed him and threw his body into the salt water.

So the feud began and grew. The desire for revenge was deep rooted in the hearts of the Sitkans, and they vowed to take vengeance on the whole Stickin tribe at the first opportunity. They are a patient people, and they waited long for their opportunity. It became their custom to compel all the boys, down to the little fellows of five years, to bathe in salt water every day, even in the coldest weather, and when the boys came out from their swim the fathers pursued them with whips' saying:

"The Stickins whip you; not we. When you grow up take revenge on them."

A long time after the killing of Tchoo-Atak and his friends, when the new generation had grown up and the Kak-wan-tons thought the memory of the old outrage had had a chance to die out among the Stickins, they sent a messenger to the Stickin village saying that they desired to make peace, and asking their ancient enemies to come to Sitka for a potlach. So pleasantly was the message delivered, and so fair and open did it seem, that the Stickins were taken off their guard. Four canoes put out from Wrangel and went to Sitka, bearing the head men of the Stickin tribe to the great potlach of their old enemies. But the Sitkans had not forgotten, and when the Stickins landed from their canoes the Kak-wan-tons fell upon them and killed them every one. Then there was great rejoicing at what they called the glorious victory, and they gave the potlach for themselves.

So the feud between the Stickins and the Kak-wan-tons was kept up. When the United States bought Alaska from Russia the active manifestations of the feud were curbed by the strong hand of the Government, but the old animosity was not eradicated. The Stickins never went to Sitka, and the Sitkans never went to Wrangel. Two or three years ago Tony Albertstone of Sitka went to Wrangel with a phonograph. Ka-du-shan, the principal chief of the Stickins, saw the phonograph and was greatly amazed by it. He made a speech into it, and the reproduction of his own words by the machine convinced him that there was magic of the most wonderful kind. Then Albertstone, remembering the feud, determined to play upon the old chief's belief in the magic, and at last persuaded Ka-du-shan to send a message to his ancient enemies of Sitka through the wonderful talking machine, in the hope that at last the old feud might be settled. Ka-du-shan made the speech, and this is what he said:

"It is I, Ka-du-shan, together with the Chief Shakes, that am sending the message through the talking machine to all the Kak-wan-ton clan of the Sitka tribe. You all know that many, many years ago your forefathers invited our forefathers to Sitka to a big feast, and when they all came to your village, unprepared to have any trouble, but to have a good time, your clan killed them all before they ever had a chance to get out of their canoes. This fight never has been settled. But now our tribe, as well as your tribe, have become Christians, and, as the missionary tells us, we are now brothers. If this be true, why not be like brothers and throw off the old grudge which we have had against each other for all these years and make the peace? But the peace must be made according to the custom of our forefathers in order to make it binding and everlasting, and as it costs a great deal to travel in this country we want you to pay all expenses."

That was the great speech of pacification sent by Ka-du-shan through the phonograph to the Kak-wan-tons. If he had stopped before the last sentence the speech might have effected its purpose, but the Kak-wan-tons are a thrifty folk and refused to pay the expenses of their old foes.

So the feud stands. Nevertheless, the owner of the talking machine and the missionary to whom Ka-du-shan referred in his speech hope that before many years the question of expense will be left out and both tribes will contribute to the great potlach, so that the peace may be effected, "according to the customs of our forefathers, so as to be binding and everlasting."

-Kadashan

# The Alaskan

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1889.

Tuesday morning last the warship Thetis sailed from port on a ten days' cruise in the waters of S. E. Alaska, during which time she will touch at Juneau, Douglas City, Hoonah, Wrangell, Howkan, Chilcoot, Killisnoo, and various other settlements in the District, for the express purpose of affording Governor Knapp an opportunity to visit those points and make himself acquainted with the residents. Mr. George Kostrometinoff, the Court Interpreter, accompanied the Governor and prior to his departure was appointed Notary Public by Mr. Knapp and Special Deputy Marshal by Marshal O. T Porter. During the stay of the Thetis at Hoonah Mr. Kostrometinoff will attempt the arrest of a Chilcat Indian named Shotridge, an old offender, for whose arrest a warrant was issued by Judge Jewett some months ago on a charge of resisting an officer in the execution of his duty.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1889.

The grand ball given last Monday night by the Commander and Officers of the U. S. S. Pinta at the Court Room,—the first of the season,—was an unqualified success. Though gotten up on short notice, yet, through the untiring energy of the ubiquitous Dr. H. B. Fitts, a rustler, everything was in order. Both the government vessels Thetis and Pinta were represented by their gallant officers in social full dress uniform. The full band from the Thetis furnished the music, occupying the spacious Court House hall.

In the dances were seen Mrs. T. W. Kinkaid and her sister Miss Cassin, models of matchless, queenly grace and dignity, beyond the power of painter's brush or sculptor's chisel; Mrs. Henry E. Haydon, with her sparkling vivacity, humor, and rare conversational powers; the brilliant Mrs. E. P. Webster, unconscious of the reverent homage to her beauty and genius; Mesdames J. T. Smith and A. C. Hodgson, so well known as inseparable and almost a part of each other; Mesdames Geo. and Peter J. Kostrometinoff, at home in the quadrille or waltz, and who by their retiring modesty challenged the attention of all; la petite combination of angel and fairy, Mrs. Dr. Fitts, a picture never to be effaced from the foreground of memory; the young Miss Julia Haley; the teacher Miss Anna Beatty; the charming Mrs. Grant; Mrs. C. W. Jungen with stately mein and dignity; the dark-eyed beauty Mrs. Phil. Weittenhiller; the venerated matron Mrs. E. P. Webster, sen., with maternal pride and devotion for her son the Paymaster, all combining in a brilliant galaxy of beauty, culture, grace and refinement, challenging with generous rivalry cosmopolitan Eastern society. Captains Chas. H Stockton and O. W. Farenholt, who by their individuality have forged to the front of the American Navy, and whose names are a household word from Point Barrow in the ice-bound Arctic to the perennial verdure of Darien, need neither encomium or praise.

About 11 o'clock an elegant supper consisting of viands, coffee, and luxuries, was served. The repast, which was done full justice to, reflected credit on the caterer.

Space will not allow individual mention of the courtly gallantry of the entire coterie of officers from both ships.

The civil officials were represented by Governor Knapp, Secretary Haydon, District Attorney Grant, Collector Pracht and Judge Jewett.

140

SATURDAY, JANUARY 4, 1890.

On Monday evening last a meeting was held in the Executive Office in the Custom House building for the purpose of effecting the organization of the Alaska Historical Society. A Constitution and By-Laws were adopted and the election of officers was held. Hon. Lyman E. Knapp was elected President and Mr. Geo. Kostrometinoff Recording Secretary of the Society. The membership consists now of 24 gentlemen as active members, and an initiation fee of $3.00 was collected forthwith to provide a fund to enable the Society to enter upon its useful career. An important step was taken in appropriating $25.00 to place the Southern Blockhouse, which stands on the rising ground between the town and the Indian Ranch, in good repair, thereby preserving an interesting landmark, which is visited every Summer by hundreds of tourists; this and the northern larger one having been erected in years gone by to protect the town from attacks by the natives, who had selected the strip of shelving beach facing the inner harbor for a village site, after the Russians had permanently settled down here.

Hon. Max Pracht stated in the course of the proceedings of Monday evening's meeting that he, as Custodian of public buildings, would recommend to the Secretary of the Treasury that both blockhouses be transferred to the keeping of the Historical Society in order to prevent them from joining in the gradual decay which threatens all the original Russian buildings, the property of the Government at present here in Sitka. The Historical Society has been so organized that it will be able to communicate with other organizations abroad, which have a kindred object in view. Its constitution sets forth that it aims at collecting and preserving historical data and articles of historical value in regard to Alaska, and the dissemination of useful information in that respect. No more appropriate place than the seat of government could be selected for the headquarters of the Society, considering that all the heads of the administrative branches of the territorial government, who without exception display a lively interest in the organization, are located here. To ensure the co-operation of others in the Territory who might be disposed to further the objects of the Society, its constitution provides for five Vice Presidents, of whom four may act as presiding officers of other local ramifications. We wish the Alaska Historical Society a prosperous future!

See Card

# The Alaskan

*Entered at the Postoffice, Sitka, Alaska, as Second-class Mail Matter.*

THREE DOLLARS A YEAR.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1890.

The neighboring tribe of Sitka Indians, belonging to the Thlinket nation, are now mourning the loss of their Head Chief Annahootz, who breathed his last on Thursday evening, the 6th instant.

Annahootz, whose Christian name was Alexis, received upon his baptism under the rites of the Greeco-Russian Church, was reported severely ill on the 10th of January last, whereupon the surgeons of the gunboat Pinta hastened to his bedside to give him all possible relief, as he was held in great esteem by the naval as well as the civil authorities on account of his undaunted fidelity to his white superiors. Subsequently to that date until the time of his demise Drs. Fitts and Arnold were in constant attendance upon the bed-ridden Chief, and they favored THE ALASKAN with the following history of his case:—

Upon their first visiting the sick man they found him much enfeebled through voluntary starvation and in a comotose state, from which he could only be aroused with much difficulty. The medical men first resolved to administer stimulants to him in the hope that they would produce a re-vivifying effect and thereby overcome his seemingly determined refusal to take any nutriment, but their expectations were not fulfilled as he persisted in refusing to swallow anything voluntarily, and could only be compelled to do so by force. On January 17th they commenced to feed the invalid artificially by means of a stomach pump and continued in this way for ten days, at the same time giving him, by a similar method, medicine for restorative purposes. On January 27th, no appreciable effect for good having been experienced, a consultation was held and it was decided to desist from further forced sustentation of the patient, on account of the tribe objecting to the methods pursued, they considering it a degrading manner of treatment, and his eventual recovery being regarded as hopeless. No food was therefore administered to him after that date, and on the day before mentioned he expired. As long as he was under the observation of the naval surgeons he hardly spoke a word or seemed to understand anything. He would accept any alimentary solid or fluid without attempting to partake of it, hiding it instead in the blanket with which he was enveloped, and only by force could it again be taken away from him. It seemed that he had made up his mind to die because his career of usefulness had passed, he being of ripe old age and stricken with blindness for the last nine years of his life.

From Mr. George Kostrometinoff, Interpreter of the U. S. District Court, who had known the worthy Chief from childhood, we gained the following interesting items concerning him :

Annahootz was born in the native village at this place and succeeded his brother Sergius in the chieftainship of the tribe in 1865, whose footsteps in his demeanor and moral influence over the tribe he closely followed. He had seen how the Russian authorities, then governing here, had always appreciated his brother's fidelity and uprightness, and therefore had been, when his death occurred from violence—being shot through the heart in a family feud—buried with military honors, a section of the Kamtchatka battalion garrisoned here firing a volley over his grave. Upon THE ALASKAN asking how it was that Annahootz succeeded his brother as Head Chief of the tribe, such being contrary to the rules of Thlinket sociology, the rightful successor in wealth and dignities being the eldest son of the eldest sister of the deceased, it was explained that nephews were wanting and that consequently Annahootz, the younger brother, was next of kin.

At an outbreak of Sitkans against the whites in the early part of 1878 Annahootz made a most notable display of bravery and fidelity to the whites under the following circumstances:—The sealing schooner San Diego called in here to ship native hunters for a cruise in Behring Sea in 1877 and proceeded on her voyage, after securing here the services of six Sitka Indians. One day one of the San Diego's boats being away from the ship on a hunting expedition with the six Sitkans and the mate of the schooner on board, she unfortunately capsized, and the mate and only one of the Indians were saved. Upon the vessel's arrival at San Francisco the surviving native returned here bringing the news of the drowning of his five shipmates, which tidings put the whole village in a state of excitement, and the relatives of the deceased men were not slow in following their custom and claiming damages for the loss of their brethren, which had been caused (as they claimed) through the agency of the whites. A conference between the natives and Major Gouverneur Morris, then Collector of Customs here, was held, in which the Indians made a formal claim for a number of blankets, then as yet the standard currency among the natives, as a recompense for their loss. Major Morris, naturally, retorted that such a course could not be pursued but that he would ascertain from the owners of the San Diego how much wages were due each individual and make a claim for the amounts on behalf of the interested parties. This proposition was accepted and the excitement was so far allayed until the answer of the schooner's owners arrived to the effect that no wages were due the deceased mariners, as they had been engaged to participate in the profits of the voyage and that the efficiency of the crew had been crippled to such an extent, through the loss of the five hunters, that the vessel had been compelled to return home without realizing any profit. The expectations of receiving a restitution in worldly goods for the loss of their relatives were thereby entirely dispelled, and revenge upon the whites was planned by the Indians. The killing of a white man by the name of Brown at the Hot Springs, near this place, was the first overt hostile act, and in town the natives became most aggressive in their behavior, even going so far as to tear down the old Russian stockade dividing the village from the white settlement, that enclosure having been kept in good repair during the occupancy of the U. S. Army, which evacuated the Territory in the previous year.

The hostile feeling among the Indians became gradually so intense that the whites without any protection from army or naval forces, had to secure themselves against an attack of the natives and two places of refuge were selected, the Russians transferring their families to the residence of their parish priest, Rev. Father Nicolai Metropolsky, whilst the Americans with their wives and children found a place of safety in the Custom House. The town was regularly patrolled at night by a citizen's posse in order to prevent a surprise and to guard against the natives securing possession of the town, that design having been planned to take place as soon as Kat-tlean, Chief of the Kokwantan clan of the Sitkans, could bring his auxiliaries from the Chilcat villages. The natives bent upon revenge became impatient however and made a rush for the town before Kat-tlean with the Chilcats had arrived, and proceeded as far as the parade ground with the intention of attacking the Custom House. Annahootz had assembled here a handful of his trusted followers to prevent the intended assault, and in the scuffle which ensued one of the Head Chief's followers was wounded. A hand-to-hand fight among the villagers now occurred and the hostiles were at last driven back by Annahootz with the aid of the whites who had now dared to emerge from their ark of safety. As luck would have it the mail steamer arrived a few days afterwards and the Collector improved the opportunity by sending an appeal for protection to the Washington authorities, whilst the Russian priest invoked the aid of the Senior Naval Officer at Esquimault, the B. C. Naval Station. The British man-of-war Osprey was the first to appear in Sitka Harbor, and the next day there steamed into port the U. S. Revenue Cutter Wolcott. Through the determined attitude assumed by the British Commander, who threatened to bombard the village, the spirit of the natives was cowed and peace once again reigned supreme. From this time on the name of Annahootz rose in the estimation of the law-abiding members of the community, and his fidelity on that occasion was never afterwards forgotten by the whites.

From a matrimonial point of view the Chief can be regarded as a complete success, he having been a polygamist in the truest sense of the word. Dora, his widow, was his thirteenth wife and the only one wedded to him under Christian rites.

It is not yet determined who will be the late Chief's successor. The settlement of the question is delayed pending negotiations between the Governor and the leading members of the tribe.

The interment of the remains took place on Sunday the 9th instant, the cortege starting from the native village at 9:30 A. M. The holy edifice being reached at 10 o'clock, immediately following the regular morning service the funeral ceremony was commenced. Father Donskoy officiated and delivered an appropriate eulogy on the deceased, who was buried with all the honors which the Church could bestow upon him.

SATURDAY, FEB. 11, 1899.

Father Anthony, assisted by Father Jason and Professor Popoff, gave a delightful entertainment on Monday evening to the officers of the "Wheeling" in recognition of the courtesies extended him by these representatives of Uncle Sam's "navee."

Father Jason's magnificent basso has seldom been heard to greater advantage. The Father's good nature is preeminent and his audience was favored with an extended and varied program, including selections from oratorios, Russian love-songs and quaint, provincial ballards, not often heard outside of the Czar's domain. Col. Kostrometinoff delighted the company with some original compositions on the guitar, and Lieut. Corgas enlivened the evening with French, Russian and "Old Virginny" melodies. The Lieutenant's most pronounced success was made in introducing the unfamiliar National Hymn of the Philippines, entitled "A Hot Time in the Old Town."

The evening's enjoyment was supplemented by a feast of good things for the "interior department," Father Anthony appologizing for its inadequacy, in the light of genuine Russian hospitality, while his guests congratulated themselves that in the present instance at least, Alaska was a land of limitations.

The Russian National Hymn and "America" were sung with spirit by the entire company and concluded the evening's entertainment.

The guests included Lieut. M. C. Corgas, Dr. W. M. Wheeler, Ensigns E. H. Durrell, D. W. Todd and C. M. Tozer, Paymaster W. H. Doherty, Captain Goodrell, Dr. Kosher, Mr. Frank Grygla, Col. Kostrometinoff and Mr. D. C. Lockwood.

SKAGWAY, ALASKA,

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1909

THE CHILDREN'S NATIONAL HUMANE SOCIETY.

The Sitka children have a society which is called the Children's national Humane Society. The headquarters are 114 E. 28 St, New York City. In order to join the children all had to promise that they will be kind to all animals; this is the pledge. It is a good thing for children to have because they will be kind to all things more helpless than they. The children who belong to the society wear a badge to show people that they belong.

Our society started last year when the teacher saw how cruel the children were to the animals. This year the society has improved and we elected a president. He and his helpers look after the society and see that the children keep their promises and are not cruel to animals. All the children in Sitka should belong to the National Humane Society, and other towns in Alaska should have societies also.

Boris Kostrometinoff.

JUNEAU, ALASKA,

FRIDAY MORNING.

DECEMBER 21, 1906

Vol. X. — No. 22.

New York, 15 East 97th Street

15–28 Ноября 1906 г.

# SITKA RESIDENT HIGHLY HONORED

George Kostrometinoff, who has resided in Sitka all his life, but who is as well known here as at his home, has been made the recipient of a signal honor at the hand of the czar of all the Russias. Mr. Kostrometinoff has received direct from his imperial majesty a massive silver goblet bearing the royal arms—the double-headed eagle of Russia—in recognition for his faithful connection with the famous Russian cathedral at Sitka.

Mr. Kostrometinoff has been warden of the historic church for over twenty years and under his management it has been rescued from a state of indebtedness and put on excellent financial footing.

Rt. Rev. Innocent, bishop of the Russian churches of the Pacific coast, was struck by the fidelity to duty exhibited by Mr. Kostrometinoff and called the czar's attention to it with the recommendation that the government send him some token of its appreciation.

A short time ago a package was received from the Russian embassy at Washington and accompanying it was a letter from Baron Rosen, the Russian ambassador to the United States, to Bishop Innocent. It was as follows:

"Russian Foreign Office

"Imperial Embassy

"Washington, D. C.

"Nov. 13, 1906

"No. 358

"Your Eminence:

"The imperial foreign office sends me a silver goblet bearing a reproduction of the state emblem, which with the great mercies of the czar you will please present to the citizen of the United States, Mr. George Kostrometinoff, warden of the Sitka cathedral and a resident of Sitka, Alaska.

"Respectfully soliciting your lordship's blessings and prayers, I beg to remain Very respectfully,

"ROSEN."

The goblet is a magnificent specimen of the silversmith's art. It is very massive and is covered with intricate and beautiful engraving. Its value is $300.

# ОФФИЦІАЛЬНЫЙ ОТДѢЛЪ.

Государь Императоръ, по всеподданнѣйшему докладу Министра Иностранныхъ Дѣлъ, Всемилостивѣйше соизволилъ, въ 15 день Сентября с. г., на пожалованіе старостѣ Ситхинскаго Каѳедральнаго Собора Американскому гражданину Сергѣю **Костромитинову** Высочайшаго подарка — серебрянаго кубка, стоимостью въ 300 рублей, и бывшему старостѣ Миннеаполисской церкви Павлу **Маслею** — серебряной нагрудной медали на Станиславской лентѣ.

## MUSEUM GETS RELIC.

### Smithsonian Receives Cuirass Worn by Russian Governor of Alaska.

An ancient steel cuirass, of woven links, worn for twenty-seven years by Alexander Baranoff, the first Russian governor of Alaska, was received at the National Museum's anthropological department Saturday.

It was presented to the United States by George Kostrometinoff, a resident of Sitka. His interest in the relic was aroused by an Indian legend that Baranoff wore such a cuirass, arousing the belief among his Indian foes that he was a shaman or conjurer, immune from harm in battle. Hearing from the Indians that the cuirass was still in existence, Mr. Kostrometinoff found it in the possession of Shaketoo, one of the Tarous chiefs, who presented it to him, with an address relating its hereditary descent among the chiefs.

It is stated that the intrepidity and strength of Baranoff in holding ground against the Indians, and winning their friendship, made possible the settlement of Alaska by the Russians, and its subsequent transfer to the United States.

The Smithsonian institution, in acknowledging the accession, sent Mr. Kostrometinoff a copy of the work by Dr. Walter Hough, of the ethnological division, which first called systematic attention to the extensive use of different types of armor among the American Indians, some of ivory, wood, and iron, and remarked that the Russian specimen, aside from its historic interest, constituted a valuable link of relation with the aboriginal American development of armor.

Takii

144



# CHRISTIAN DENOMINATIONS R
# IN TH

*Early Efforts of the Greek Church of Russia Successfully Fo*

THE first object of interest which is pointed out to the tourist who lands at the still, quaint old Russian town of Sitka, Alaska, is an old cross, very much the worse for wear, that occupies a prominent position in the landscape as one stands on the wharf. This marks the spot where the first church building in Sitka was erected, in 1817, from timbers recovered from the wrecked ship Neva.

But although it is a sacred spot, and at the time of the treaty for the transfer of the Alaskan territory from Russia to America in 1867, was one of the parcels of land confirmed by protocol to the Greco-Russian church, it does not really mark the first church building in Alaska. There is an old ruin of a large log house at Kenai to which must be accorded this honor, for that was raised for missionary and church purposes as far back as 1789, or the year after Russia laid claim to the country.

Kenai is on the east side of Cook inlet, at the mouth of the Kaknu river, and at the time of the transfer was still a fortified place. This was the earliest permanent settlement made by the Russians, and the missionaries of the Greco-Russian church were soon in the field, and succeeded in Christianizing the Kanaig Indians, as much from a fear of the wrath immediately threatening as of that of the great hereafter. And yet, as ex-Gov. Swineford says in his history of Alaska, "they are now as good Christians as can reasonably be expected from their limited understanding, and in honesty will compare favorably with most white communities whose religious professions are much more orthodox."

To tell of the history of religion in Alaska, however, it is necessary to go back to that old wooden cross at the entrance of Sitka town. And in this brief newspaper history of the missionary work done in the far off territory, by the Russians first, and later by the various religious denominations of America, there will be much to surprise the ordinary reader.

**Notable Church Buildings.**

There are but two especially notable church buildings in Alaska, the one the famous Russian cathedral at Sitka, and the wooden edifice of ecclesiastical design built by the Jesuits, which is so prominent in the shadow of Juneau cliff as the tourist comes up the bay. The present Sitka cathedral was begun in 1846 and completed on St. Michael's day, 1848, and hence is under the tutelary guardianship of that saint. Among its most precious relics is a portrait of the patron saint, with its drapery of gold. Rich vestments, gold and silver vessels, valuable paintings and chased figures in silver and gold and precious stones, have made this church famous throughout the world. These were the gifts of the nobles of Russia, and George Kostrometinoff, the present custodian, who is also interpreter to the United States district court, shows them to visitors with great pride.

Alaska forms a bishopric of the Greco-Russian church, the site of which until a few years ago was Sitka, but it now remains at San Francisco. The title of the bishopric is that of Alaska and the Aleutian islands. The Russian government annually appropriates about $68,000 for the support of the church in Alaska, so that every priest has a salary and is not dependent upon his congregation. The bishop receives a salary of $6,000 a year, and the priest according to the importance of his charge. Until two months ago the cathedral was in charge of an archemandrite, or dean, but he has been recalled to Russia and a priest has taken his place. The salary at Sitka has been $1,600 a year, with the right to retire after ten years on half pay for the rest of his life.

**The Greek Churches.**

Prior to the late Archemandrite Anatole was Father Donskoy, who retired on his pension in 1895. He was a man very highly esteemed in Alaska, probably more beloved than any pastor the Russian church has had in Alaska. He went home by way of New York, and while spending a few days of the journey in Seattle told to the Post-Intelligencer many interesting details of his work in Alaska, particularly of the schools, in which his interest was most particularly centered.

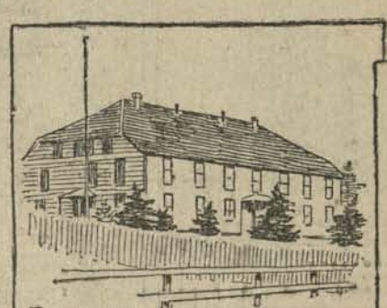
There are few Russians left in Alaska. After the transfer they were not any too well treated by the Americans, and so preferred to return to their native land. But the descendants of Russian fathers and native mothers, together with all the Aleuts residing in Western Alaska, make up a membership of probably 15,000 and thus the large religious denomination of the territory. The body has churches at Juneau, Killisnoo, Kenai, Kadiak, Unga, Belskofsky, Unalaska and other places to the westward; in all twelve organized churches, with regularly ordained priests, and chapels in all Western Alaska, a Jackson notwithsta church has always the commendation

**The Work**

In the Roman Alaska is controlle head of which is a headquarters at Ju cupied that positio died at Juneau earl everybody. His s Rev. Father J. B. a great Alaskan over Chilkoot pass with the first gold ago, and probably far north on land gone. He establishe points on the Yuko have since been sent sionary work.

Father Rene, the tolic, has recently re portant mission to th of which was to obt the Vatican for the monastery on the Yu Forty-Mile, for the the development of region.

The foundation of t dates from 1886, when lished at Nulato, and






CHURCHES

spot of land upon

TTLE POST-INTELLIGENCER, SUNDAY, JANUARY 29, 1899.

# EPRESENTED
# E CHURCH WORK OF ALASKA.

## llowed by the Missions of the Jesuits, Episcopalians and Others.

nost every village of nd, the Rev. Sheldon ıding, the work of the been found worthy of of fair-minded men.

**of the Jesuits.**

Catholic communion l by the Jesuits, the prefect-apostolic with ieau. Father Tosi oc- for many years, and y last year beloved by ccessor is the Very tene. Father Tosi was veler. He journeyed was started. Two years later the boarding and day schools were started lower down the river, with four sisters of St. Ann. With the increase of pupils seven more sisters were sent up in 1833, and since the Klondike discoveries the school has grown to be the largest and most potent in the civilization of the natives and the education of the whites of any in the interior.

**Missions in the Interior.**

There are now in the Yukon interior engaged in mission work ten fathers, seven brothers, and eleven sisters, making twenty-eight in all. Rev. Father Barnum


## OF ALASKA.

01-3042

d into the interior kers a dozen years ended his trips as any man has ever missions at various . and other priests n to extend his mis-

resent prefect-apos- turned from an im- e Vatican, one point in the authority of establishment of a con, at a point near purpose of fostering agriculture in that

ese Yukon missions the first was estab- a small day school is at Forty-Mile mission; Rev. Father Monroe at Nulato, Rev. Father A. Ragarn at Holy Cross, Rev. Father Judge at Shageluk river, and Rev. A. Roberts on the Kuskokwim. Rev. Joseph Trecca is superintendent of St. Joseph's boarding day school at Akularak, Yukon delta, with three male assistants. The girls' school is under the charge of Sister M. Zypherine, superior, assisted by three other sisters. At Tununa, at Cape Vancouver, and at Eskinak there are Roman Catholic missions, and also at St. Michael's, Norton sound, and at Selawik river, Kotzebue sound, and at other places along the coast of this wild far northern country.

In short, the Jesuit priests have moved with the American pioneers of Alaska, and have started missions wherever they have settled to trade or hunt for gold, and in many places where there are still only native residents. They have also established hospitals in the interior for the sick and the needy. These priests have been highly educated men, who have shown great devotion to the cause, traveling thousands of miles alone and bearing all the hardships incidental to Arctic journeying. They speak the languages of the natives and thus easily gain their confidence.

It should also be mentioned that the fathers have what is conceded to be the best school in Alaska, the boarding and day school at Juneau, under the charge of the sisters of St. Ann. At Sitka, the Catholics worship in an old building, but it is hoped in the near future to erect there a new and imposing edifice.

**Episcopalian Endeavors.**

Ecclesiastically speaking, Alaska forms a missionary episcopate of the American episcopal church, with headquarters at Sitka. The present bishop is the Rt. Rev. Peter Trimble Rowe, who was consecrated in 1895. The chancellor is Hon. Burton E. Bennett, who was appointed United States district attorney of Alaska, but who still retains the office of chancellor and his interest in the work of the church in Alaska. At the present time this church has in its Alaskan field twelve organized missions and nine unorganized, nine clergymen, two medical missionaries, five catechists, three lay readers, six deaconesses or woman teachers, five schools and three hospitals.

It has, as before stated, a handsome church at Juneau, and at Sitka it has a chapel, but a plot of ground has been purchased for the erection of a church this summer. At Skagway an episcopal minister is maintained but the church is a union one. It was erected by the Rev. Dr. Dickie, of the Canadian Episcopal mission, and by him vested in trustees for the use of all the denominations. The American Episcopalians, however, own a suitable building plot, have had a handsome communion service donated, and some funds, and next year will own their own church.

The Rev. Dr. Dickie and the people of Skagway also erected a hospital last winter, and when Dr. Dickie went on to Lake Bennett, where he erected a place of worship, and then on to Dawson, this hospital was turned over to the American Episcopalians and called the Bishop Rowe hospital. This denomination has also chapels at Douglas and Ketchikan, and also at Point Hope, Anvik and Fort Adams on the Yukon, and in all Alaska they had at last reports 2,214 church members.

**Other Denominations.**

The other religious denominations are also well represented in the missionary work of Alaska, considering the comparatively recent period since the active development of the country set in. The Presbyterians are located at Sitka, Jackson, Wrangel, Saxman, Juneau, Point Barrow, St. Lawrence island, Hoonah and Haynes mission; the Congregationalists at Douglas, where a new church was recently completed, and at Cape Prince of Wales; the Methodists at Unalaska and Unga; the Baptists at Wood island; the Friends at Douglas and Kake village; Moravians at Bethel, Ugavig, Quinehaha and Carmen, and Swedish Evangelicals at Yakutat, Golovin Bay and Unalaklik.

THOSE Table d'Hote luncheons at the Rainier-Grand hotel are fast becoming very popular.

the horizon. Gen. | of temperament and dramatic instinct are

# Programme.

## New Archangel Theatre,

SITKA, ALASKA,

## Wednesday, March 17

BARANOFF

# Dramatic Association.

MANAGER, MR. U. KONN (Col. M. D. Ball)

—o—

## The Garroters.

MR. ROBERTS, the Chief Garroter,.....MR. A. LOOSHIAN
MRS. ROBERTS, his sympathetic wife,.....MISS ANNA HOOTZ
WILLIS, her unsympathetic brother,.....MR. J. PONSKY
MRS. CRASHAW, their admiring aunt,.....MISS BELLE KOFFSKY
MR. BEMIS, the garroter's victim,.....MR. JOSIAH ICTUS
DR. LAWTON, the detective,.....MR. ED. G. COMBE

## Aunt Charlotte's Maid.

MRS. PUDDIFOOT, an elderly lady,.....MISS KATE LIANSKY
CHARLOTTE, her vivacious maid,.....MISS NELL TOUSHKIN
HORATIO THOMAS SPARKINS, nephew of Mrs. P.....MR. HUGH CHENOO
MAJOR VOLLEY, an enthusiastic mesmerist,.....MR. Q. RIO, Jr. Q R
MISS FANNY VOLLEY, his daughter.....MISS ANNA HOOTZ
JEREMIAH JOHN PIVOT, attorney-at-law,.....MR. ED. G. COMBE

—o—

HANLAN AND RUGG'S ORCHESTRA.

# Programme.

## New Archangel Theatre,

MANAGER, MR. U. KONN (Col. M. D. Bell)

—o—

## Friday, March 26th,

RECITATION BY

**Mrs. Dr. Zina Pitcher.**

AFTER WHICH THE BARANOFF

# Dramatic Association

—PRESENTS BY SPECIAL REQUEST—

# "Esmeralda."

—o—

CAST OF CHARACTERS.

ELBERT ROGERS, a North Carolina farmer,.....MR. HUGH CHENOO
MRS. ROGERS, "Mother, ye know,".....MISS ANNA HOOTZ
ESMERALDA, their daughter,.....MISS KATE LIANSKY
DAVE HARDY, a young North Carolinian,.....MR. A. LOOSHIAN
ESTABROOK, an atmospheric artist,.....MR. J. PONSKY
JACK DESMOND, an American painter in Paris,.....MR. ED. G. COMBE
NORA DESMOND, KATE DESMOND } Jack's sisters { .....MISS NELL TOUSHKIN / .....MISS BELLE KOFFSKY
GEORGE DREW, a mining engineer,.....MR. JOSIAH ICTUS
+MARQUIS de MONTESSIN, an adventurer,.....MR. Q. RIO, JR. Q. R.

—o—

ACT I.—Interior of Old Rogers' House in North Carolina. "Under the Shadow of 'Old Bald Mountain."

ACT II.—Jack Desmond's Studio in Paris. "The letter which brought good news."

ACT III.—Drawing-room in the Rogerses' House, Paris. "These ain't North Ca'liny ways."

ACT IV.—Jack Desmond's Studio. "The Sun shines on the little house."

# RUSSIAN THEATRE.

## *THE RUSSIAN AMATEUR THEATRICAL TROUPE*

Will give their Second Performance at the Club House Sitka, on Sunday Evening February 11th. 1877, when they will have the honor of presenting to the public the Mirth Provoking Play of

## *GRANDMOTHER'S PARROTS.*

**With the following Cast of Characters.**

Grandmother Koormond..... .....Mrs. O. Kashewaroff.
Mrs. Marvil -her neice- a widow .....Miss. N. Kostrometinoff.
Miss Marvil the widow's daughter.....Miss. G. Kashewaroff
Miss. Jorjata Grandmother's adopted daughter.....Miss. N. Kashewaroff.
Mr. Jarkoor, in love with Mrs. Marvil.....Mr. Cipeagan.
Mr. Flervil, in love with Miss Marvil.....Mr. Shmakoff.
Jacko, a countryman in love with Jorjata.....Mr. G. Kostrometinoff.

TO BE FOLLOWED WITH.

NO ONE AVERTS HIS FATE.

Mr. Gremord, Overseer of the House..... .....Mr. Cipeagan.
Duke D' Orson. Owner of the House.....Mr. Herman.
Captain Ernest,.....Mr. Shmakoff.
Mr. Brant, Adjutant..... Mr. G. Kostrometinoff.
Mrs. Gremord,..... .....Mrs. Limbirg.
Laura, Dukes Daughter.....Miss. Shmakoff.
Mrs. Valkoor..... .....Mrs. O. Kashewaroff.
Rosa, servant girl.....Miss G. Kashewaroff.

**Doors open at 7, Performance to commence at 8 o'clock.**

**Admission 50 cents.**

Ward & Daly, Printers.

, OCTOBER 17, 1903.

SITKA, DISTRICT OF ALASKA,

# GREEK DIOCESE TO BE DIVIDED.

## New See to be Created In Sitka.

The diocese of the Greek orthodox church in North America is to be divided into two. The United States, Mexico and the territory south to the Isthmus, is to continue under the jurisdiction of Bishop Tikhon. The northern section, Canada, British Columbia and Alaska, is to be assigned to the Rev. Innocence Putitsky of Moscow, who will be created a bishop by the Holy Synod of the Greek Church.

The Synod, which is in session in St. Petersburg, has decided to divide the diocese at the suggestion of Bishop Tikhon, who agreed to come back to America and resume his work if the territory was curtailed to one-half of the continent.

The Synod has been given to understand that it has the approval of the Czar and the Government Council of Russia, and as soon as these powers give their official sanction, the project will be put into effect. The cost of the change will be $50,000, with $6,000 a year for additional expenses.

It is expected that the consecration of Father Innocence as bishop will come next month, before Bishop Tikhon sails for America.

Father Innocence is no stranger on this coast. Nine years ago he was ordained a monk at the local cathedral by Bishop Nicholas, and, with him, did a great work among the Alaska Indians. He was also the sacristan of the cathedral for a year. When called back to Russia, he was engaged in the work of organizing churches in the Eastern States.

As superior of the celebrated Chudoff Monastery of Moscow, Father Innocence holds a high and very desirable ecclesiastical position He lives rather luxuriously in the quaint Russian city. He has a handsome residence, a retinue, and a four-horse carriage for his personal use. But the life of a grandee does not appeal to him. He loves his missionary work among the Indians."—Examiner

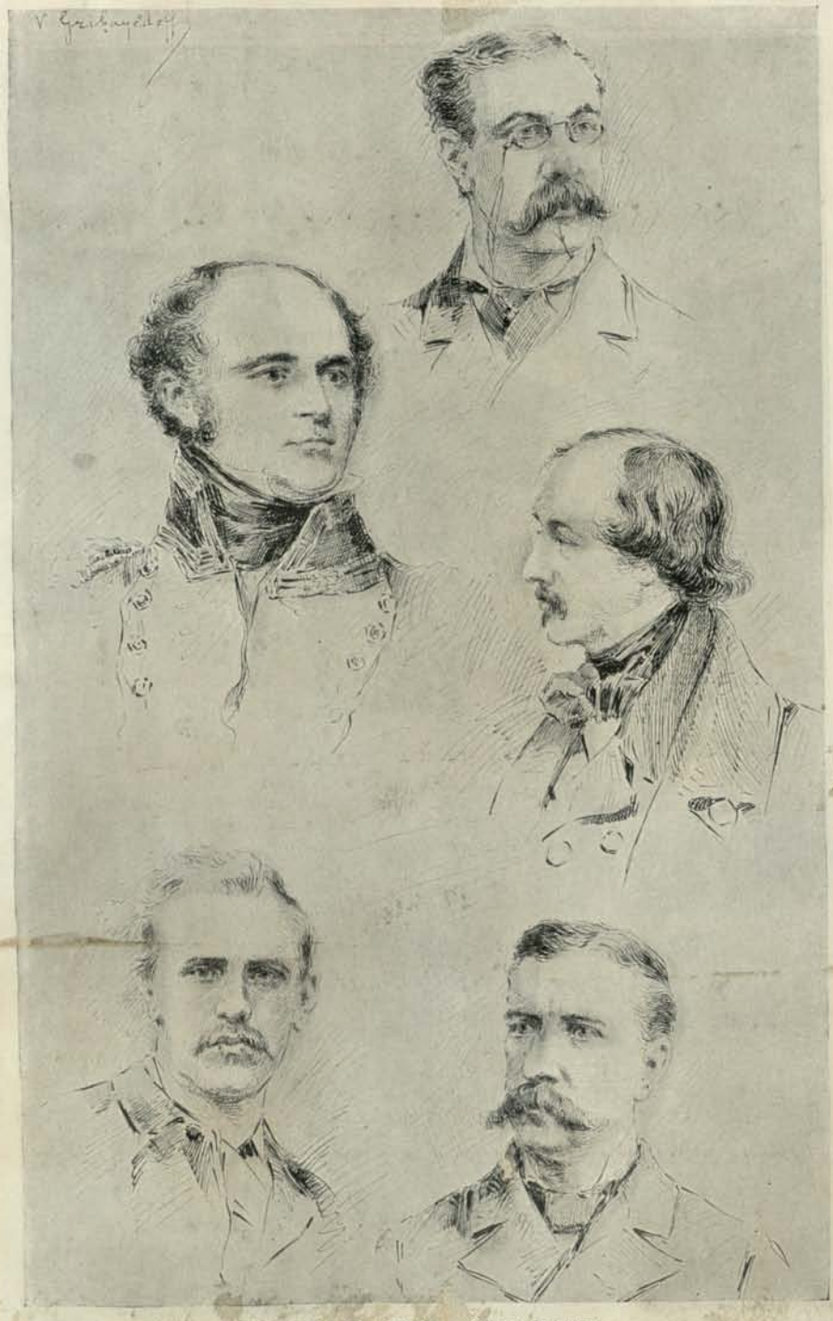
His Eminence Bishop Innocence Veniaminoff, the first Russian bishop of Alaska, whose official residence was in Sitka, erected the present cathedral of St. Michael in 1848; it was dedicated on the 28th of November of the same year, he also had the present Russian parsonage. When the now appointed bishop took the monastic vows he was named after the first bishop of Alaska, Innocence. Next year will be celebrated the centennary of the founding of the city of Sitka.

The first bishop succeeded to the title of Metropolitan, (Cardinal,) of Moscow which is the highest ecclesiastical position in the Russo-Greek church, and the present bishop named after him it is to be sincerely hoped that in the time to come he will rise to the same rank, thus proving himself worthy of his predicessor's name.—[Ed.]

General Adolphus W. Greely.

*From a photograph.*

A Baffin's Bay Iceberg.



A GROUP OF ARCTIC EXPLORERS.

Sir John Franklin.
Dr. Fridtjof Nansen.
George W. De Long.
Dr. Kane.
Lieutenant Lockwood.

Robert E. Peary.
*From a photograph by Gutekunst, Philadelphia.*

S. M. Andree.
*From a photograph by Floman, Stockholm.*

Mrs. R. E. Peary.
*From a photograph by Gutekunst, Philadelphia.*

CAPTAIN COGHLAN AND MRS. COGHLAN
IN THE CAPTAIN'S CABIN.

Capt. Joseph B. Coghlan, U. S. N., Commanding.

GROUP OF THE SHIP'S OFFICERS.

LIEUT. JAMES C. GILLMORE, U. S. N.,
Supposed to have been captured by Filipinos.

The Alaskan

SITKA, DISTRICT OF ALASKA.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 12, 1907.

VOL. XXII.

# PRESENTATION OF SILVER GOBLET.

## EULOGY BY RT REV BISHOP INNOCENT

A presentation speech delivered by His Eminence Rt Rev Innocent, Russian Bishop of Alaska, in presenting a royal gift from His Imperial Majesty Nicholas II the Czar of all the Russias to Mr George Kostrometinoff, warden of St Michael Cathedral at Sitka, Alaska.

On the 7th inst, the orthodox Russian Christmas Day according to the Julian calendar was duly celebrated at the cathedral of St Michael, the service commencing with the Liturgy at 10 a m conducted by His Eminence Rt Rev Bishop Innocent, Russian Bishop of Alaska, assisted by Rev Father Andrew and Father Archdeacon Anthony. The robes and mitre worn on the occasion by His Eminence were presented to him by His Imperial Majesty the Czar of all the Russias previous to his departure for Alaska. At the termination of the liturgy the Bishop came from the sanctuary bearing a gold cross and Mr Kostrometinoff stepped forward to the altar whilst two of the acolytes brought the royal present on a tray. His Eminence then proceeded to present the gift accompanying the presentation with the following appropriate speech:—

"Honorable Mr Kostrometinoff:

"The Russian people have an excellent proverb which upon occasions of this kind is called to our mind. It is as follows: 'A prayer to God and a service to the Czar is never lost.' With these words it is evident that the Russian people in the first place have a firm faith in God, who always hears the prayers of His servants and in due time grants all the needs of the faithful. And in the second place it shows that they believe in the Orthodox White Czar, an annointed sovereign who rewards every good deed instantly, as soon as it comes to his knowledge.

It is also true that the Russian people have another proverb which warns them that "To God it is very high and to the Czar it is very far." However high the throne of God and the distance of the abode of the Czar by no means gives an anxiety to the earnest people who know how to pray and to patiently perform the duties intrusted to them.

"I do not dare to touch the hidden veil of your soul in order that I might see for what you are praying to the Lord and how He answers your prayers. That you alone know. However, it is evident to all that you are not forgotten by the generosity of the Heavenly Father and that your prayer to God is not lost; that your sympathetic disposition and that your Christian, modest and pious family have created for you in your decree an estimable reputation far and wide wherever the Kostrometinoff's family have been known or their name spoken, and the sincere love of all who but once in their life had met you.

"Your name is especially dear to this Church under whose canopy we are at this moment, where for more than two score of years you have guarded, literally speaking, like your own eye and with your labors and care it does not feel the feebleness naturally appearing in its old age of its respectable infirmity; on the contrary from year to year it embellishes more and more and enriches in its material means and acquires more and more publicity and fame and with it your name is spreading all over the world as a guardian of this remarkable monument of the Russian Orthodox life in this country.

"After this it is plainly understood how your name had become known to the Orthodox White Russian Czar and thru the report of his Minister of Foreign Affairs to our great joy he has considered it entirely justifiable to express his Imperial Majesty's appreciation and he has ordered to be forwarded and be delivered to you this precious goblet decorated with the emblems of the Russian Empire and with your initials.

"This is such a gift as would be a great prize and rarity even to the closest Russian subject, but you can receive it with the full consciousness that it is well meritcd by you. Let, therefore, this Royal present be known as a decree of reward to you for all those cares, sacrifices and labors which you have added to the history and life of this holy edifice, and let this be known to your children, your descendants and to all as a proof of the truth that altho it is quite 'far to the Czar' it is nevertheless, like a prayer to God, a service to the Czar is never lost."

Sitka, Alaska

Russian Christmas

Dec 25, 1906(O S) Jan 7 1907 (N S)

The cathedral was crowded with members of the church and visitors, the former in full regalia of the society. The choir, led by Mr Lawrence Kashevaroff was in excellent voice and by their splendid singing spellbound the audience.

ALASKA RECORD-MINER

JUNEAU, ALASKA, SATURDAY, MARCH 8, 1902.

Written by Hon. A. K. Delaney, Judge of the U. S. District Court for Alaska

## Government in Alaska.

[By Arthur K. Delaney.]

In the afternoon of the 18th of October, 1867, amid artillery salutes and something of "pomp and circumstance," the imperial ensign of Russia was lowered from the flag-staff near the old castle at Sitka and the Stars and Stripes run up in its place, thus completing the formal transfer of Alaska from Russia to the United States under the treaty of session of the preceding March. The territory was turned over to the war department and garrisons were established at Sitka, Wrangel and Tongass. Ten years of military rule succeeded, which gave to the settlements of Southeastern Alaska, at least, peace and protection. In June, 1877, the military was withdrawn and the territory fell into the hands of the treasury department. Anarchy reigned for the next succeeding two years. Brawls were incessant, and theft and murder stalked abroad unpunished. The settlement at Sitka barely escaped the horrors of Indian massacre. Shortly after the removal of the troops, the palisade at that post, separating the white settlement from the Indian village, was broken in and dusky brave and forest maiden proceeded to purloin from the whites whatever might attract their fancy. To the unfaltering fidelity of a Sitkan chief named Ah-nah-hootz, who led a large faction of the Sitka tribe, the settlement was more than once indebted for preservation.

The collector of customs and his deputies constituted the sole official authority in the country—civil, military or naval. By them, as well as by the people of the settlement, the most urgent appeals were sent to Washington, but to no avail. The first year of anarchy passed without serious outbreak, but a crisis was reached in the winter of 1878-79. In November, 1878, two Indians killed a man named Brown at the hot springs, sixteen miles from Sitka, and by the aid of Ah-nah-hootz the murderers were captured and, in the early part of February, 1879, lodged in guard house at Sitka. The population of the Indian village was then at its maximum, all the hunting and fishing parties being in winter quarters at the village, and a muster of three hundred braves could easily be made, while the entire population of the white settlement scarcely reached that number. Fortunately, however, the Indians were divided into two opposing factions, one led by Ah-nah-hootz and the other by Kaht-le-ahn. The two prisoners in the guard house belonged to faction of the latter chief, and he appears to have had a further grievance in the loss of some of his men, who had shipped on a sealing schooner bound for the westward, and were lost at sea. For this loss he claimed remuneration from the whites, in accordance with the rule of the Indian law. Several parleys were held and Kaht-le-ahn failing to get pay for his braves, determined on retaliation.

Among the peculiar customs of the natives in this country is a feast called the "pot-latch," at which, aside from feasting and drinking (usually alcoholic), the host bestows upon his guests the most extravagant gifts. Not frequently many hundred dollars are thus expended, and bales of calico, and yards of silks and satins and scores of blankets are passed over by the hero of the occasion to his admiring guests. On the evening of February 6th, 1878, Kaht-le-ahn gave one of these feasts, and about midnight, with a strong following, inflamed to frenzy by frequent potations of a spirituous compound distilled here by the natives and called "hoo-che-noo," started for the white settlement on his errand of plunder and massacre. Ah-nah-hootz, vigilant and faithful, at the head of his band, met the belligerents near the gate of the palisade and a sort of battle ensued. One of Ah-nah- hootz's men was killed and several were wounded on either side, but Kaht-le ahn was finally compelled to retire. A meeting of citizens was held the next day, and such arms as could be found were distributed, sentinels posted, alarm signals, to be given in case of outbreak, agreed upon, and the castle and the residence of the priest of the Greco-Russian church, both substantial log structures, designated as the points of rendezvous in case of an alarm. Two days later the little steamer California, then making monthly trips from Puget Sound to Sitka and affording the only means of communication with the outside world, arrived, giving a brief season of hope

-1878

to the settlement. The California, having learned the situation, left on the 10th carrying urgent messages to Washington, and bearing away such of the women and children as could leave the place. As the little steamer disappeared among the islands of the Inland passage, a gloom akin to despair fell over the defenseless town. The next twenty days were days of weary waiting and the nights of long hours of anxious, ceaseless vigilance. Kaht-le-ahn left immediately after the sailing of the California, with the avowed purpose of gathering from the outlying Indian villages a force strong enough to overcome the allies of the whites and then massacre and plunder the town. He might return at any hour, after which few had any hope for the settlement.

On the morning of the 1st of March, however, deliverance came from a source the least expected, when a man-of-war flying the tri-cross of the British ensign, swept round the cordon of islands, which shelters the inner harbor of Sitka from the open water of Norfolk Sound and the Pacific main, and dropped anchor abreast of the Indian village. At the last moment before the sailing of the California, the citizens, in their dire distress, had signed a petition to the commander of the British squadron at Esquimalt, B. C., briefly reciting their danger, and asking relief. Not long after the receipt of this petition, Captain Holmes A'Court, of her Majesty's Navy, was on his way to Sitka on board the English warship Osprey, where he arrived just twenty days after the sailing of the California. After opening his ports and placing the Indian village under cover of his guns, the captain, with that blunt, straight-forward promptitude peculiar to the true seaman, sent a subaltern ashore to notify the collector of customs, the only official representing the United States in the territory, that he awaited his instructions. It is needless to state that Kat-le-ahn's attack was indefinitely postponed; but I may be permitted to add, that while the cry of "twisting the lion's tail" has become a sort of party shibboleth for vote-catching politicians in the east, there are mothers still living at Sitka who have never ceased to bless the name of Captain A'Court and the good ship Osprey. The Osprey remained at Sitka until the third of April, when the U. S. Naval vessel Alaska, despatched after long delay by the shamed potentates at Washington, arrived. She was relieved by the Jamestown on the 15th day of June, 1879, when the naval rule fairly began and which continued to be the sole government of the territory until the present apology for a civil government was established under the act of congress of May 17th, 1884, known here as the "Organic Act."

The expedients resorted to by the people for the preservation of order and the protection of life and property when Alaska knew neither law nor forum, are an interesting study and tell how deeply the spirit and genius of popular government are implanted in the character of the American people. A full-fledged city government was in operation at Sitka for several years, the records of which are still preserved in the achieves of the town. Its sole basis was the consent of the majority, and, while one can scarcely repress a smile at the idea of city ordinances prefaced by the usual high-sounding formula "The Mayor and Common Council of the City of Sitka ordain" in a country where there was neither the common nor statutory law, it is none the less true that this government not only maintained peace and order, but under its auspices many public improvements were carried forward.

During the gold excitement in the Cassiar country, up the Stickeen river, in the last of the seventies, Wrangel, being the base of supplies and the starting point from the tide water for hundreds of outgoing and incoming miners, felt the need of government. A public meeting was called and a committee, vested with legislative, executive and judicial authority, was appointed, and order soon came out of chaos.

Skagway followed in the footsteps of Sitka, and organized a full municipal government, resting alone on the will of the majority. City affairs at Juneau were placed under the general control of a board of commissioners elected by the people, and having general charge of fire protection, sanitary affairs, and

providing for ways and means in these matters.

Upon the footsteps of the gold discovery at Juneau, came the "Miners' Code," the outgrowth of conditions and necessities in the early days of California, and which has not only been thence transplanted into every mining country and camp on the continent, but has, in later years received the approval of the supreme court of the United States, so far as it relates to property rights, whereby a new and entirely original branch of law has been engrafted upon our American jurisprudence. Miners' government is a democracy pure and simple. All the laws and regulations are promulgated at a public meeting, called for that purpose, in which the will of the majority is final. These regulations are invariably just, simple, short and pointed and under their operation millions upon millions of precious metals have been taken from the bosom of the earth along the states and territories of the Pacific slope. Disputes as to property rights are generally settled by a board of arbitrators, but sometimes courts are ordained, and decisions in either case savor more of equity than of law. A custom, which has been transmitted from camp to camp, is the calling of meetings and summoning of courts by the pounding of a huge steel triangle, whose shrill reverberations can be heard for miles around, and a saying which has passed into a sort of miners' maxim is, that when the triangle rings nothing but justice will be dispensed.

In the miners' camp crime meets with speedy, severe and often condign punishment, but the forms of the law are always observed. A court is convened, a judge presides, a jury is impaneled, a prosecuting attorney is appointed, counsel awarded the accused, usually the ablest in the camp and testimony is taken. Though these courts are impromptu, they seldom fail to reach the truth of the matter under investigations, and hence their judgments are usually final. Sometimes at the dictates of mercy, or in the interest of fair play, appeals are taken to the miners' meeting, the court of last resort, whose judgment invariably meets with speedy execution, whereupon the constituent element of the government disperse, one to his claim, another to his merchandise. Under this miners' code and local rules and regulations, from February, 1881, to November, 1884, when such civil government as is provided by the act of May 17th, 1884, known as the Organic act, went into operation, the towns and mining camps of Alaska were among the most peaceable, orderly and best governed communities on the Pacific coast, and there is not a city in the United States where life and property are more secure than they have been in Juneau and Skagway under their respective improvised municipal governments, sensational newspaper stories to the contrary notwithstanding.

This Organic act is a statutory anomally—a sort of legislative fungus, having neither precedent nor parallel in the history of American legislation. It provides an executive and a judiciary, but no legislature. As there were neither laws to execute nor a power to enact laws, the executive office was simply an empty name. The gap re-resulting from the absence of a legislature, was attempted to be filled by a declaration that "the laws of the state of Oregon, so far as the same are applicable and not in conflict with the laws of the United states and the Organic act" shall be the law of Alaska.

It requires no legal acumen to perceive at a glance that the jurisprudence thus created can be little else than a distortion and a deformity, transmitting to the people for whom it was devised, a law entailed from its birth with inherent ambiguity and confusion. The judiciary provided is the sole redeeming feature of the act, and practically constitutes the government of the territory.

SATURDAY, MARCH 16, 1907.

**DIED**

On Sunday last at 6 p m at her residence in Cathedral Square, Mrs Anna A Kostrometinoff, aged 77 years. The funeral took place after the noon liturgy at the cathedral on Tuesday.

Died, Sunday evening at 6 o'clock March 10th 1907, and was buried at noon after liturgy at the family burying ground, Tuesday, March 12th 1907.

CARD OF THANKS.

My family and I desire thru the medium of the ALASKAN to express our heartfelt gratitude to all those kind friends who showed sympathy for us in our late bereavement especially to the members of the St Nicholas Society who displayed untiring efforts to aleviate our deep distress and sorrow.

GEO. KOSTROMETINOFF.

162

# American Citizen Gets a Goblet From Russian Czar

Years of faithful service to quaint old church have been regarded by ruler.

Goblet is fine specimen of silversmith's art and bears royal coat of arms.

George Kostrometinoff, who is shown on the left, received the handsome goblet, seen on the right, from Nicholas II. of Russia, the presentation being made at Sitka by Bishop Innocent, of the Russian Church, who is pictured in the center.

**The Times Special Service.**

SITKA, Alaska, Friday, Feb. 8.—In recognition of his long services to the Russian cathedral in Sitka, George Kostrometinoff has received a token of appreciation from Nicholas II., Czar of all the Russians. As he is an American citizen, the gift is regarded as an unusual honor. Kostrometinoff has received direct from his imperial majesty a massive silver goblet bearing the royal arms, the double-headed eagle of Russia.

Kostrometinoff has been warden of the historic church for over twenty years and under his management it has been rescued from a state of indebtedness and put on excellent financial footing.

The Right Rev. Innocent, bishop of the Russian churches of the Pacific Coast, was struck by the fidelity to duty exhibited by Kostrometinoff and called the Czar's attention to it with the recommendation that the government send him some token of its appreciation.

**Letter From Ambassador.**

A short time ago a package was received from the Russian embassy at Washington, and accompanying it was a letter from Baron Rosen, the Russian ambassador to the United States, to Bishop Innocent, which read:

"Your Eminence:

"The imperial foreign office sends me a silver goblet bearing a reproduction of the state emblem, which with the great mercies of the Czar you will please present to the citizen of the United States, Mr. George Kostrometinoff, warden of the Sitka cathedral and a resident of Sitka, Alaska.

"Respectfully soliciting your lordship's blessings and prayers, I beg to remain, very respectfully,

"ROSEN."

The goblet is a magnificent specimen of the silversmith's art. It is very massive and is covered with intricate and beautiful engraving. Its value is $300.

**Presented With Ceremony.**

On January 7, the orthodox Russian Christmas Day, according to the Julian calendar, was duly celebrated at the Cathedral of St. Michael, the service commencing with the liturgy, conducted by His Eminence Right Rev. Innocent, Russian bishop of Alaska, assisted by Rev. Father Andrew and Father Archdeacon Anthony. The robes and mitre worn on the occasion by his eminence were presented to him by his imperial majesty, the Czar of all the Russians, previous to his departure for Alaska.

At the termination of the liturgy the bishop came from the sanctuary bearing the cross, and Kostrometinoff stepped forwar to the altar, whilst two of the acolytes brought the royal present on a tray. His eminence then presented the gift, accompanying the presentation with a speech, which was, in part, as follows:

"Honorable Mr. Kostrometinoff:

"The Russian people have an excellent proverb which upon occasions of this kind is called to our mind. It is as follows: 'A prayer to God and a service to the Czar is never lost.' With these words it is evident that the Russian people in the first place have a firm faith in God, who always hears the prayers of His servants, and in due time grants all the needs of the faithful. And in the second place, it shows that they believe in the orthodox White Czar, an anointed sovereign who rewards every good deed instantly, as soon as it comes to his knowledge.

"It is also true that the Russian people have another proverb which warns them that 'To God it is very high and to the Czar it is very far.' However high the throne of God and the distance of the abode of the Czar by no means gives an anxiety to the earnest people who know how to pray and to patiently perform the duties intrusted to them.

**Family Name Known Afar.**

"I do not dare to touch the hidden veil of your soul in order that I might see for what you are praying to the Lord and how He answers your prayers. That you alone know. However, it is evident to all that you are not forgotten by the generosity of the Heavenly Father and that your prayer to God is not lost: that your sympathetic disposition and that your Christian, modest and pious family have created for you in your decree an estimable reputation far and wide wherever the Kostrometinoff family have been known or their name spoken, and the sincere love of all who but once in their life had met you.

"Your name is especially dear to this church under whose canopy we are at this moment, which for more than two score of years you have guarded, literally speaking, like your own eye, and with your labors and care it does not feel the feebleness naturally appearing in its old age of its respectable firmity; on the contrary, from year to year it embellishes more and more and enriches in its material means and acquires more and more publicity and fame, and with it your name is spreading all over the world as a guardian of this remarkable monument of the Russian orthodox life in this country.

**Czar Never Forgets.**

"After this it is plainly understood how your name had become known to the orthodox White Russian Czar, and through the report of his minister of foreign affairs, to our great joy he has considered it entirely justifiable to express his imperial majesty's appreciation and he has ordered to be forwarded and be delivered to you this precious goblet decorated with the emblems of the Russian empire and with your initials.

"This is such a gift as would be a great prize and rarity even to the closest Russian subject, but you can receive it with the full consciousness that it is well merited by you. Let, therefore, this royal present be known as a decree of reward to you for all those cares, sacrifices and labors which you have added to the history and life of this holy edifice, and let this be known to your children, your descendants and to all as a proof of the truth that although it is quite 'far to the Czar,' it is nevertheless, like a prayer to God, a service to the Czar is never lost."


# The Alaskan.

ESTABLISHED 1885.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY

THE ALASKAN PUBLISHING CO.

—AT—

THE ALASKAN BLOCK, SITKA.

*CHAUNCEY D. SHAW,*

*Editor and Manager.*

SATURDAY, JAN. 5, 1901.


## Colonel Kostrometinoff is Highly Honored

The last mail boat has brought us pleasant news. As a present for the first day of the new year and the first day of the new century, Colonel George S. Kostrometinoff, for his untiring and honorable services, carried on with such zeal for the good of the Orthodox Church which have even become known in the far distant clime, was presented, on the 1st day of November 1900, with a Knight's Cross of St. Daniel, embelished with a prince's crown. We express our congratulations to the New Knight. The reward is well merited, and, and will serve as an encouragement to him on the difficult road which he so honestly and firmly pursues; for the preservation of his strength for the continuation of the good work to which he is so earnestly devoted, and, finally, in justification of the most desired principle the truimph of the real God's truth over the small and envious people who only live —theevery day life, not striving for the public services of the high and enlightened order. And so, Hon. Knight, we wish you a Happy New Year, and good luck.


# ALASKA SEARCHLIGHT

Entered at the Juneau postoffice as second-class matter.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY

E. O. SYLVESTER, - - Editor and Proprietor.

T. R. NEEDHAM, - - - - Associate Editor.

Address all correspondence to THE ALASKA SEARCHLIGHT

JUNEAU, ALASKA, MONDAY, MAY, 20 1895.


### Baranoff's Armor Found

The student of Alaskan history often finds it impossible to detect fact from fancy in the curious interweaving of the two which has come down to us as the story of the early settlement of Alaska. Much which was formerly believed to be legendary is constantly emerging from the misty realms of the half known into the full light of actual fact. Head and shoulders above the men of other days stands out the striking character of Alexander Baranof. His dauntless courage and indomitable energy made the settlement of Alaska by the Russians possible. In spite of the cunning of the bold and cruel Kaloshi he founded and maintained his settlements among them and forced from them respect and obedience. He suffered no injury to go unavenged, no insult to pass unnoticed. With but a handful of men he invaded their villages where hundreds of armed warriors awaited his coming. Time and again they tried in vain to kill him until at last they looked upon him as a great shaman or conjurer and sought his friendship. It was said that weapons refused ts penetrate his body and it has always been supposed that he must have worn a suit of armor underneath his clothing. Several years ago George Kostrometinoff, court interpreter, determined to find out the truth of these statements. At first his inquiries of the Indians met no reply but eventually he picked up a word here, another there, which proved to him that the story was true and the armor still in existence somewhere among the Klingit tribes. Last fall he traced it to the Takous and to his pleased surprise one of the chiefs promised to make him a present of it. At that time it was securely hidden away in the Takou village and the chief promised to bring it to him this spring. The promise was sacredly kept and laet week Sah-ke-too brought Mr. Kostrometinoff a package neatly tied up in a piece of calico and gave it to him. On unwrapping it he found the tattered and rusted remnants of a curiass or body armor made of small, strong links of steel interlocked. That it was a relic of great age there could be no doubt and the question of its identity was clearly proven by the statements of the chief in his presentation speech. "Baranof," he said, "was a friend of the Kaloshi and took one of their women to wife. She did not live long but bore him a daughter whom he fondly cherished. When in 1818 he was supplanted as governor of the colonies he took an affectionate farewell of his native allies and amid much feasting and speechmaking presented the armor which he had worn constantly for twenty-seven years to Nah-oosh-ketl, chief of the Sitkas. When about to die this chief according to the native laws of inheritance gave it to his nephew It-sah, chief of the Hootz-noo-oo tribe which inhabit the western shores of Admiralty island. After the death of It-sah, it passed to his nephew Stah-oon-ket a chief of the Takous. From him to Sta-too-tin and then to myself who having no direct heir return it to you as one of the descendants of the great white chief. Take and keep it in fond memory of him whom my ancestors were proud to call friend." Mr. Kostrometinoff prizes this relic very highly and will add it to his large and valuable collection of Alaskan curios.

History of my Father and Uncle

## BRIEF HISTORY OF MR KOSTROMETINOFF'S FAMILY

J S Kostrometinoff came to Sitka from St. Petersburg, Russia, in 1849 as general agent of the Russian-American Company. He was marrried here at St. Michael Cathedral on the 4th day of July (o. s.) to Miss Anna A Melovidoff, and in 1854 by the direction of the company moved his headquarters to St. Paul, Kodiak Island, that being at the time one of the most important stations of the company. It was the headquarters for the supplies for all the sub-stations in Kodiak district, and where furs (principally sea-otters) were brought and stored for shipment to Okhotsk, Eastern Siberia, and thence overland on the caravans to St. Petersburg. Aside from being an agent of the Russian-American Company, Mr Kostrometinoff was also agent for the American Ice Company of San Francisco, who used to cut and ship ice to that city on sailing vessels from Wood Island near Kodiak, where the company had large warehouses for storing the ice, a wharf and other buildings.

It was in the winter of 1859 when a ship came from San Francisco to Wood Island for a cargo of ice and after being moored to the wharf a gang-plank was put out which was covered with ice and Mr Kostrometinoff started to go on board. When about the middle he slipped and fell between the wharf and ship; the tide being low he fell quite a distance and died a few hours afterwards and was buried at St. Paul, Kodiak Island.

In the fall of 1860 his family, consisting of Mrs Anna A Kostrometinoff and three children: George, Nadja (now Mrs Guertin) and Peter, returned to Sitka where they have been residing ever since.

Peter S Kostrometinoff, the eldest brother of J S Kostrometinoff, who came to America several years before his youngest brother, was a commandant of the Russian possessions in California at Fort Russ and later was a Russian consul in San Francisco. By the order of the Russian government he sold to Mr John A Sutter, on December 13th, 1841, all the property of the Russian-American Company at Fort Russ and Bodega, Cal., for $30,000. The transaction was witnessed by Vioget and Jacob Leese and was approved by Alvorado and Vallejo.

"The Alaskan"
March 30" 1907.

"The Ketchikan Miner" Juneau, Alaska.

KETCHIKAN, ALASKA,

FRIDAY, MARCH 22 1907,

A. P. SWINEFORD, Editor,

Mrs. Anna Kastrometinoff, for many years a resident of Sitka, died at her home in that place on the 10th inst. She was the mother of George Kastrometinoff, who for nearly 20 years subsequent to the establishment of civil government in Alaska, was official interpreter for the court and civil officials, and who is now engaged in business at Sitka. Mrs. Kastrometinoff came to Alaska from Russia long before the transfer of the country to the United States, her husband being a prominent and trusted employe of the old Russian-American company. Madam Kastrometinoff was a dignified and stately figure in Sitka, and highly educated in the Russian language, though she never made any effort to acquire much knowledge of the English. Among the poor of her own country folk she was ever an angel of merciful kindness, performing many deeds of unaustentations charity, even to the adoption of a number of fatherless and motherless children for whom she cared and provided until they were able to take care of themselves. Though somewhat of a recluse in her later years, she held to the end the respect and esteem of all who had the pleasure of her acquaintance. She was about 80 years of age.

THE DAILY RECORD-MINER

SATURDAY, MARCH 16, 1907

## PIONEER DIES AT SITKA

Word was received on the Georgia of the death of Madam Anna Kostrommettinoff at Sitka last Sunday. The deceased was an Alanka pioneer in the fullest sense of the word. She came from Russia long before United States took possession and settled at Kodiak. Later she and her husband located at Sitka where she has since resided. Mr. Kostrometinoff was accidentally drowned from a fishing schooner near Kodiak many years ago. Two sons, George and Peter, and one daughter who is married and resides in Seattle, survive the deceased.

Madam Kostrometinoff was a prominent figure in Sitka. Schooled according to the Russian custom and an earnest member of the Russian church, she preserved to a greater degree than any other resident of the former capital the formality of the Muscovite nation. She was beloved and respected by a circle of friends and relatives that extended far beyond the confines of Alaska. She was about 78 years of age.

TIMES OF APPARENT SUNSET, SITKA, ALASKA, 1890-91,

LATITUDE 57° 03 min. N; LONGITUDE 135° 17 min. W.

| Month. | Rises. | Sets. | Length of day. |
|---|---|---|---|
| October 31st, | 7 hours 45 minutes | 4 hours 15 minutes | 8 hours 30 minutes |
| November 30th, | 8 hours 41 minutes | 3 hours 19 minutes | 6 hours 38 minutes |
| December 21st, | 9 hours 00 minutes | 3 hours 00 minutes | 6 hours 00 minutes |
| December 31st, | 8 hours 50 minutes | 3 hours 10 minutes | 6 hours 20 minutes |
| January 31st, | 8 hours 08 minutes | 3 hours 52 minutes | 7 hours 44 minutes |
| February 28th, | 7 hours 04 minutes | 4 hours 56 minutes | 9 hours 52 minutes |
| March 22nd, | 6 hours 00 minutes | 6 hours 00 minutes | 12 hours 00 minutes |
| March 31st, | 5 hours 26 minutes | 6 hours 34 minutes | 13 hours 08 minutes |
| April 30th, | 4 hours 17 minutes | 7 hours 43 minutes | 15 hours 26 minutes |
| May 31st, | 3 hours 19 minutes | 8 hours 41 minutes | 17 hours 22 minutes |
| June 21st, | 3 hours 00 minutes | 9hours 00 minutes | 18 hours 00 minutes |
| June 30th, | 3 hours 05 minutes | 8 hours 55 minutes | 17 hours 50 minutes |
| July 31st, | 3 hours 44 minutes | 8 hours 16 minutes | 16 hours 32 minutes |
| August 31st, | 4 hours 58 minutes | 7 hours 02 minutes | 14 hours 04 minutes |
| September 22nd, | 6 hours 00 minutes | 6 hours 00 minutes | 12 hours 00 minutes |
| September 30th, | 6 hours 23 minutes | 5 hours 37 minutes | 11 hours 14 minutes |

The Alaskan,

SITKA, DISTRICT OF ALASKA,

SATURDAY, JULY 28, 1906.

# Raising the Golden Cross on St Michael Cathedral.

In the glint of a bright day, with the sun's rays illuming the fair city, the Golden Cross and Ball were placed on the pinnacle of the steeple of St Michael Cathedral fifty-eight years ago. Tuesday last the same ceremony took place, with all the pomp and veneration as of yore.

The first Russian church consecated in Alaska was built upon the present site of Mon Lee's store extending eastward as far as Frank Guertin's. Today the spot is marked by tombstones, one surmounting the grave of the first priest who died in Alaska, the other covering the remains of the daughter of Baron Wrangell, first governor of the territory during the Russian regime. These stones were of an exceptionally beautiful character, originally being wrought of the finest stone and exquisitely ornamented, but the ravages of time and hoodlums has destroyed all their splendor. The church was built facing the east, for the reason that the hard, rocky foundation seemed most suitable as site. The Ikonostass, the portion of this church in which the Ikons were always Kept was built from the wood of the ward room of His Imperial Majesty's warship, Neva, which was wrecked on Cape Edgcombe many years ago. This has likewise been destroyed. Bishop Innocent Veniamenoff, first Russian bishop of Alaska was in charge at the time of the raising of the Golden Cross and Ball. He came to Sitka in 1840, and after a residence of nearly ten years was called to Moscow where he was created Metropolitan, the highest office in the Russian Church. In the month of November, about the same year, a terrible storm raged and the lightning striking the steeple, set it afire but no serious damage was done.

The present repairs to the steeple were finished last Saturday under the supervision of Mr Geo Kostrometinoff who had full charge of the work. When first started these repairs did not not appear to be so extensive but after the boards were uncovered the timbers were found to be perfectly rotten necessitating their being replaced by new stout and strong. These timbers are so put in place that one can be removed without disturbing the others. The length of time occupied in the labor was greater than at first anticipated owing

DAY, AUGUST 22, 1908. MADE-IN-SEATTLE EDITION

# Alaska Specials

## MEN WHO ARE PROMOTING ALASKA'S EXPOSITION DISPLAY

1. George Kostrometinoff, Sitka, for Southwest.
2. E. P. Pond, Juneau, for Southeast.
3. J. C. McBride, Alaska commissioner A.-Y.-P. exposition.

## RUSH WORK ON ALASKA EXHIBIT

### Commissioner McBride Opens Offices in Juneau and Names Helpers

JUNEAU, Aug. 10.—(Special.)—The recent appointment of J. C. McBride to be Alaska commissioner at the Seattle exposition has been the means of getting Alaskans genuinely interested in the project for a suitable exhibit next year. Mr. McBride is one of the best known men in Southeastern Alaska, being at the head of the C. W. Young Company, in this city, and heavily interested in a score of mines and industries. His appointment has met with unqualified approval on every hand. In conjunction with Mr. Farmer, the government agent, Mr. McBride has opened offices in this city, which are to be the headquarters of the work, and has begun sending out literature and arranging to interest mine owners and others in the matter of a suitable exhibit.

Mr. McBride last week announced the appointment of three assistants, J. J. Underwood, of Nome, who will be in charge of the work on Seward peninsula; George Kostrometinoff, of Sitka, whose territory will cover Southwest Alaska, including the Aleutian islands, and E. P. Pond, who will have charge of the work of Southeastern Alaska. The appointments are all excellent ones. Mr. Kostrometinoff is one of the oldest settlers of this portion of the country, and was a witness of the hauling down of the Russian flag at Sitka when the United States came into possession of Alaska. He has, perhaps, the hardest territory to cover, but his wide knowledge of the natives and the country will make him an invaluable man.

E. P. Pond is a member of the firm of Winter & Pond, photographers, and during his fifteen years' residence in Alaska has spent the most of his time prospecting and minng, and is thoroughly acquainted with the country. He will be one of the most active of the several assistants.

One assistant remains to be chosen yet, the one for the interior.

It is the intention of Mr. McBride and his assistants to collect one of the most comprehensive exhibits possible, and while especial attention will, of course, be given to the mineral resources, nothing will be left undone to have every industry fully represented The wonderful possibilities of Alaska as an agricultural and cattle-raising country will be exploited to the full. The timber of the country, the fishing industry, etc., will be prominently brought to the front.

Robert A. Semple has been appointed a special agent to visit Seward and points east to gather a comprehensive exhibit of woods and minerals.

DAILY ALASKA DISPATCH

JUNEAU, ALASKA,

NOVEMBER 30 1908

George Kostrometinoff, the well known Sitka merchant and interpreter who was appointed one of the agents for the A. Y. P. Exposition, returned from Unalaska on the Portland Saturday. Owing to extremely rough weather at this time of the year, he was unable to reach Attu or Atka islands. Most all of the smaller towns and villages were visited, the means of transportation being in open dories propelled by natives. When Mr. Kostrometinoff landed at the towns and villages the news of his coming had preceded him. All the Russians and natives were pleased to meet him and offered assistance in every way. Mr. Kostrometinoff has a great influence in the Russian church and its followers, and is perhaps the only man available, who could accomplish what he did. The natives were prepared to meet him and the result was that he secured an exhibit comprising several thousand of the most ancient and historical specimens ever collected in the territory.

Awaiting advices as to where they should be shipped, the largest part of the collection was stored at Unalaska and Kodiak. Among the exhibits which he brought to this city are the following: A valuable oil painting of Emperor Alexander II, who sold Alaska to the United States in 1867. This painting was sent from Sitka to a Russian priest at Unalaska in 1856. A parka made of squirrel and bird skins; several paintings by Mrs. Shelikoff, the wife of the manager of the Russian-American company, operating in Alaska in 1720. This woman was the first organizer of the Russian church in Alaska, which was founded at Kodiak in 1749; a belt worn by the first Russian bishop in Unalaska, made in 1822 of solid silver and presented by the Czar. There are also several medals presented by Emperor Nicholas II and one medal presented by her Imperial Majesty Catherine II in 1785. An original receipt issued by the Russain-American company to an Indian chief at Unalaska for furs shipped to Sitka in 1721. An urn filled with ashes from the shower that startled the natives in September of last year, the storm being reported to have lasted for two hours. Interesting feature of the collection are 500 photographs, and copper hand-made utensils and hundreds of church exhibits and curios.

SEWARD, ALASKA, SATURDAY EVENING

SEPTEMBER 5, 1908

# EXHIBIT FOR FAIR PLANNED

## Agent Has Secured Building in Seward and Asks Cooperation of the Citizens.

Mr. Geo. Kostrometinoff, special agent for the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific exposition is spending a few days in town in the interests of that concern. H. E. Ellsworth has been appointed to take charge of the exhibit as collected here. Mr. Lynch has kindly donated the use of his building on Fourth avenue, for placing the specimens until ready for shipping. Anything in the line of minerals, animals and vegetables, including specimens of wood and various kinds of berries—in fact whatever Alaska produces is wanted. All the citizens of Seward are invited to take an interest in making Seward's exhibit at the fair complete.

A.

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM

See page 163 " 143

~~P. LANGLEY~~
Secretary, Smithsonian Institution

CHARD RATHBUN
Assistant Secretary, in charge of
U. S. National Museum

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 15, 1906.

Mr. George Kostrometinoff,

Sitka, Alaska.

Dear Sir:

In behalf of the National Museum I beg to acknowledge the receipt of the body armor worn by Alexander Baranoff, the first Russian Governor of Alaska, and to reiterate the expression of my deep appreciation of your courtesy in presenting this very interesting object to the United States Government. The lithographic portrait of Governor Baranoff, which you so kindly sent with the armor, will be placed with the latter.

Very respectfully yours,

R. Rathbun

Assistant Secretary
in charge of National Museum.

(Accession 45931).

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
WASHINGTON, D.C.

ALL CORRESPONDENCE
SHOULD BE ADDRESSED
TO THE SECRETARY
~~S. P. LANGLEY~~

26/4/06

March 24, 1906.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of the third instant addressed to the President of the United States has been referred to the Smithsonian Institution, which is the legal depository of Government collections, and in its behalf I beg to assure you that the body armor which was worn by Alexander Baranoff, the first Russian Governor of Alaska, and which you have offered to present to the United States Government, will constitute a most interesting accession to these collections,-which already embrace an instructive series of armors from Alaska and the Pacific coast,-besides forming a valuable connecting link between the genuine aboriginal American armor, and the Russian type as represented in the suit worn by Governor Baranoff.

The history of this remarkable suit of armor and the manner in which it came into your possession, so entertainingly described in your letter, will add much to its ethnological interest.

In this connection I am glad to send you a monograph by a member of the Museum staff on the subject of prehistoric armor. This paper contains illustrated descriptions of the various kinds of armor formerly worn by tribes inhabiting the coast from California around into Asia, such as the ivory armor of the Eskimo, iron armor, that worn by the Japanese, armor made from the hides of large mammals, as well as from sticks or slats woven together, etc.

The photographic reproduction from a lithograph of Governor Baranoff, which you also kindly offer to send, will furnish a very suitable accessory to place on exhibition with the armor.

Should the shipment not weigh more than fifty pounds, I will ask you to be so good as to forward it by express at the expense of the U. S. National Museum; but if it exceeds that weight, I would beg you to turn it over to the officer in charge of Fort "William H. Seward" (the nearest Army post to Sitka) for transmission to Washington. In the meantime I will request the Quartermaster General

of the Army to issue the necessary instructions in the event of the box being shipped in that manner. The National Museum will of course reimburse you for any expense incurred in prepaying charges on the shipment from Sitka to the Fort mentioned.

Assuring you that your generous action in presenting this object to the United States Government is deeply appreciated, I am,

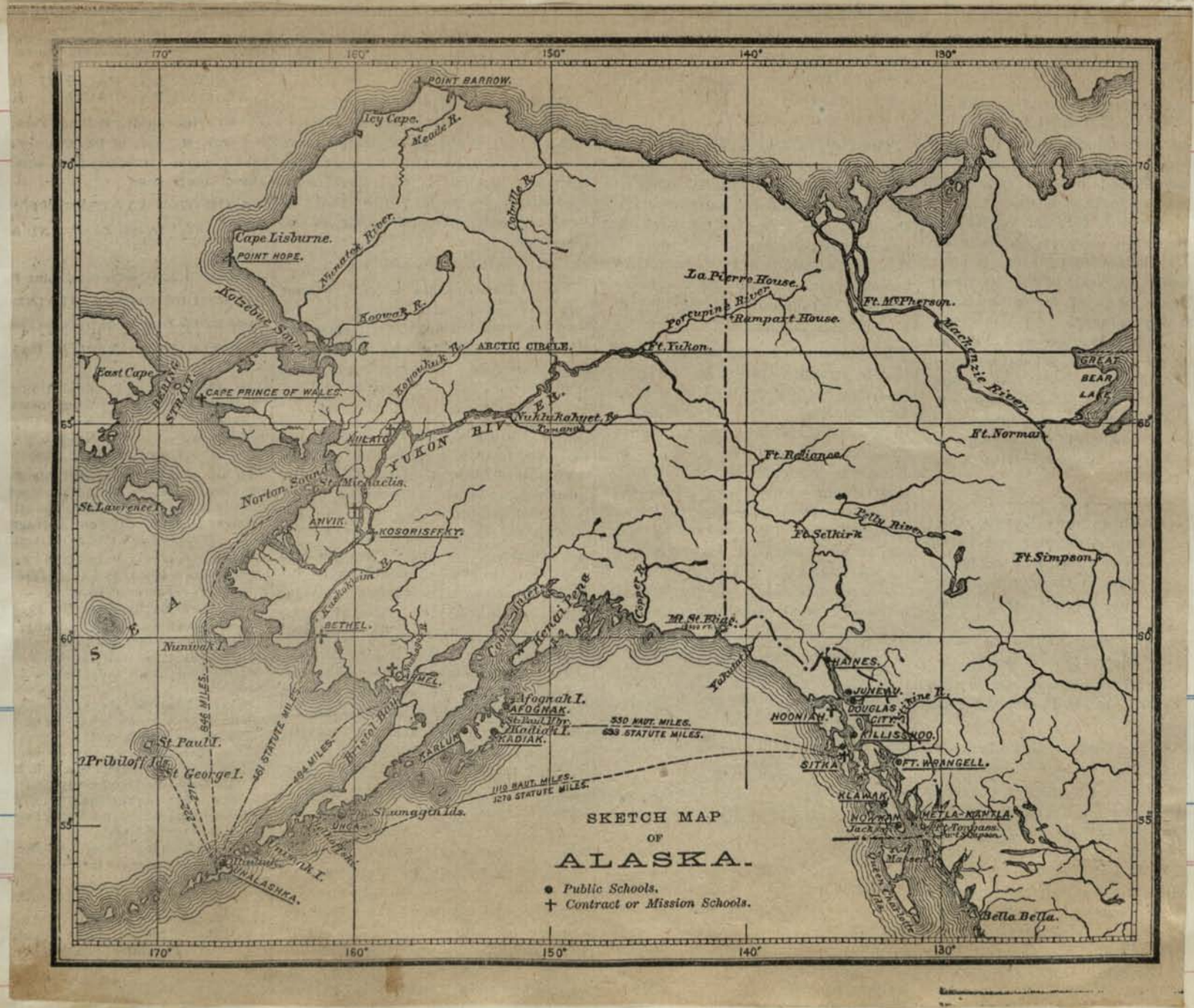
Very respectfully yours,

W. R. Rathbun

Acting Secretary.

Mr. George Kostrometinoff,

Sitka, Alaska.



1 174

THE SEATTLE SUNDAY TIMES, MARCH 8, 1908.

# ALASKAN ISLAND IS HAUNTED

## Scotchman Lived on Chirikof Ten Days and His Hair Was Snow-White When He Was Picked Up by Boat.

## Little Strip of Land Was Used by Russia as Prison for Exiles and Spirits Won't Permit Intrusion.

To the accompaniment of moaning winds in the rigging and the fitful sputtering of a dim oil lamp in the ship's cabin, Capt. E. L. West, of the Corwin, recently told the story of a ghost haunted island in Alaska, for the truth of which not only he but many hard-headed mariners and business men of the North are sincere in vouching. Outside, the raw night winds were howling and driving rain sheets against the cabin window. From time to time an anchor chain would clank against the ship's side or a boat swinging in its davits would creak and shriek with an ear-piercing shrillness which was startling. The solitary light failed to illumine the corners of the cabin and the breeze often stirred the draperies in the recesses as with a ghostly hand. As the low monotone of the skipper recited in simple words the unique tale, the interest of his listeners was most intense.

"There is one island in Alaskan waters on which the foot of man white or red is never placed," he said. "Chirikof Island, south of the Semedi group, is inhabited beyond doubt by the spirits of former Russian exiles and they will permit no intrusion of their haunt by earthly inhabitants. The Aleut Indians, who are the most intelligent of their race, realize this fact and neither love nor money can induce them to step foot on the island nor go near it in their canoes or boats. Years ago, before Alaska was purchased in 1868 by the American government, Russia made use of the island as a prison for her criminal exiles. Murderers, thieves and other convicts of the worse class were shipped there under life sentences.

**Keepers Were Inhuman.**

"The inhumanity of their keepers grew as time wore on to be worse than ever had been shown by the criminals themselves. And as the exiles were there for life and as there was no incentive to keep them alive, the keepers came to devise some most horribly unique means of putting them out of existence and saving the cost of their maintenance to the government. The men were always fettered with heavy ball and chain and one favorite means of execution was to bury them alive. Again they would cover all but the head, and instead of suffocating, the hapless victim would slowly die of hunger or thirst. On still nights the pitiful shrieks and cries of anguish from the dying men tortured the ocean air for miles around. The legends of the Indians from those days has alone been sufficient to infuse in their descendants' blood an instinctive horror of the place, savages though they are.

"A few white men have had the temerity to set foot on the bleak shores of Chirikof, but they quickly have left there with shattered nerves and vowing never to return. They bring skeletons of men with chain and ball bound to the ankle and wrist bones. Other skeletons are to be found there with the ribs broken, every one in a different spot and others with the skull, forehead or jaws crushed into an indistinguishable mass. There are on every hand evidences of the terrible brutality of the fiendish keepers to the helpless men in [illegible] to mention.

"The harrowing legends connected with the island were being discussed one day some years ago in the Goss store at Kodiak Island and a young Scotchman, Philip Graham, I think was his name, who had recently come North in search of adventure, scoffed at the idea of the island being haunted. He volunteered to spend a week on the island if the storekeeper would furnish him supplies. It was only a few days later that he started for Chirikof on one of the fishing schooners. He was landed there and a cabin built for him, after which the schooner left for a western port, planning to call for him on the return. Some ten days later they put back to the island and as the long boat pulled near shore, the young man was descried swimming with all speed toward the craft. He refused to return to the island for his personal belongings and showed so many indications of abject and overwhelming fright that his pleading words and the evidence offered by his hair which had turned from black to silvery white in the week, convinced the crew that they were better off in other waters. Later Graham made affidavit to many startling facts which related to his experiences on the haunted island.

**Ghostly Tramp of Feet.**

"He told of lying in bed at night and hearing the ghostly tramp of many feet, with the accompaniment of clanking chains. In the stillness of the summer night he was awakened by some unknown cause from a deep sleep, listening to the sound of blows as from a club on the unprotected head or body of a man. Or again the sound of sod and stones being thrown atop a living human body. No cries nor moans could he hear nor did he see the actual operations of the spectral horde but once. Throughout all the time he occupied the island he heard no sound of life, no cries of birds or animals, nor any disturbances aside from the rattle of bones. The soulless skeletons of this afflicted and restless humanity often leaned against the cabin with sound as of a stick being passed rapidly across the logs and he would hear the tread of the earth, the clank of chains and the dull thud of blows. He was a man of more than ordinary courage and the first night these sounds disturbed him he threw open the cabin door and ran into the open to see what caused the commotion.

**Unseen Hand Swings Door.**

"A pale moon glimmered through the flying clouds, now lighting the barren reach of shore or again leaving it in a clinging darkness. A short distance from the cabin was a stagnant pool of water and as he stepped outside the reflection of the moon on its surface disclosed to his horrified gaze the grinning teeth and sightless eyes of an upturned skull just below the top of the water. The moon sent a greenish ray into the barren cavities of the face and seemed to illumine the death's head with an unholy light.

The sight was almost too much for Graham's nerves and he half turned to reenter his cabin. As he did the door moved by some unseen hand, swung together, a catch snapped and he was locked outside his haven of safety. As though drawn by a power stronger than his will, he turned his head toward the pool and raising a stick started forward as though to strike the grinning skull. He suddenly stiffened with arm in air to see the skull slowly fade from view as it sunk down into the dank and slimy depths of the pool which wrinkled and sparkled for a moment in the light from above. Then the moon went under.

**Hair Turns Snow White.**

"In the background he could make out with straining eyes the dim outlines of angular skeletons marching around and around [illegible] locked step, their [illegible] ing the while. Another group standing near, twisted their bony frames as though writhing in intense tortures, wringing their hands and crackling the knuckles in a manner impossible to describe. From the ground he caught glimpses of heads with the neck stretched backward and disappearing into the soil where the remainder of the body was incarcerated. The open mouths and eye holes were screwed into the most horrible shapes as though the sufferings of the victims had been severe.

"The scene was more than human nature could stand and, with a moan, Graham sank forward unconscious. He recovered late the next day, his face as gray and wrinkled as the sand on which it rested and his hair of an unchangeable white. From that time until rescued he remained on his knees locked in his cabin at night.

"I never have seen these sights with my own eyes, but from what I know of the island and from what I have heard people who have been there relate, there is more foundation in fact than in fancy for Graham's tale. There seems no doubt but the island is haunted and that the haunts cut all manner of pranks, especially when human beings attempt to invade their spectral realm."


"Sitka benevolent Society."

1-176

The Alaska Daily Record SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1909.

## HOUGH ON KODIAC AND THINGS

Emerson Hough has a most readable article in the current issue of Recrea-

If you want to get to the absolute end of the world, don't go to Dutch Harbor or Siberia or Australasia. Go to Kodiak, on Kadiak island, which is in Alaska. That is the end of the world. You can hear all the bear stories you like there, and other stories also. In fact, you can hear three versions of every story which comes up. There are persons on Kadiak island who have been there for fifteen years or so. Others have not. Society is three-fold, being made up of the judiciary, the executive, and the commercial element. The newly made United States commissioner at Kodiak bears the name of Silverman. He is an able and well-educated gentleman, who does embroidery, ivory carving, boat building and carpentering. He can tell you where to go for bears. A skilful surgeon, there is not a man, woman or child left in Kodiak who has three hundred dollars and his, her or its vermiform appendix at this date, because the worthy doctor has allowed none such to escape. He is, or was, the coroner, likewise notary public and attorney. He has married several couples, and carved one or two beautiful tombstones for others. I do not know a more versatile or more amiable soul in all my acquaintance. Perhaps it was a little extreme for him to enforce a nine o'clock curfew hour as his first official act. I like to think of Alaska as an all-night proposition, and do not like to go to bed at nine o'clock myself, while it is still light; but I bow to Silverman.

Not so the executive, as represented by Mr. Bowers, deputy United States marshal for some sixteen years. He does not believe in curfews, because Silverman does. On the opposite corner of this human triangle is Mr. A. C. Goss, agent of the Alaska Commercial company, a Yankee trader, who speaks Russian, is a good, obliging soul, and sells you groceries practically at Seattle prices—that is, if you are white and not native.

I never discovered what they do charge natives for things, but in the good old times a native paid twenty-five dollars for a six dollar suit of clothes, a hundred dollars for a brass watch, two dollars and a half for a shoddy handkerchief; and so on up, although I think the natives are not exploited so much today. I saw one native who gave a dollar and a half for a teaspoonful of simple alum, which had been prescribed for tuberculosis, I know not by whom. It is not necessary for traders to resort to natives so long as there are tourists, who will pay ten dollars for a copper kettle worth one dollars, pay twenty dollars a tusk for walrus ivory, when twenty to forty cents a pound is about the right price, and pay fifteen dollars for a cross fox, which is worth five to ten dollars. The average tourist pays fifteen dollars for an otter skin worth about seven dollars, and eighteen dollars for a two dollars native basket, all along the Alaskan coast. If you go into the native huts to buy old china or samovars, things which date back to days of the Russian occupancy—you find the natives very unwilling to sell. It is barely possible they are afraid of antagonizing the A. C. company, which, frankly, is out for a thorough going monopoly when it comes to natives. Thus I bought in Kodiak a broken samovar of an old lady for three dollars, and at once was assailed by all three branches of Kodiak society, who made accusation of defrauding the poor—although the old lady herself rebelled violently at the proposition of taking back her samovar for the three dollars. I bought another samovar at twenty-five dollars, but not even this was hailed with approbation by the tripartite social system of Kodiak, it seeming that there are twenty-five dollar samovars for sale over the A. C. counter! There is no use in other hunters being so ignorant. Buy your china, groceries and copper of the A. C. company, and it will treat you about right. Necessarily it cannot remain there for its health, although it seems rather healthy, too.

Human nature is human nature, even on Kadiak island, so I make no animadversion as to the prevailing social system. None the less it has curious ramifications as applied to the stranger in town, with no hotel and no hole to pull in after him, since the tenting is very wet thereabout. I hired a schooner to take me and my men seventy-five miles down Kadiak for a bear hunt. Then I had to send my men overland to hire another to get me out again, since the first schooner had disappeared, under charge of Mr. Bowers, who, it seems, was chartering his ship to Uncle Sam and myself at the same time! When at last my belated schooner showed up, it had two new passengers, with whom I associated on democratic footing for some time before I learned they were prisoners on their way to be tried before U. S. Commissioner Silverman. They were charged with a crime whose only punishment under the Alaska code is imprisonment for life. One of them was a good all around western man, born in my own native state; the other was a refugee Russian sailor; both had been beach-washing on Tugidak island, and had violated some modern notion of law and order. They were both scared, and they wanted a lawyer. Now there was no lawyer at Kodiak—nobody but the U. S. commissioner, who was the court. Was I lawyer? No, but once had been, although reformed long since; so, under the circumstances, I was employed on the schooner deck as counsel for these two, and during one week of the worst sailing I ever saw, had time to learn something at least of one side of the case. One of our crew was a leading prosecuting witness. The deputy marshal was in no wise eager to convict these men, whom, under the law, he must prosecute, there being no other servant of the court at Kodiak! We made, as I fancy, a somewhat singular aggregation, but fared along not unhappily together, passed Kaludiak, Chiniak, Ugak, and other Gaks and Aks done in black and brown rock.

At Kodiak I learned of the presence of Judge Humphreys, U. S. congressman from Seattle, who had been hunting bear on Uyak bay. For him I sent, very happily, since this was a serious case. If left alone, I might have gotten these clients into the penitentiary for life, but as it was, "we" cleared them. The last I saw of them, they were taking ship in a coastwise schooner to go back to beach-washing, not much sadder, but I trust, wiser men. This week I got a letter from one of them, by name Pete Petrovsky. Talk about honor! You get honor in the real wilderness. Peter, in his joy in going free, promised to send me a souvenir. He made good. But I value the letter he wrote to me and its spirit more than my "lawyer's" fee in virgin gold. I trust Judge Humphreys was as well rewarded.

The foregoing little incident had something western about it which made one's stay at Kodiak not wholly unpleasant. It is a quaint and curious corner of the world, this little forgotten side-tracked town, which for the life of it cannot tell you whether it is Russian, Aleut, or American. As the days of '49 were those of slendor in California, so everything on Kadiak dates back to the sea otter days.

One of my men, Czaroff, a splendid grizzled old brown hunter, in his time killed two hundred and eighty-six sea otters. That is to say, that, with his own hands, he has earned over a quarter of a million dollars! Czaroff's hands are much bitten up by sea otters, and he has hardly a good finger to his name. He is a gentleman and a hunter, and he is my friend; but he is not rich, this friend of mine. He has a brass watch, carefully wrapped up in many folds of sealskin—which he shakes wonderingly because, as he says "him sleep!"—meaning that the watch will not run. He has also the rustiest and most worthless rifle I ever saw, and he has a wife and several children, and that is about all, except four hens and a fractional portion of a cow, which I think he feeds on codfish. The rest has gone to the company one time or another, I suppose. Czaroff does not care. If I had his cheerfulness, he might have my bank roll and welcome.

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***Saturday, July 21, 1894.***


## *More of the Shakan Murder.*

The U. S. S. Pinta left Sitka on Sunday the 8th inst. for Shakan to investigate the late killing of a white man, known as Jenson, by Indians. Governor Sheakley, District Atty. Lytton Taylor, Deputy Marshal Wallace and Special Deputy Geo. Kostrometinoff were aboard. Ta-ak (Indian) who was arrested lately for being implicated in the affair, was taken also in order to identify the other murderers. The Pinta arrived at Point Ellis Monday the 9th and staying there several hours rounded Cape Decision that night arriving at Shakan Tuesday morning. From the latter place they went to Wrangel the same evening, landing Deputy Marshal Wallace. Leaving Wrangel at 10 p. m. they made Metlakatla on Thursday morning. There the Governor and party were kindly received by Rev. Robt. Duncan, superintendent of the episcopalian mission. Appropriate addresses were delivered by Governor Sheakley, District Attorney Taylor and Capt. W. T. Burwell. The canneries at Metlakatla are running in good shape there being a big run of fish this season. They left Metlakatla Thursday evening and arrived at a place called Ketchekan. From there to Kake village, near Hamilton bay and thence to Chilcoot and Hoonah which latter place they left Monday and arrived home on Tuesday afternoon.

### THE MURDER.

The following story was told by Ta-ah "Some months ago myself, two Indians, a squaw and a boy were in a canoe making for Shakan. We met a white man in a sloop. He invited us on board and gave us some whiskey. After we had drank he asked us to pilot him to Shakan. The Indians agreed to pilot him over. Before we started I went back to the canoe which was taken in tow. The remainder of the party stayed in the sloop. As we were starting for Shakan I heard Ka-tinch say: 'This is a good opportunity to get even on the white man for causing the death of my uncle who was arrested several years ago by Marshal Geo. Kostrometinoff and taken to Sitka, where he was tried for killing a squaw and was sent to the penitentiary for ten years, where he died from consumption.' After we had got on the way the white man was rowing the sloop in a standing position his back being turned toward the tiller.

"Tla-koo-yel-lee was steering the sloop. Ka-tinch took his gun and shot the white man through the back. He fell dead. They immediately commenced to search his pockets and found $70 in silver, pistol, gold ring, silver watch and chain. All these were divides between us. I got $25 in cash and a ring. Tla-koo-yel-lee got the watch, chain and pistol and portion of the money. Ka-tinch kept the balance of the plunder and whiskey. After we took all we wanted away from the sloop Ta tinch and Tla-koo-yel-lee made fast a heavy stone to a rope and putting it around his body dropped him overboard. We then tied the rudder, set the sails and let the sloop adrift."

After the Pinta left Shakan she went to the place where the murder was committed, just off an island three miles from Shakan. A boat was sent out with Ensign Rust, two deputy marshals and the Indian Ta ah. The latter showed where the body was thrown overboard. They dragged for several hours for the body but without success.

Ta-tinch and the squaw were in jail at Wrangel and when the squaw was questioned by Interpreter Geo. Kostrometinoff regarding the body of the white man she said it was not thrown overboard as stated by Ta-ah, but was secreted in the woods on the island; that Tla koo-yel-lee shot him, but the shot not proving fatal Ta-ah took an axe and struck him twice on the head, which act ended the man's existence Ta-tinch corroborated the squaw's statement. District Attorney Taylor and Commissioner Kelly held a consultation and it was thought best to leave the squaw at Wrangel so that she could show the place of murder and body on the island. Ka-tinch was brought to Sitka with Ta-ah.

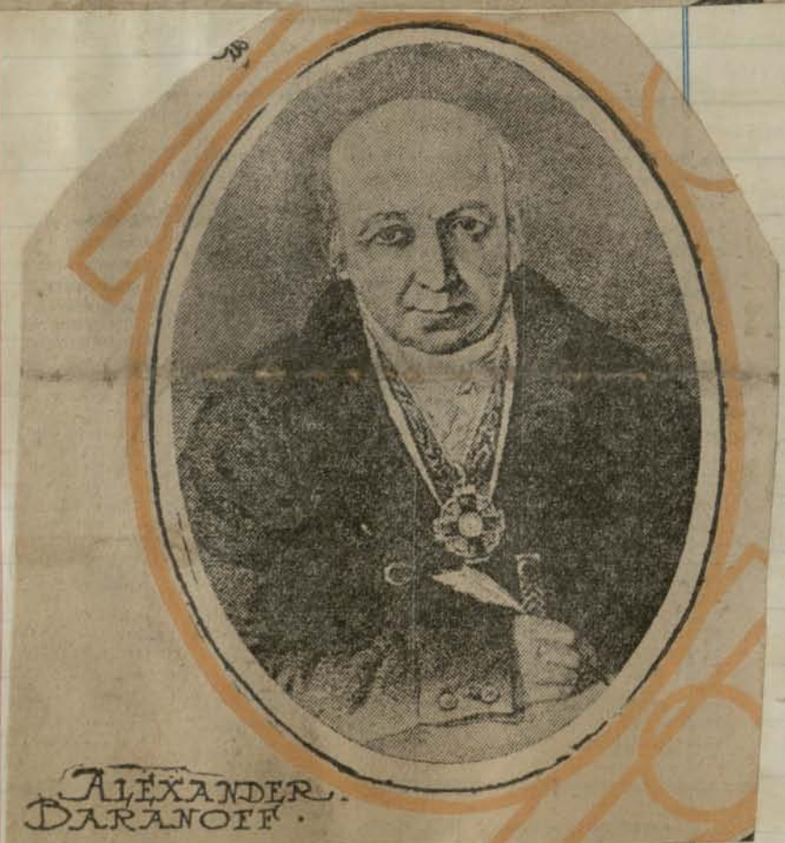
News came up on the Topeka that the body had been found at the place of murder on the island. A corner's inquest was held and several wounds were found on the head. From this last information it would appear that Ka-tinch and the squaw's testimony is correct. However, all four seem to be implicated in the deed and are in jail to await the October term of the district court.

THE SEATTLE SUNDAY TIMES, DEC. 13, 1908.

# When Great Baranoff

# RULED THE NORTH

STORY OF THE WHITE CZAR OF ALASKA, BOLD AND TOWERING, WHO SWAYED RUSSIAN AMERICA WITH HIS IRON HANDS AN HUNDRED YEARS AGO, AS TOLD BY ELLA HIGGINSON, THE NOTED WASHINGTON AUTHORESS, IN HER NEW BOOK ON "THE GREAT COUNTRY."



ALEXANDER BARANOFF.

IN 1776 we find the first mention of Grigor Ivanovich Shelikoff; but it was not until 1784 that he succeeded in making the first permanent Russian settlement in America, on Kodiak Island—forty-three dark and strenuous years after Vitus Behring saw Mount St. Elias rising out of the sea. Shelikoff was second only to Baranoff in the early history of Russian America, and is known as "the founder and father of Russian colonies in America."

It was the far-sighted Shelikoff who suggested and carried out the idea of a monopoly of the fur trade in Russian America under imperial charter.

With the clearness of vision which distinguished his whole career, Shelikoff selected Alexander Baranoff as his agent in the territory lying to the eastward of Kodiak. In Voskressenski, or Sunday, Harbor—now Resurrection Bay, on which the town of Seward is situated—Baranoff built in 1794 the first vessel to glide into the waters of Northwestern America—the Phoenix.

It was in 1791 that Baranoff assumed command of all the establishments on the island of the Shelikoff Company which, under imperial patronage, had already secured a partial monopoly of the American fur trade.

A fort was established by Baranoff, on what is now Sitka Sound. This was destroyed by natives; and in 1804 another fort was erected by Baranoff, near the site of the former one, which he named Fort Archangel Michael. This fort is the present Sitka.

We now come to the most fascinating portion of the history of Alaska. Not even the wild and romantic days of gold excitement in the Klondike can equal Baranoff's reign at Sitka for picturesqueness and mysterious charm. The strength and personality of the man were such that today one who is familiar with his life and story, entering Sitka, will unconsciously feel his presence; and will turn, with a sigh, to gaze upon the commanding height where once his castle stood.

To the gay and luxurious life, the almost prodigal entertainment of guests by Sitkans from this time on to 1867, every traveller, from writers and naval officers down to traders, has enthusiastically testified. At the first signal from a ship feeling its way into the dark harbor, a bright light flashed a welcome across the water from the high cupola on Baranoff's castle, and fires flamed up on Signal Island to beacon the way.

The officers were received as friends, and entertained in a style of almost princely magnificence during their entire stay—the only thing asked in return being the capacity to eat like gluttons, revel like roisterers, and drink until they rolled helplessly under the table; and, in Baranoff's estimation, these were small returns, indeed, to ask of a guest for his ungrudging and regal hospitality.

Visions of those high revels and glittering banquets of a hundred years ago come glimmering down to us of today. Beautiful, gracious and fascinating were the Russian ladies who lived there—if we are to believe the stories of voyagers to the Sitka of Baranoff's and Wrangell's times. Baranoff's furniture was of specially fine workmanship and exceeding value; his library was remarkable, containing works in nearly all European languages, and a collection of rare paintings—the latter having been presented to the company at the time of its organization.

Baranoff had left a wife and family in Russia. He never saw them again, although he sent allowances to them regularly. He was not bereft of woman's companionship, however, and we have tales of revelry by night when Baranoff alternately sang and toasted everybody, from the Emperor down to the woman upon his knee with whom he shared every sparkling glass. He had a beautiful daughter by a native woman, and of her he was exceedingly careful. A governess whom he surprised in the act of drinking a glass of liquor was struck in sudden blind passion and turned out of the house. The following day he sent for her, apologized and reinstated her with an increased salary, warning her, however, that his daughter must never see her drink a drop of liquor. When in his gloomy and hopeless moods, this daughter could instantly soothe and cheer him by playing upon the piano and singing to him songs very different from those sung at his drunken all-night orgies.

That there was a very human and tender side to Baranoff's nature cannot be doubted by those making a careful study of his tempestuous life. He was deeply hurt and humiliated by the insolent and supercilious treatment of naval officers who considered him of inferior position, notwithstanding the fact that he was in supreme command of all the Russian territory in America. From time to time the Emperor conferred honors upon him, and he was always deeply appreciative; and it is chronicled that when a messenger arrived with the intelligence that he had been appointed by the Emperor to the rank of Collegiate Councillor, Baranoff, broken by the troubles, hardships and humiliations of his stormy life, was suddenly and completely overcome by joy. He burst into tears and gave thanks to God.

"I am a nobleman!" he exclaimed. "I am the equal in position and the superior in ability of these insolent naval officers."

In 1812 Mr. Wilson P. Hunt, of the Pacific Fur Company, sailed from Astoria for Sitka on the Beaver with supplies for the Russians. By that time Baranoff had risen to the title and pomp of governor, and was living in splendid style befitting his position and his triumph over the petty officers, whose names are now insignificant in Russian history.

Mr. Hunt found this hyperborean veteran ensconced in a fort which crested the whole of a high, rocky promontory. It mounted one hundred guns, large and small, and was impregnable to Indian attack unaided by artillery. Here the old governor lorded it over sixty Russians, who formed the corps of the trading establishment, besides an indefinite number of Indian hunters of the Kodiak tribe, who were continually coming and going, or lounging and loitering about the fort like so many hounds round a sportsman's hunting quarters. Though a loose liver among his guests, the governor was a strict disciplinarian among his men, keeping them in perfect subjection and having seven guards on duty night and day.

Besides those immediate serfs and dependents just mentioned, the old Russian potentate exerted a considerable sway over a numerous and irregular class of maritime traders, who looked to him for aid and munitions, and through whom he may be said to have, in some degree, extended his power along the whole Northwest Coast. These were American captains of vessels engaged in a particular department of trade. One of the captains would come, in a manner, empty-handed, to New Archangel. Here his ship would be furnished with about fifty canoes and a hundred Kodiak hunters, and fitted out with provisions and everything necessary for hunting the sea otter on the coast of California, where the Russians had another establishment. The ship would ply along the California Coast, from place to place, dropping parties of otter hunters in their canoes, furnishing them only with water, and leaving them to depend upon their own dexterity for a maintenance. When a sufficient cargo was collected, she would gather up her canoes and hunters and return with them to Archangel, where the captain would render in the returns of his voyage and receive one-half of the skins as his share.

Over these coasting captains the old governor exerted some sort of sway, but it was of a peculiar and characteristic kind; it was the tyranny of the table. They were obliged to join in his "prosnics" or carousals and his heaviest drinking-bouts. His carousals were of the wildest and coarsest, his tempers violent, his language strong. "He is continually," said Mr. Hunt, "giving entertainment by way of parade; and if you do not drink raw rum, and boiling punch as strong as sulphur, he will insult you as soon as he gets drunk, which is very shortly after sitting down at table."

A "temperance captain" who stood fast to his faith and kept his sobriety inviolate might go elsewhere for a market; he was not a man after the governor's heart. Rarely, however, did any captain made of such unusual stuff darken the doors of Baranoff's high-set castle. The coasting captains knew too well his humor and their own interests. They joined with either real or well-affected pleasure in his roistering banquets; they ate much and drank more; they sang themselves hoarse and drank themselves under the table; and it is chronicled that never was Baranoff satisfied until the last-named condition had come to pass. The more the guests that lay sprawling under the table, upon and over one another, the more easily were trading arrangements effected with Baranoff later on.

Mr. Hunt relates the memorable warning to all "flinchers" which occurred shortly after his arrival. A young Russian naval officer had recently been sent out by the Emperor to take command of one of the company's vessels. The governor invited him to one of his "prosnics" and plied him with fiery potations. The young officer stoutly maintained his right to resist—which called out all the fury of the old ruffian's temper, and he proceeded to make the youth drink, whether he would or not. As the guest began to feel the effect of the burning liquors, his own temper rose to the occasion. He quarreled violently with his almost royal host, and expressed his young opinion of him in the plainest language—if Russian language ever can be plain. For this abuse of what Baranoff considered his magnificent hospitality, he was given seventy-nine lashes when he was quite sober enough to appreciate them.

With all his drinking and prodigal hospitality, Baranoff always managed to get his own head clear enough for business before sobriety returned to any of his guests, who were not so accustomed to these wild and constant revels of their host's; so that he was never caught napping when it came to bargaining or trading. His own interests were ever uppermost in his mind, which at such times gave not the faintest indication of any befuddlement by drink or by licentiousness of other kinds.

For more than twenty years Baranoff maintained a princely and despotic sway over the Russian colonies. His own commands were the only ones to receive consideration, and but scant attention was given by him to orders from the directory itself. Complaints of his rulings and practices seldom reached Russia. Tyrannical, coarse, shrewd, powerful, domineering and of absolutely iron will, all were forced to bow to his desires, even men who considered themselves his superiors in all save sheer brute force of will and character. Captain Krusenstern, a contemporary, in his account of Baranoff, says: "None but vagabonds and adventurers ever entered the company's services as Promishlenliks;"—uneducated Russian traders, whose inferior vessels were constructed usually of planks lashed to timbers and calked with moss; they sailed by dead reckoning, and were men controlled only by animal instincts and passions;—"it was their invariable destiny to pass a life of wretchedness in America." "Few," adds Krusenstern, "ever had the good fortune to touch Russian soil again."

In the light of present American opinion of the advantages and joys of life in Russia, this naive remark has an almost grotesque humor. Like many of the brilliantly successful, but unscrupulous, men of the world, Baranoff seemed to have been born under a lucky star which ever led him on. Through all his desperate battles with Indians, his perilous voyages by sea, and the plottings of subordinates who hated him with a helpless hate, he came unharmed.

During his later years at Sitka, Baranoff, weighed down by age, disease and the indescribable troubles of his long and faithful service, asked frequently to be relieved. These requests were ignored, greatly to his disappointment.

When, finally, in 1817, Hagemeister was sent out with instructions to assume command in Baranoff's place, if he deemed it necessary, the orders were placed before the old governor so suddenly and so unexpectedly that he was completely prostrated. He was now failing in mind, as well as in body; and in this connection Bancroft adds another touch of ironical humor, whether intentional or accidental it is impossible to determine. "One of his symptoms of approaching imbecility," writes Bancroft, "being in his sudden attachment to the church. He kept constantly about him the priest who had established the first church at Sitka, and, urged by his spiritual adviser, made large donations for religious purposes."

The effect of the unexpected announcement is supposed to have shortened Baranoff's days. Lieut. Yanovsky, of the vessel which had brought Hagemeister, was placed in charge by the latter as his representative. Yanovsky fell in love with Baranoff's daughter and married her. It was, therefore, to his own son-in-law that the old man governor at last gave up the scepter.

"Muldoon" Indian " 6½ 1.50 9.75
"Kahcusta" Indian " 5½ 1.50 8.25
"Shorty" Indian " 9 1.50 13.50
"Jimmy" Indian " 9 1.50 13.50
120.95

By strength of his unbreakable will alone he arose from a bed of illness and painfully and sorrowfully arranged all the affairs of his office, to the smallest and most insignificant detail, preparatory to the transfer to his successor.

It was in January, 1818, that Hagemeister had made known his appointment to the office of governor; it was not until September that Baranoff had accomplished his difficult task and turned over the office.

There was then, and there is today, half way between the site of the castle and Indian River, a gray stone about three feet high and having a flat, table-like surface. It stands on the shore beside the hard, white road. The lovely bay, set with a thousand isles, stretches sparkling before it; the blue waves break musically along the curving shingle; the wooded hills rise behind it; the winds murmur among the tall trees.

The name of this stone is the "blarney" stone. It was a favorite retreat of Baranoff's and there, when he was sunken in one of his lonely or despondent moods, he would sit for hours, staring out over the water. What his thoughts were at such times, only God and he knew—for not even his beloved daughter dared to approach him when one of his lone moods was upon him.

All was now in readiness for his departure, but the old man—he was now seventy-two—had not anticipated that the going would be so hard. The blue waves came sparkling in from the outer sea and broke on the curving shingle at his feet; the white and lavender wings of sea-birds floated, widespread, upon the golden September air; vessels of the fleet he had built under the most distressing difficulties and disadvantages lay at anchor under the castle wherein he had banquetted every visitor of any distinction or position for so many years, and the light from whose proud tower had guided so many worn voyagers to safety at last; the yellow, red-roofed buildings, the great ones built of logs, the chapel, the significant block-houses—all arose out of the wilderness before his sorrowful eyes, taking on lines of beauty he had never discovered before.

From this hour Baranoff failed rapidly from day to day. His time was spent in bidding farewell to the Russians and natives—to many of whom he was sincerely attached—and to places which had become endeared to him by long association. He was frequently found in tears. Those who have seen fair Sitka rising out of the blue and islanded sea before their raptured eyes may be able to appreciate and sympathize with the old governor's emotion as, on the 27th of November, 1818, he stood in the stern of the Kutusof and watched the beloved city of his creation fade lingeringly from his view. He was weeping, silently and hopelessly, as the old weep, when, at last, he turned away.

Baranoff never again saw Sitka. In March the Kutusof landed at Batavia, where it remained more than a month. There he was very ill; and soon after the vessel had again put to sea, he died, like Behring, a sad and lonely death, far from friends and home. On the 16th of April, 1819, the waters of the Indian Ocean received the body of Alexander Baranoff.

Notwithstanding his many and serious faults, or, possibly because of their existence in so powerful a character—combined as they were with such brilliant talent and with so many admirable and conscientious qualities—Baranoff remains through all the years the most fascinating figure in the history of the Pacific Coast. None is so well worth study and close investigation; none is so rich in surprises and delights; none has the charm of so lone and beautiful a setting. There was no littleness, no niggardliness, in his nature. "He never knew what avarice was," wrote Khlebnikof, "and never hoarded riches. He did not wait until his death to make provision for the living, but gave freely to all who had any claim upon him."

Such is the simple early history of this remarkable man. Not one known descendant of his is living today. But men like Baranoff do not need descendants to perpetuate their names.

SKAGWAY, ALASKA,

SATURDAY, JULY 25, 1908

## GEORGE KOSTROMETINOFF, SITKA

Mr. George Kostrometinoff, whose 54th birth day was noted a few days ago, when the people of Sitka showered telegrams of congratulations and good will upon him here, has qualities that distinguish him and which, though well known, it is well to recite every so often. In the first place, 54 years of age though he be, he is a native of Sitka—born right there in that pretty little berg. He is, again, one of the very few living witnesses to the transfer of this big district from the dominion of the czar to that of Uncle Sam—1867. By reason of his birth before the transfer, it was a matter of choice with him whether he should remain a subject of the czar or accept American citizenship at the time of the transfer and he chose Uncle Sam. He was offered a consulship under the czar but acceptance necessitated his renouncing allegiance to the United States and he declined. But he held to the Russian church to which he was bred and for 22 years has been warden of St. Michael's at Sitka and as such custodian of the church property. A year ago last Christmas he received direct from the czar a testimonial of appreciation of this faithful stewardship in the form of loving cup made of silver. It is a distinction unique. Mr. Kostrometinoff has been in the government service frequently as interpreter and as such has traveled as far north as Point Barrow. The esteem in which he is held by his neighbors has been testified to in the form of many remembrances at his birth day.

The Alaskan.

SITKA, DISTRICT OF ALASKA

SATURDAY, OCT. 27, 1900.

# Death of Mrs. Kashevaroff.

## MOTHER OF "OUR FRITZ".

Died—at her home in this City at 10.30 Friday morning, Oct. 26.1900. Mrs. Wm. Kashevaroff. Cause of death apoplexy. The funeal will be at the home of the deceased at 9.30 a.m. and at the Russian Church at 10,00 a. m. Sunday Oct. 28. all friends of the family are invited to attend.

Katherine Hansen was born at Sitka Nov. 20, 1839, soon after her birth her parents removed to Atka island and later to Kodiak, where the most of her girlhood days were spent. Miss Hansen returned to Sitka as a member of the household of Prince Maskatoff, Governor of Alaska. In 1868 she was married to Wm. Kashevaroff and in after years became the mother of eleven children all but two of whom she outlivd. After 31 years of life together she burried her husband and has since been living at the old home with her one remaining son Theodore. The other living child is Mrs. Peter Kostrometinoff who resides in this city.

"Ka Kesek" India
"Kuchackty" India
"Kany" India
"Kahtusta" India
Thos. Haley
Hans N. Jansen

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1903.

# GREEK DIOCESE TO BE DIVIDED.

## New See to be Created In Sitka.

The diocese of the Greek orthodox church in North America is to be divided into two. The United States, Mexico and the territory south to the Isthmus, is to continue under the jurisdiction of Bishop Tikhon. The northern section, Canada, British Columbia and Alaska, is to be assigned to the Rev. Innocence Putinsky of Moscow, who will be created a bishop by the Holy Synod of the Greek Church.

The Synod, which is in session in St. Petersburg, has decided to divide the diocese at the suggestion of Bishop Tikhon, who agreed to come back to America and resume his work if the territory was curtailed to one-half of the continent. The Synod has been given to understand that it has the approval of the Czar and the Government Council of Russia, and as soon as these powers give their official sanction, the project will be put into effect. The cost of the change will be $50,000, with $16,000 a year for additional expenses.

It is expected that the consecration of Father Innocence as bishop will come next month, before Bishop Tikhon sails for America.

Father Innocence is no stranger on this coast. Nine years ago he was ordained a monk at the local cathedral by Bishop Nicholas, and, with him, did a great work among the Alaska Indians. He was also the sacristan of the cathedral for a year. When called back to Russia, he was engaged in the work of organizing churches in the Eastern States.

As superior of the celebrated Chudoff Monastery of Moscow, Father Innocence holds a high and very desirable ecclesiastical position He lives rather luxuriously in the quaint Russian city. He has a handsome residence, a retinue, and a four-horse carriage for his personal use. But the life of a grandee does not appeal to him. He loves his missionary work among the Indians."—Examiner

His Eminence Bishop Innocence Veniaminoff, the first Russian bishop of Alaska, whose official residence was in Sitka, erected the present cathedral of St. Michael in 1848; it was dedicated on the 28th of November of the same year, he also had the present Russian parsonage. When the now appointed bishop took the monastic vows he was named after the first bishop of Alaska, Innocence. Next year will be celebrated the centennary of the founding of the city of Sitka.

The first bishop succeeded to the title of Metropolitan, (Cardinal,) of Moscow which is the highest ecclesiastical position in the Russo-Greek church, and the present bishop named after him it is to be sincerely hoped that in the time to come he will rise to the same rank, thus proving himself worthy of his predicessor's name.—[Ed.]

12 | 2 00 | 24 00"

# The Alaskan.

An address delivered by His Eminence Innocent, Bishop of Alaska, upon his entrance to St. Michael Cathedral at Sitka, Alaska, May 4-17, 1904.

*Lord, do thou bless me!*
*Thus, blessed be the name of God!*

The long journey is at last ended, and I have again entered under the canopy of this holy church where, ten years ago, the Lord adjudged me to be.

And now, as it was then, the remembrances of the past glide through in a long file before me, when over this very place the Russian flag floated, the Russian language was heard and this church was built by the prelate who, himself, acted as carpenter and architect in the erection of this holy edifice.

Half a century has already passed since that time, and, of course, many things have changed, some for the better, some for worse. Notwithstanding I desire to believe that the good traditions of old are still preserved and that the covenant of the memorable Innocent, apostle and first bishop of Alaska, whose name I bear and, I trust, worthily, is yet living in his inheritance. Let this covenant live, let it strengthen, flourish, spread and never die. I have came here ready to labor with you for its growth and salvation, for the glory of the holy church and for the salvation of our souls.

Let us pray that the protectress in this work of ours be the most Holy Virgin, the Queen of heaven and earth, whose marvelous image adorns this church, the leader, the holy archistrategus of the heavenly army—the Archangel Michael; the companion in arms, the great defender of the orthodox faith—the holy orthodox prince Alexander, and our heavenly representative, St. John the Baptist.

Without the pike and sword we are armed solely with the vivific cross and evangelic word and we come forward to struggle with sin and untruth and with violence and spite. United with the American people, possessing their friendship and under the protection of the laws of this country we are preaching the true light of Christ to those who are sitting in darkness, to those who live on the sea and even to those who dwell in the land of eternal winter. With love in our hearts, obedient to the word of Christ we know of no enemy, but rather should we bless those who curse us and be ever ready to pay the evil—disposed with kindness. We pray for the peace of the whole world and the union of all people in one Christian flock.

In all of these things may the Lord be with us and may he help us and comfort us, when we call upon his Holy Name. AMEN

The Alaskan.

JANUARY 13, 1900.

# EARLY HISTORY OF ALASKA.

## Read Before the Historical And Ethnological Society.

By Mrs. M. D. M'Clelland.

### CHAPTER V.

(FROM 1802 TO 1819.)

For more than two years the massacre mentioned in the last chapter, remained unavenged, but in the fall of 1804 the Russains moved foward to the attack. In the meantime the natives had built a very strong fortification at the mouth of Indian river. This fortification was an irregular square, with its longest side facing the bay. It was constructed of a double tier of huge logs and mounted with cannon. On October 1st 1804, the attack was made, the Russian ships being prevented from approaching near, by the wide shoals. Finding the fort invulnerable to cannon balls, Baranoff landed a forece of men with a few cannon, and attempted to carry the fort by storm. He was repulsed with a loss of ten killed and twenty-six wounded. The assaulting force would have been annihilated but for the protection afforded them by a heavy fire from the ship. Next day, the ship having secured a shorter range sudjected the fort to a heavy and incessant cannonade. Near the close of the day, the savages came to the ships, and promising hostages entered into negotiations for peace. For two or three days, matters dragged along, the Russians emphasizing their demands by an occasional cannonading of the fort. Far into the night of the sixth of October, a wierd chant was wafted on the still air from the encampment of the savages, expressing their relief, as the interpreters said, that their lives were no longer in peril. But the chant had other significance, At daylight no sound was heard from the shore, nor was any living creature in sight, save flocks of carrion birds hovering around the fort. The Kolosh had fled to the woods, and within the stronghold lay the dead bodies of their children, slaughtered, lest their cries should betray the lurking places of the fugitives. It was found that the fort had been abandoned, because the natives were without ammunition to continue the defence. Many of the goods and furs which the natives had captured at Old Sitka were found within the house.

The next day after the capture of the fort a boat manned by six sailors and a midshipman was sent ashore to secure a supply of fresh water. Shortly after landing, they were suddenly attacked by the natives, and before assistance could be rendered were killed. The natives immediately thereafter ran into the woods beyond safe pursuit. The bodies of these men were buried on the shore close to the bay, the place being marked afterwards by a wooden monument erected by the order of Governor Baranoff. Their burial place can still be seen on the beach beyond Indian river.

On the summit of the hill now occupied by the Agricultural building was the dweelling of a native chief, surrounded by a stockade. It took the Russians two days to capture this dwelling, because of the natural strength of the position and the valient defense of the occupants.

The native stockades and dwellings having been demolished Baranoff began the construction of a fort and dwellings on the site now occupied by the government buildings.

In 1805, Rezanof, an officer of the Emperor's body guard, and principal shareholder in the Russian American company, visited the colonies. It was intended that he should assume the duties of Governor and chief manager, but he declined the position upon learning by actual experience the difficulties to be encountered, and the hardships to be undergone.

Of his visit to St. Paul Island, he writes in his first official report: "The multitude of seals in which St. Paul abounds is incredible. The shores are covered with them. The islands would be a source of inexhaustiable wealth, if it were not for the Bostonians, who undermine our trade with China in furs." He further says, "I take the liberty as a faithful subject of your Imperial Majesty, of declaring my opinion that it is necessary to take a stronger hold of this country. It is certain that we shall leave it empty handed, since from fifteen to twenty ships come here annually from Boston to trade. The American colonies can never be fully developed as long as bread, the principal staple of food, has to be shipped from Okhotsk."

Of his visit to Sitka, he says: "Owing to the scarcity of buildings the people are confined to very crowded quarters. The building occupied by the founder of the settlement, Baranoff, is in the worst condition of sny. He is a wonderful man, looking only to the health and comfort of his subordinates, while exposing himself to every hardship. Baranoff's name is spoken in terms of praise all over the country, even as far along the coast as California. The Bostonians have a great deal of respect for the old gentleman."

Of the missionaries and their labors, Rezanoff has little good to report. He remarks that their so called convertions was merely a name, and that the ceremony of baptism has not affected their morals or customs.

It is interesting to compare his official report, with the last official report of the present Bostonian governor of the same region.

During the winter of 1806–7, the Kolosh again assumed a threatening attitude, encouraged chiefly by the absence of Baranoff. Under pretex of herring fishing, they assembled on the islands of Norfolk Sound, with more than four hundred large war canoes, while the number of warriors was estimated to be not less than two thousand. Deeds of violence were of daily occurrence. The Rassians were not strong enough to attack the enemy, or even sustain a seige, and Kuzkof the commandant at the fort, resolved to try peaceful measures. He invited to the fort the most powerful chiefs, feasted them, flattered them, plied them with rum, and by a liberal distribution of presents finally induced them to leave the neighborhood. But it was not until 1810, when the sloop of war, Diana arrived, that the Russians were relieved from this constant fear of an attack from the Kolosh.

A ship-yard having been established at Sitka, the first ship was launched in 1807. It was christened the Sitka. From this time on Baranoff was well supplied with sea going vessels. His greatest difficulty was the scarcity of food supplies, and the exhorbitant prices he was compelled to pay for them. Supplies were supposed to come from Russia by way of Okhotsk but supplies obtained in this was cost more than those secured in Boston.

Rezanoff on his return from California, had urged on Baranoff the importance of establishing on the shores of New Albion a station for hunting, trading and agricultural purposes. but it was not until 1812 that a foothold was gained. As a trading enterprise it yielded meager results, and the agricultural colony proved disasterous.

The remaining years of Baranoff's administration have no events of special interest to the historian, but for him they were years filled with cares and labors of almost incredable weight, cares and labors which he endured with weakening body and mind. At last in 1818, he was ordered to transfer his authority to his successor. Although he had several times requested to be relieved, it came at last as an unexpected blow. Nearly forty years had elapsed since he left his native land, and nearly thirty since he had landed at Kodiak. To him was due more than to all others the success of the Russian colonies in America. Here in these wintry solitudes he had built towns and villages, constructed ships, and thoroughly established a lucrative trade. He hud accomplished all this while paying regular dividends to shareholders.

The property at Sitka alone at his retirement was estimated to be worth two and a half million roubles. A ship was dispatched with two hundred thousand roubles' worth of furs, while nine hundred thousand roubles' worth still remained in the company's warehouses, In all the complicated accounts of this vast business, his successor failed to find a single discrepancy. With all his faults he was a man of remarkable ability.

With sorrow and humilitation, Baranoff, now an old man of seventy-two years, tore himself away from the land he loved so well. On the 27th of November, 1818, he embarked for Russia. But the dauntless spirit was crushed, the great heart was broken, and on the 16th day of April 1819. he breathed his last. On the following day the funeral services were conducted, and in the Strait of Sunda the waters of ihe Indian Ocean closed over the remains of Alexander Baranoff.

## WHO IS IT?---GUESS.

She wears a dainty little hat
Without a flower upon it,
Which, nothwithstanding all of that,
Seems like an Easter bonnet.
It crowns a face most sweetly fair
Where roses seem to linger,
As if some fairy of the air
Had touched it with a finger
Dipped in the early flush of dawn
Upon some cloudless morning,
With other pearly tints of morn
Mixed for a flower's adorning.
Her soft eyes twinkle like a star;
Her voice is like a thrush's;
And all the artists near and far
Throw down their useless brushes;
They cannot paint her beauty fine,
Nor catch the naive expression,
Which, like a messenger divine,
Demands Love's sweet confession.
She trips along our ancient streets,
Bringing the sunlight with her;
And every tired heart she meets
Some benediction gives her.
The blossoms of the summer time
Are somehow brought much nearer;
And even in our Northern clime
Our daily life seems dearer.
We turn to bless her as she goes,
And one can hardly think it!—
The natives call her "Snow white rose,"
In harsh and guttural Thlinket!
Where'er she is she surely brings
With her a radiant luster,
As when the golden robin sings
Where sweet flowers grow in cluster.
Oh! in this sterile land she blooms,
A lovely rose translated
With memories of happy Junes
And days with beauty freighted.
The natives and the people all
Would not have aught distress her;
Where'er her tiny feet may fall
They softly say, "God bless her!"

HENRY E. HAYDON.

Sitka, Alaska, March 28, 1891.

## EASTER SUNDAY.

SITKA, ALASKA, MARCH 29th, 1891.

Dear
Lord
In this far land
Where mountains stand
On either hand,
Beside the sea
We raise to Thee
Our voices free
And sing the Christian's song of old,—
That song born when the stone was rolled
From Death's cold tomb, which could not hold
The Son of God within its fold!
O happy day!
When Mary came
Her lonely way;
Where Thou hadst lain
And found Thee gone:
O day supreme!
O golden dawn!
O Truthful dream!
Of faithful souls
So surely verified
That wheresoe'er the ocean rolls
In every land between the poles
Thy Name, Thy Life, Thy Death is glorified.

H. E. H.

# TRANSFER OF ALASKA

## A Short History When and How It Was Done.

## UP WITH OLD GLORY

## Captain Pestchouroff and Gen. L. N. Rosseau the Officiating Parties.

The following is a short history of the formal transfer of the territory of Alaska to the United States of America.

The formal transfer was made at half past three o'clock, October 18th 1867, with appropriate ceremonies previously agreed upon by Captain Pestchouroff and General Lovell N. Rosseau, commissioners of the part of Russia and the United States respectively. Gen. Jeff. C. Davis had been appointed to the command of the military force of occupation, and the expedition, consisting of the United States ships Ossipee, Jamestown and Resaca, with the commissioners on board, together with several transports carrying about 250 soldiers and military supplies, sailed from San Francisco on the 27th of September, and, touching at Victoria for coal, arrived at Sitka on the forenoon of October 18th 1867. The following is a part of the report of the United States Commissioner General Lovell N. Rosseau to the secretary of war:

"The command of General Davis, about 250 strong in full uniform, armed and handsomely equipped, were landed about one o'clock and marched up to the top of the eminence on which stands the governor's house, where the transfer was to be made. At the same time a company of Russian soldiers were marched to the ground and took their place upon the left of the flagstaff, from which the Russian flag was then floating. The command of General Davis was formed under the direction on the right. The United States flag to be raised on the occasion was in care of a color guard, a lieutenant, a sergeant and ten men of General Davis' command. The officers above named, as well as the officers under their command, the governor, Prince Maksoutoff and his wife, the Princess Maksoutoff, together with many Russian and American citizens, and some Indians, were present. The formation of the ground, however, was such as to preclude any considerable demonstration.

"It was arranged by Captain Pestchouroff and myself that, in firing the salute on the exchange of flags the United States should lead off, but that there should be alternative guns from the American and Russian batteries, thus giving the flag of each nation the double national salute; the national salute being thus answered the moment it was given. The troops being promptly formed, were, at precisely half past three o'clock, brought to a present arms, the signal was given to the Ossipee (Lieutenant Crossman, executive officer of the ship, and for the time in command), which was to fire the salute, and the ceremony was begun by lowering the Russian flag. As it began its descent down the flagstaff the battery of the Ossipee, with large nine-inch guns, led off in the salute, peal after peal crashing and re-echoing in the gorges and surrounding mountains, answered by the Russian water battery, (a battery on the wharf), firing alternately. But the ceremony was interrupted by the catching of the Russian flag in the ropes attached to the flagstaff. The soldier who was lowering it continued to pull at it, and tore off the border by which it was attached, leaving the flag entwined tightly around the ropes. The flagstaff was a native pine, perhaps 90 feet in height. In an instant the Russian soldiers, taking the different shrowds attached to the flagstaff, attempted to ascend to the flag, which having been whipped around the ropes by the wind, remained tight and fast. At first, being sailors as well as soldiers, they made rapid progress, but laboring hard they soon became tired and when half way up scarcely moved at all, and finally came to a standstill. There was a dilemna; and in a moment a "boatswain's chair," so called, was made by knotting a rope to make a loop for a man to sit in and be pulled upward and another Russian soldier was drawn quickly up to the flag. On reaching it he detached it from the ropes, and not hearing the calls from Captain Pestchorouff below to bring it down, dropped it below, and in its descent it fell on the bayonets of the Russian soldiers.

"The United States flag was then properly attached and began its ascent, hoisted by my private secretary, George Lovell Rosseau, and again the salutes were fired as before, the Russian water battery leading off. The flag was so hoisted that in the instant it reached its place, the report of the last big gun of the Ossipee reverberated from the mountains around. The salutes being completed, Captain Pestchouroff stepped up to me and said: 'General Rosseau, by authority from His Majesty, the Emperor of Russia, I transfer to the United States the territory of Alaska,' and in a few words I acknowledged the acceptance of the transfer, and the ceremony was at an end. Three cheers were then spontaneously given for the United States flag by the American citizens present, although this was no part of the program, and on some accounts I regretted that it occured."

The above ~~is~~ is a copy of a report of General Rosseau to the War Department at Washington, D. C.

SITKA, DISTRICT OF ALASKA,

SATURDAY, MARCH 8, 1902.

# HISTORICAL RELICS OF AN ABORIGINAL RACE.

The five totem poles and the war canoe recently brought to Sitka from the village at Kasaan Bay on Prince of Wales Island, have just been repaired and painted by native artists, with the aid and under the direction of Jim, the native jeweler, otherwise known as Klay nay-hoo, and the poles are now being erected in the government park it India n River Point.

The poles and canoe were given by San Hat, chief of the Hydah tribe, to the District of Alaska to be preserved at Sitka as a historical aelics. Chief San Hat gave at the same time, a complete log house, built by his his ancestors about 60 years ago, and of which the four smaller totem poles form the inner corner posts. It was found impracticable to remove the entire house at this time, but later it will brought here and erected around the four smaller totem poles now in place, and when this is done the large war canoe will be placed inside.

The name San Hat means southeast wind. It was given out of revenge, because one of his ancestors had his canoe wrecked on the south end of Prince of Wales island by a southeast storm. The wind could not give a monetary satisfaction for the this insult so they took his name to be revenged.

The ground on which these poles are being erected is historic, it being the site of an old fort erected during the Russian occupancy of the country by the Kake-Sutter indians, which was the original tribe living here at Sitka.

The largest of the five totem poles stands fully sixty feet high The other four are [illegible] The war canoe is forty-seven feet long, more than six feet of beam and about three and one half feet deep.

The labor of removing these poles and canoe from Kasaan, transporting them to Sitka and setting them in their places wadone by the crew of the revenue cutter Rush, under the direction of her officers. Great credit is due them for interest and efforts in the matter, as well as to Col. George Kostrometnoff, who, with a gang of prisoners from the jail assisted in the excavations and erection o the totem poles. Without their aid the task would have been arduous and expensive, if not impossible.

A large tablet will be erected giving a short history of the gift and the name of the donor.

The public should be extremely careful not to mutilate or deface these relics of an aboriginal race. In future years, their historic value will be great.

## JOHN G. BRADY

It was late in life when the hand of misfortune was laid heavily upon John G. Brady, for he is three score years and ten. Seventy years of this world's battles usually carry with them an expectation of relief for the balance of one's days, but such is not what the fickle goddess has made for the unfortunate former governor. A ruined and broken old man, John G. Brady, the victim of a keen and cultured scoundrel, has no complaint to make for the treatment he has received—no whimper about the losses he has suffered. His first thought is about the friends who, through faith in him, have seen their savings swept from them. All the world knows that John Brady is honest. His fatal error was in confiding absolutely in tne judgment and honesty of H. D. Reynolds, by whom he was betrayed. But since the whirling of this old world began the story of betrayal has been daily recorded, and the case of John Brady is but like the one of yesterday, tomorrow and those that will come up until time shall be no more. It is idle for newspapers to maintain that Governor Brady benefited by the failure at Valdez—his all was with the rest.

The fact that Governor Brady was connected with a religious denomination in a prominent manner has been the cause of much of the bitterness that has been expressed against him. This is wrong. A man's failures, shortcomings and good qualities should not be gauged by the number of times he goes to church. Nor should his standing be rated according to the particular denomination he adheres to.

The religion he followed was what he learned to lisp at the knee of some good woman and the misfortunes he recently suffered were brought about by confidence in a false friend. Wherein, then, should John G. Brady be blamed?—Skagway Alaskan.

SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE,

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21, 1900.

# BISHOP TIKHON'S SEE EMBRACES A CONTINENT

BISHOP TIKHON of the Greek Catholic Church, for many years known in the order as the Bishop of Alaska, and two weeks ago made Bishop of North America by the Synod in St. Petersburg, is busy readjusting his time to his new responsibilities. In a large measure this added honor is but making an official record of what Bishop Tikhon has been doing for a long time. While Alaska was defined as his territory, the Bishop has been a missionary, and has created the large diocese over which he is called to preside. He has gathered his people, established missionary stations, and encouraged the building of churches. There are three Greek churches in New York city, and a large and costly church is in course of construction in Chicago.

The diocese of North America has now twenty-five parishes, and fifteen missions, and is within the jurisdiction of the Russian branch of the Greek church, from which it receives financial aid.

San Francisco will be the see city, and within the next few years a handsome Oriental cathedral will be built here. The location has not been decided upon, but it will be nearer the center of the city than the present edifice. While there is a large Greek colony in the northern part of the city, Russians and Slavs reside in all sections, so the cathedral will be centrally located. It will not be commenced until almost the entire amount required for it has been raised, which may be a few years distant. Bishop Tikhon has an able assistant in Rev. Father Sebastian Dabovich, who is a diocesan missionary, appointed by the Bishop, with the consent of the Synod.

# THE GRAND CELEBRATION

## Of The Grecco-Russian Church.

## SIXTIETH ANNIVERSARY

***Of the Establishment of the Bishopric in America—His Eminence Lord Tikhon, Bishop of the Orthodox Russian Church in North America, Officiating,***

On Wednesday evening at six o'clock, vespers were held at St. Michael Cathedral. The church was beautifully decorated with flowers and evergreens, and was brilliantly illuminated with many wax candles; at the conclusion the special service was held by His Eminence Tikhon for the repose of the soul of His Eminence Innokentius, the first Bishop of Alaska.

On Thursday morning at 9:30 a. m., Holy Liturgy began ond lasted for three hours, the church was packed with people, the singing was excellent, the beautiful soprano of Mrs. N. T. McBride rang sweetly throughout the church.

The Rev. Ivan Sobolcff, of Ketchikan, and Archdeacon Elias ably assisted His Eminence Tikhon in all the services.

From 3 until 5 o'clock Thursday afternoon a reception was held by the Bishop at the Russian parsonage for the Americans, and in the evening from 7 until 10 o'clock for the Russians, at the school room which was decorated with flags and evergreens. During the evening many songs were sung by the boys at the school, in Russian and English, and several band selections were rendered by Mr. G. Kostrometinoff on the Grand Graphophone. The much beloved Baranoff's song was sung by the entire guests for the amusement of the Bishop who has heard the song for the first time and was very much pleased with it.

Great credit is due to Messrs. G. Kostrometinoff and A. P. Kashevaroff for the complete success of the celebration.

SITKA, DISTRICT OF ALASKA,

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1901.

In the Orthodox Russian Cathedral, the Rt. Rev, Lord Tikhon, on Monday morning held service. Before service he made the following remarks which were interpreted by Andrew Kashevaroff: "We have gathered here at this hour and in this church to pray for the repose of the soul of the asassinated President, William McKinley. Every rightminded and honest man, to whatsoever nation he may belong will always condemn such a crime and have for the American people, whom such grief has visited, the warmest sympathy. We, the members of the Graeco Russian Church express our sympathy more sincerely and willingly because our church as a society is under the protection of the American law and the majority of our members are American citizens—they are subjects of the United States. And as members of the Orthodox church we look upon those in authority as having received their power by devine right. The church commands us to pray for those in power not for the sake fear, but for the sake of conscience. To our grief on account of the assassination of the President we join the supplication to God for the repose of the soul of the God's servant William McKinley of whom, thro God's help may we have an ever living memory.

# HOLDS THE PAPERS

## Can Confirm American Claims to Rich Gold-Bearing Territory in Northwest.

Minneapolis, Sept. 10.—Father Anatoly, of the Greek Catholic church of this city, has admitted that he is in possession of ecclesiastical documents tending to confirm the American claims to the rich gold-bearing territory in the far Northwest, which has been in dispute between the United States and Great Britain for years. These papers consist chiefly of reprints and surveys authorized by Russia when Alaska was the Czar's.

Father Anatoly was sent to Alaska by the Greek church in 1897, and he remained there four years. He made a special study of the country, its resources and its history, and it was on account of his position in the church that he was enabled to secure documents that promise to materially aid the American government in proving its Alaskan claims.

Among the papers in the possession of Father Anatoly is a copy of the Alaskan treaty in the English and Russian languages. Accompanying this treaty is an Alaskan priest's narrative, showing that in 1815 the Russian trading company had a dispute with the Hudson Bay Company, of Canada, destroyed some of the latter's property. The Russian concern then conceded a strip of territory about ten miles wide, located in 54 degrees 40 minutes longitude, near the mouth of the Stikeen river, for a term of years.

The Hudson Bay Company was to collect rents for this period in this territory, and have exclusive domain. But the tract was never given back, and Father Anatoly says it is now usurped by the British authorities.

# ALASKAN BOUNDARY

## Statements Made By Father Antoly Are Questioned.

To the Editor: In your issue of September 27th an article appeared with a somewhat conspicuous heading "Holds the Papers" which has brought back to us an old duck, Rev. Anatoly Kamensky, well known by his original activity by writing several libelous articles in a rather vindictive tone for the "Moscow Wedomosti," a newspaper published in Russia, and signing the articles *Zertiss*.

We well recognize him by his restless initiativeness and by the absorbabilty of his "idea fixe." First, Rev. Anatoly, alias Zertiss, has roared about Alaska, at the same time seeking for proofs whether the United States has violated the treaty with Russia of 1867, and now to our surprise he has turned his coat and wishes to help the United States with his knowledge. Evidently such activity is a stepping stone to his own advantage. It strikingly shows, to what the man's convictions are leading who is now trying to salt fish in another barrel.

Just as soon as the controversy aroused about the Alaska boundary, the Rev. Mr. Anatoly comes forward and attemps to make some people believe that he has the Lion by the tail and about to give it an awful twist, but in reality the whole business is far from being right as the Rev. Mr. Anatoly would like people to believe according to his voice from Minneapolis of September the 10th. In the first place why is such a wide announcement of himself? There is nothing special that the Rev. Mr. Anatoly has ever done for Alaska. The article which has been written by him about the habits and customs of Thlinkits is the only one which has been favorably received by the

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4, 1902.

"Russian Orthodox American Messenger," a magazine published in New York City, the data of which has been taken from the well known collections at Sitka, but his article has been changed so as to disguise the original that one could hardly tell unless he is well posted, whether it has been written with an axe or a Byzantine broom. At any rate it invites serious objections. It was very imprudent for the Rev. Mr. Anatoly to state "that he is in the possession of ecclesiastical documents tending to confirm the American claims to the rich gold-bearing territory in the far Northwest etc.," because it is a well known fact according to the treaty of 1867, article II, it states explicitly, that all documents pertaining to the Territory of Alaska must be the property of the new master (the U. S. Government) and not the subject of speculations of the stock exchange. Therefore the Government of the United States has a right to demand them if such documents are now in the possession of a private individual. It is evident that the Rev. Mr. Anatoly has only the copy of those documents for his "special study of this country."

The present Rector of the Russian Church at Sitka has never as yet been officially asked by the United States government through the Governor of this Territory whether such documents have ever been taken by the Rev. Mr. Anatoly whether for his personal use and speculations or otherwise, as it can be observed in the frolicsome tone of Rev. Mr. Anatoly. After all it seems suspicious. Why does Rev. Mr. Anatoly raise the question about the fraudulently detained papers by the "Hudson Bay Company," when, after the year of 1815 Russia made two definite treaties, one with the United States on the "(5)17 day of April, 1824, with the confirmation of its friendly feeling towards this country, and the other with England on the (16)28" of Feburary, 1825, relative to the settling of the Territorial difficulties.

The text of these treaties can be produced if so desired from the duplicate documents in the archives of the Russian Church at this place, providing we do not have to humiliatingly depend on the mystification of the former Alaskan scientifical investigator ingenuously seeking at this time to change the political chart of the United States of America.

JULIUS CEASAR THUNDER.

Sitka, Alaska, October 1st 1902.

SITKA, DISTRICT OF ALASKA.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1902.

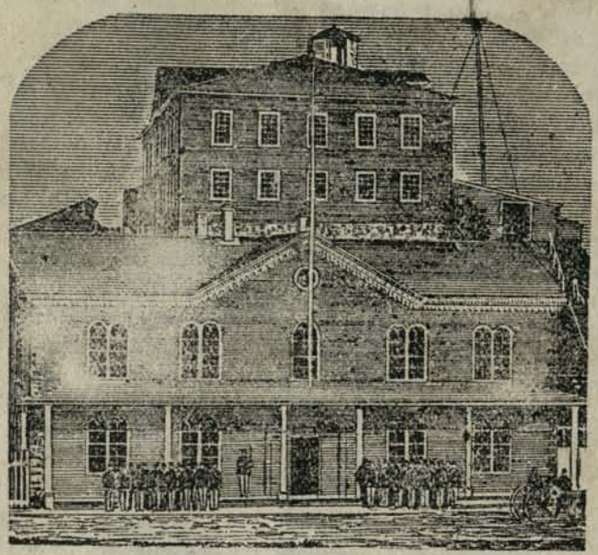
The boundary question has interested everybody so much that all are ready to help solve the problem. The revival of the discussion has stirred up an extraordinary interest which is due to the discovery of some important details.

An old resident of Sitka, Stepan Ushin by name who was known for his fondness in meddling with other people's affairs, some years ago came into possession of some documents which had been in the chancellor's office. The contents of these documents he repeatedly stated in letters to his friends and treated their replies in a supercilious manner. Therefore in order to explain as much as possible their truth and reveal the secrets which has surrounded them it has been decided to make them known to the public in detail, giving the names of the participants. In the collection there are thirteen letters; some are personal letters of Ushin's eight answers from his friends to him on the subject; two are commercial correspondence; and letters from two Slavonians viz Marko Lleanich and John Dabovich. All of these will be photo-lithographed for the benefit of the public at large.

# BARANOFF CASTLE IN ASHES.

***ORIGIN OF THE FIRE UNKNOWN.***

***The Pride of Sitka Goes up in Smoke.***



***BARANOFF CASTLE IN 1880.***

***CUSTOM HOUSE IN FRONT, CASTLE ON ELEVATION.***

"The Castle" was a massive structure, measuring 86 x 51 feet, built of cedar logs, joined with copper bolts and riveted to the rock. It was two stories in height with a glass cupola, which was formerly the light-house of the harbour, the camp standing 110 feet above the sea. It was richly furnished and decorated when transferred to the United States military Commandant, General Davis, in 1867, but the departure of the troops in 1877, was looked of every belonging, wantonly stripped, and defaced. No repairs were made until 1893; by United States Government.

The Alaska Herald

MONDAY, MARCH 19, 1894.

About two o'clock on Friday morning, March 17th, the fire bell notified the citizens of Sitka that the Fire Fiend had broken loose in their midst and was then at his work of destruction.

At the tap of the bell the citizens hustled out of bed, but before they could put on their clothes, one of the cannon in front of the Custom House, on the beach, thundered forth another note of warning and its sonorous reverberations warned very one that something serious in the shape of a conflagration threatened the safety of the town.

By this time the people were rushing out upon the streets and the news flew from one to another that the Castle was on fire! Consternation at once seized upon all., for the location of the building upon a high bluff, the snow 18 inches deep, the insufficiency of water, the impossibility of hauling the enging within reach of the flames,, impressed itself intuitively upon the mind, and the dense smoke and the lurid tongues of fire darting and hissing from under the base of the building midway along its northeastern side were evidence that the fire had gained great headway and that the chances of getting it under control were as one in a thousand.

The fire was discovered by the marine patrol on the wharf and the alarm given, and about this juncture, R. C Rogers, United States Commissioner, who roomed on the second floor in the northern corner of the building, raised a window and hoarsly shouted to the jail guard standing in front of the jail building: "For God's sake bring a ladder quick and help me down for I am suffocating." Ladders were brought and raised to the window and the Commissioner was rescued. He had nothing on but his underclothing, and an overcoat. All his clothes, his gold watch, some money. and all is personal effects were burned. Even his faithful little dog "Brete Harte," perished in the flames.

Several men by this time had reached the main and front entrance to the Castle and attempted to go in, did make progress a short distance in the hallway, but were driven back by the fierce volumes of dense smoke that rolled towards them, making all attempts to gain an entrance to the rooms above or below utterly impossible. This settled the fate of the grand old Castle and immediate attention was then given to the preservation of the Custom House and Jail building only a few yards distant.

Meantime another gun on the beach had summoned the crew of the U. S. S. Pinta, which was at anchor in the harbor, to the rescue and now commenced a fight in earnest to save the the town, for if the Custom House and Jail Building had caught, the fire would have swept up Lincoln Street and the result would have been most disastrous. The blue-jackets under Lieutenant Peacock and Ensign Rust did most efficient service in protecting the Custom House and Jail Building, and they were ably assisted by the marines under Lieut. Pendleton. Sails were ordered from the Naval storehouse by Lieut. Peacock and were hung on the eastern wall of the Jail Building. These sails were kept dripping wet by water from a cistern just at hand and were a good protection. The citizens got right in with their best licks and it is worthy of mention that at the first tap of the fire-bell the mission boys from the mission, came pouring down to the fire like bees, each with a bucket in hand, and they worked like good fellows without urging, some on top of the Custom House, others on top of the Jail Building, others passing water up the ladders: It took some tall hustling to save the Jail Building, but the united efforts of all prevailed and the danger was averted. The snow on the roofs and the wind, what little there was, favored the efforts to save the town. If the wind had been in the southeast, nothing could have saved the building and the town would have gone.

Well the story is told. Baranoff Bastle is in ashes; the pride of Sitka has gone up in smoke and all the people feel very sorrowful indeed. As to how the building caught fire probably will never be known. Several theories have been advanced and what seems satisfactory to some is rejected by others. We have no theory of our own. Unless the building caught fire from a defective flue, all is mystery and simple guess work.

MAURICE E. KENEALY, Editor and Sole Proprietor.

SITKA, ALASKA TERRITORY, SATURDAY, MAY 30, 1891.

# EX-GOV. KINKEAD'S

## REMINISCENCES OF SITKA A QUARTER OF A CENTURY AGO.

In the summer of 1867 I found myself like some of our friends "out of a job" and ready for almost any adventure. The purchase of Alaska had been completed, and all San Francisco was agog with the possibilities of this new addition to Uncle Sam's farm. The country had thus far remained a "sealed book" to all the world outside of the Czar's subjects. This fact and the very vague notions that anybody had of the country, gave it a kind of romantic fascination. Being a frontiersman and pioneer from "way back," the boom naturally caught me, and I determined to go and look at the new "Promised Land." Soon after having so concluded Mr. Conness, then U. S. Senator from California, telegraphed a mutual friend, the late Wm. C. Ralston, then manager of the Bank of California, that he (Conness) was very anxious to nominate the first Federal Officer for the new Territory, and there being none but "Postmaster" at that time to appoint, he asked Mr. Ralston to name someone for the position. "Billy," (our familiar name for Mr. R.) came to me and asked if I would accept, as he knew of no other person even going up to see. I had then no idea of anything more than the trip, but to oblige Senator Conness I accepted the honor. These communications were carried on by telegrams, and just before the expeditionary ship sailed I received an immense document with my commission as Postmaster at Sitka with the magnificent salary attached of $12 per annum! This was my first appearance in public life as an office-holder.

Time will have its revenges, for this magnificent honor of the first Federal Officer of Alaska I was made to pay twenty years later by being compelled to serve as the first Federal Officer, again, when the Civil Government was established. "Verily our sins will find us out."

I will not elaborate upon the distinguished honor (?) with which I was received by the Russian authorities as United States Postmaster, nor the sensation with which my leather mail-bag was carried to the office of Prince Maxsoutoff, nor of its contents. This is "Sacred History," which I hardly feel at liberty to tell. I believe, however, I may venture to say that under the circumstances and the mail, the Postmaster felt a little as though Prince Maxsoutoff had some reason to think himself and his government quite small potatoes.

Alaska, as before remarked, was an unknown proposition; the general public mind was full of romance and exaggerated ideas of what it could, should, or might be. The journals of the day were replete, as you will doubtless remember, with criticisms of the motives and wisdom of Secretary Seward in making the purchase for his government of this frozen region. The consensus of opinion of the majority was that the "Old Man" had made a mistake and that his ambition for doing something had led to paying $7,000,000 of the people's money for nothing. I need not say now how greatly our people misunderstood this far-seeing statesman and patriot.

Major-General Halleck was then in command of the Division of the Pacific. Having possibly some ambition to create for himself a military reputation, he had the newly acquired country (Alaska) created a separate Department with Brig. Gen. Jeff. C. Davis in command with headquarters at Sitka, establishing military posts at four other points: (1st) Fort Tongass, just above the boundary line with British Columbia in sight of Fort Simpson, the northerly port of the Hudson's Bay Co. on the coast. Next, Fort Wrangell on the island of the same name and near the mouth of the Stickeen River, the highway to the gold mines of Northern British Columbia. Next going northward and westward Sitka (of which more anon); then Fort Kodiak on an island of the same name; thence lastly and finally a post somewhere in Cook's Inlet; (the name and place has just now escaped my memory, but easily found from the military records). Each of these posts was garrisoned by one Company or Battery of the Second Artillery, except at Sitka where in addition to Battery H, Second Artillery, was stationed Company F., Ninth Artillery and of course a full Headquarters and staff. This was the military occupation of Sitka.

The steamer John L. Stephens was chartered by the government to carry to Sitka the troops destined for that post with the General and staff, a number of artisans, and a full load of supplies. The owners of the ship and their coast line of steamers, at the last moment asked me to act as purser for the trip, being short of this kind of officer, and being friends of mine I accepted as they assured me that I would have "nothing to do." This last, I may say, was, or proved to be, something of a fiction. However, I accepted the position and may add by way of parenthesis that I returned to the office a net profit of $65,000 for the voyage without a dollar to my personal credit.

"Fort Alexai"

The ship left San Francisco somewhere about the 20th of September, 1867, touched at Victoria and Nanaimo, and with some slight, not serious, accident reached Sitka, I think, about the 10th or 12th of October; the precise dates I have not just now at hand. The U. S. Ships Ossipee and Resaca arrived a few days later with the American and Russian Commissioners on board. General Davis, his staff and troops remained on board our ship in the harbor until the details of the transfer were arranged on shore by the Commissioners. All was ready by the 18th. On the morning of that day the troops disembarked and at high noon the flag of Russia was hauled down from the flagstaff in the Castle yard, and the stars and stripes flung aloft in its place. This scene has been so often described by the pens of "ready writers" that I will not attempt it. To the Russians, of course, it was a sad ceremony, and to the credit of our people I wish to say that their feelings were in the main regarded with respect. Some over zealous adherents of the "American Eagle" were disposed to make a Fourth of July demonstration, but it was quickly suppressed by the good sense of our officials.

After the 18th Sitka was probably a busier place than ever before or ever likely to be again. The Russian resident population was entirely upset and uncertain what fate awaited them. They had heard rumors of the sale of their country to the United States, but even the officials knew little of the matter until the arrival of the Commissioners. There was hurrying to and fro. Russian troops "turned out"; United States troops "turned in"; quarters for men and officers had to be hastily provided and there was a brief reign of chaos. General Davis immediately assumed command of the Post and soon established order.

The American Commissioner, General Rousseau, left Sitka on the 20th to return by the U. S. Ship Ossipee, the Russian Commissioners Count Pestchouroff and Baron Koskul remaining at Sitka to arrange matters, I presume, for their people. On the night of the 21st-22nd a terrific gale swept through the harbor, the inner one being then filled with vessels—the American men-of-war the Resaca and Jamestown, two Revenue Cutters, the large steamer Jno. L. Stephens, three Russian steamers and a large fleet of transports, ships, barks, etc., of both nationalities. Nearly all got adrift during the night, doing considerable damage. The morning disclosed two of the steamers sunk and the whole fleet badly demoralized. Slight damage was done in town, the heavy log structures caring little for wind. The Ossipee returned to port the same evening having caught the gale off Cape Ommaney and being nearly lost; her boats, tackle, &c. all gone. General Rousseau and staff were utterly demoralized and sought shelter on the Stephens. Later, however, they were all induced to return to the Ossipee and finally reached the white settlements all right. The General was evidently a better soldier than a sailor.

The Stephens sailed on her return to San Francisco, I think, the 24th or 25th. Meanwhile the "Council of Administration" of the Post had elected me "Post Trader" and I concluded to return to Sitka for business purposes. The ship reached San Francisco after several minor accidents,—none serious,—about the middle of November. I purchased a stock of goods for the Alaska market and sailed from San Francisco on my return the 30th of December, 1867. At Victoria we had chartered the steamer Fideleter to transport us and our belongings to Sitka which we reached some time in January, 1868. We continued in the mercantile business until 1871 when I gave it up returning to "my native heath," Nevada.

During my absence in San Francisco, or very soon after my return (I forget which) a "City Provincial Government" was formed by and with the consent and approval of General Davis, the Military Commandant. The City Government included a Mayor, Common Council, Fire Department, etc. All local disturbances and matters affecting citizens alone were adjudicated and settled finally by the Mayor's Court; the General commanding gladly delegating this authority to the citizens.

Judge Samuel Storer, a merchant of the town, was made (elected) the first Mayor. He closed up his business and departed, and left me, at the people's request, his successor. This "accumulation of honors" was distressing. Postmaster, Post-trader, Mayor,—everything connected with the duties of these several offices culminated when any vessel happened to be in port. No controversies or troubles were apparent until the steamer arrived. To save time in not hearing these differences I generally paid from my pocket the difference between litigants; (of course, mostly of small proportions). Hence I got the reputation of being a very fair judge, when they knew that their claims would seriously interfere with my own personal business.

I think it was about two years before we had any regular "mail" service. The first year we depended entirely upon transient coast sailing vessels. The Postmaster at San Francisco would send, if he heard of any vessel sailing for Sitka, any mail he might have on hand. We used to watch with great solicitude the appearance of the ravens upon the top of the Greek Church cross,—popularly supposed to indicate the arrival of some vessel in the offing. When they did appear, generally having to "beat in," the Postmaster—salary $12 per annum—would hire a boat's crew at a cost of $25 to go out to the craft in the outer harbor, with the result mainly of not even a newspaper to tell us of the world's doings. At one time, I remember, four months elapsed without a word or a line from anybody or anything. The next year the Government sent to the Quartermaster the steamer Newburn, a large and unwieldy ship entirely unsuited to the wants of the department. However she was much better than nothing, making trips now and then to San Francisco and over to the westward as far as the Seal Islands. On one occasion she was very nearly lost in a mighty storm on her return. Next we had a monthly mail from Port Townsend;—then we were happy.

Meantime we got along very comfortably and I may say happily in our isolation. The Headquarters officers and some of the Line had their families, and we had a very excellent society, as good as anybody's as far as it went. Social entertainments, parties, balls, etc., to which everybody, He or She, contributed their hearty proportion, made life not only tolerable but happy and cheerful, the young Naval and Revenue officers in the Post adding quite a feature in all these matters.

From after experience and knowledge of these gentlemen of the Army and Navy I am warranted in saying that all agree that the few years spent in Sitka were the happiest of their lives. We—citizens and soldiers—bought the little Lutheran Church just opposite the Greek Church, then a very pretty little chapel. Services were held regularly every Sunday by the Post Chaplain, Rev. J. A. Raynor; a Sunday School was established, free to all, Russian, Indian, and white. My wife was one of the "chiefs" in this enterprise. Myself, in addition to my many other offices, "boss of the quier." We had early established a day school, the sister-in-law of the first Collector of the port, W. Sumner Dodge, being engaged as teacher—her name Addie Mercer. To this school were also admitted any children that chose to attend. Officers' children, those of laundresses, Russians and Indians, all being equal. The pay of the teacher was made up by the voluntary contributions of citizens and officers. A year or more elapsed under these conditions. The Collector and family departed. Chaplain Raynor was succeeded by Chaplain Ira Horn, compiler of the History of General Geo. H. T. Lomas. His son, Mr. Ira Horn, succeeded as teacher of the public school, continuing as such until I left in 1871. Can you wonder that I have felt a little annoyed that John R. Brady brazenly tells the people of the United States that he first established any kind of school in Alaska in 1878, ten years after we—some of us—had opened the ball?

John H. Kinkead,
First American Governor
of Alaska.

JOHN H. KINKEAD.

[John Henry Kinkead, the author of the foregoing paper, was born at Smithfield, Fayette Co., Penna., on December 10th, 1826; in 1829 removed with his parents to Zanesville, Ohio, thence to Lancaster, Fairfield Co., O., in 1836. Was educated at Lancaster High School. Amongst his classmates was John Sherman and other members of his family, the Ervings and others several of whom attained eminent positions. In 1845 went to St. Louis, Mo.; in mercantile business there for nearly five years. In 1849 went to Salt Lake City, Utah; remained five years in mercantile business. In 1854 went to California and in 1860 settled in Nevada. Was Treasurer of the Territory during its existence (three years); was member of the Constitutional Convention which framed the constitution under which Nevada was admitted as a State. Went to Alaska at the time of its purchase by the United States; remained there three years, returning to Nevada in 1871. Was nominated by the Republican party for Governor in 1878; elected; served four years, from January, 1879, to January, 1883. Was appointed by President Arthur first Governor of the District of Alaska on July 4th, 1884. Left Alaska Sept. 18th, 1885, by polite invitation of President Cleveland. Returned to Carson City, Nevada, where he still resides."—Copied from "Biographical Annals of the Civil Government of the United States," &c., &c., 1887.]

# THE GREEK CHURCH.

## VALUABLE PAINTINGS DRAPED IN GOLD, SILVER AND PRECIOUS STONES.

### A BRILLIANT INTERIOR.

The Greek Church at Sitka—in form a Greek cross, and placed on an expansion of Lincoln Street,—is the first structure sought by the tourist just landed from the steamer; and sensibly, too, for it is a well preserved building, and the only one serving the people now as it did the old Russians, and because, also, there are only two others in America, and the ceremonies in this church are strictly orthodox, quite up to the forms observed in Russia. It is built of the universal material used here, spruce logs, sheathed with boards, which are protected with a dove-colored paint and trimmed with white.

The spire resembles a minaret, and the dome over the central part of the church has the bulge of a Mahomedan mosque, both of a bright green color and each surmounted by a gilded cross with triple bars.

A raven, a common bird of the country, is said to perch upon one of these crosses whenever the gun of an incoming steamer announces the approach of tourists, and to croak his welcome to them in a strain as harsh and dolorous as the "Nevermore" of Poe's uncanny bird. In the open belfry there is a chime of six sweet-toned bells which makes almost the only sounds that break the silence of the sleepy village. The interior is gaudy with paintings, intended to represent patriarchs and prophets, draped in silver and gold; and two bronze doors of open work pattern, with panels bearing images of saints and holy men, cut off the altar and robing-room from the auditorium. Into this altar-room no woman is permitted to enter.

Without the metallic coverings, some of these paintings possess undoubted merit and are extremely valuable; the undraped copy of the Transfiguration is far superior to ordinary church pictures. In a side room is an exquisite Madonna "with sweet Byzantine face." The holy child, in an erect posture, leans against her shoulder, and his face, like his mother's, has a look of deep meaning. This, too, is a painting of great merit, and even a third of the thirty will bear criticism.

The Priest conducts the intoned service in the altar-room, with the bronze doors wide open, so that the worshippers have a full view of the performance. During the Miserere, however, the valves are closed, and his wailings are thereby subdued.

The choristers, shut off from the audience by a screen, respond to almost every sentence uttered by the Priest, and their part is well performed. The service is partly in Russian and partly in Thlinket, there being two choirs, one composed of Indians and the other of Russians.

### THE RUSSIAN RITUAL.

The ritual is more elaborate than that of the Roman Catholic Church, and the genuflections, the crossings, and the prostration of Russians and Indians alike, can scarcely be outdone by the most thoroughly ceremonial church in the mother country;—in two words, they are strictly orthodox; for during the hour of worship, there is an almost incessant pointing of the fingers to the head and breast, or kneeling, or crouching with the head upon the floor, each motion performed three times. This can be done in a church in which there are neither pews nor seats, and where everyone from Czar to meanest subject, worships in a standing position when not going through with the movements.

As a part of the exercises, the Priest presents himself before the congregation with a golden chalice in each hand. Each of these cups, covered with a little doyley, is said to contain, the one bread, the other wine. He pronounces a blessing, and, returning to the throne-room, is supposed to partake of the emblems, vicariously. At a very early period in life, however,

the worshippers do have the sacrament administered to them in person. The parents come forward with the babe to a dais on which the Priest stands holding a chalice of gold, gemmed and elaborately etched. He first adjusts a scarlet bib under the chin of the infant, and with a delicate spoon, pours into the mouth of the little copper-face a few drops of wine, pats the tongue three times and dismisses him for another. An acolyte stands near who administers the bread, and the faces of the parents beam with joy that the child is now saved. A sermon, extemporaneous, about ten minutes long, and uttered with great earnestness, follows. Lastly, the Priest brings out a heavy golden crucifix, set with rubies and emeralds, and presents it to be kissed, first to the babies, then to the youth, and finally to the adult worshippers; and then there is a rush for the door.

In funeral ceremonies, the body, covered with a thin veil only, and preceded by the Priest, bareheaded, swinging a censer, and chanting a dirge, is borne from the house of the deceased, and is followed by mourners wailing as in Oriental countries.

This church was once a Cathedral, had a resident Bishop, and was the possessor of large wealth in crucifixes, crosiers, and plate, adorned with precious stones; but after Alaska became a part of the Union, most of the Russians went back to the mother country, the Bishop migrated to San Francisco, leaving only three real Muscovites in the diocese.

The rest of the congregation is made up of Creoles, Indians, and half-breeds, the latter exhibiting the vices that generally come of mingling the blood of degenerate races. The present Priest is highly respected by all Sitkans.

To the tourist, at first, it seems strange that so conspicuous a structure as this church is, should be set down in this little town; but when he studies its history, rich in past glory and usefulness, and finds that, for long years, it has kept faithful vigil among these mouldering structures, and has been an open gate to the people, leading to a higher life, he is forced to feel that, however much these races have failed to realize the enjoyments of that better life, a beneficent hand that guides all things well, did plant this church in Sitka, the capital of this great Territory,

The Alaskan

MAURICE E. KENEALY, Editor and Publisher.

SITKA, ALASKA TERRITORY, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1888.

## ALASKA'S VOLCANIC ORIGIN.

**[Extracted from Governor Swineford's Correspondence in The Marquette Mining Journal.]**

A REMARKABLE ISLAND.

The geological formation of most of the islands visited during the cruise of the Thetis, as well as of a part of the mainland, gives abundant evidence of volcanic origin or elevation. The records give definite information of volcanic activity on no less than twenty-five of the Aleutian Islands, and enumerate about sixty craters, all told, in the mountain peaks and ranges of Alaska. Some of these are still smoking, and two or three in active eruption. From Mount Wrangell, which is believed to be the highest mountain in North America, if not in the western hemisphere, and which is on the mainland, in longitude 145°, to the Commander Island, beyond our western boundary, there is a continuous chain of volcanoes each and all of which have been active at some period since the advent of the Russians in 1743. One of the ablest Russian scientists, in a treatise on the volcanic character of this region, advances the theory that this long extended chain of volcanoes proves the existence of a subterranean channel of lava which finds its outlet first through one crater and then through another. However this may be, there are certainly frequent volcanic disturbances indicated by a rumbling and quaking of the earth more or less startling, some of which I have myself heard and felt. But I am not scientist enough to attempt any discussion, or advance any theory of my own on the subject of volcanoes; suffice it to say that there is no more extensive theatre of volcanic activity known than that of the Aliaska Peninsula, the west coast of Cook's Inlet and the Aleutian Islands. One remarkable occurrence which history records as having taken place in 1796, taken in connection with what has since happened, would seem to fully confirm the theory of the Russian scientist that there is a subterranean channel between the long line of craters referred to, the over burden of lava flowing in which sometimes forces for itself a new outlet. To the westward of Ounalaska and not more than a dozen miles from the northeast end of Umnak, is located the small Island of Bogoslov. History has it that on the 18th of May, 1796, a Russian trader named Krukof was stopping temporarily on the northeast end of Umnak, being detained there by thick and stormy weather accompanied with indications of volcanic disturbance. On the morning of the 19th, the storm abated, the clouds cleared away, and he saw at some distance off a column of smoke arising out of the sea. Toward evening a black object was visible under the smoke, and during the night flames ascending heavenward from the same spot were of such volume and brilliancy as to convert the darkness of night into the light of day. At the same time an earthquake, with thundering noise, shook the whole island from which the trader was observing the to him unaccountable and startling phenomenon, while rocks were occasionally thrown across the sea a distance of ten or twelve miles from what afterwards was found to be the crater of a new volcano. On the morning of the third day the earthquake ceased, the flames subsided, and a newly created island formed up in the shape of a cone. A month later the trader found the peak considerably higher, and still emitting fire and ashes, but very little flame; later the flames died out altogether, and volcanic action was confined to the emission of smoke and steam. In 1800 it had ceased to smoke; but eight years after its first appearance some hunters visiting its shores found the waters of the sea immediately surrounding it still warm, and the solid rock formation too hot to permit a landing. A few years later, however, its rocks and cliffs had cooled sufficiently to attract a large number of sea-lions, with whom it was for a long time afterwards a favorite resort. It continued to gradually increase in both height and circumference until 1823, when it had attained the height of a thousand feet or more. From and after that year it gradually diminished in height and seemed to be sinking back into the depths of the sea until a few years ago, when it raised another commotion by firing up anew, and in a single night disappeared altogether, another islet of about the same circumference making its appearance about two miles distant from where the original Bogoslov had stood for three-quarters of a century. The new Bogoslov is gradually rising, but as yet presents a comparatively flat surface at an elevation of not more than two hundred feet above the sea level, from which there is a constant emission of steam and smoke. This volcanic phenomenon, in the opinion of many scientific men, is indicative of the fact that most of the Aleutian Islands owe their origin more to gradual elevation than to violent eruption; neither the old nor the new Bogoslov resulted from the latter cause—the piling up of lava and debris thrown out through craters,—the first one rising slowly and gradually until it attained its greatest elevation, a history which

is being repeated by its successor. Indeed it is a question if the whole eastern half of Bering Sea is not steadily decreasing in depth owing to a gradual elevation of its bottom; that is the theory advanced by some, while others claim that its lessening depth is solely due to the deposition of earthy matter brought down by the great roaring floods of the Yukon and other great rivers emptying into it. To whatever cause it may be ascribed, the eastern part of the sea appears to be gradually shoaling, with every prospect of its ultimately becoming an archipelago or a part of the mainland. The large Islands of St Matthew and St. Michael, the first named a hundred miles off the mainland, afford conclusive evidence of having been formed by accumulations of lava during eruptions, as do also the Pribylov group and some others, the large majority of islands, however, having come through the process of gradual elevation. The western part of the Sea has a uniform depth of a hundred fathoms or more, the bottom gradually shelving upwards, until in the eastern half there are but a few places where it is safe for a vessel of ordinary draft to approach nearer than fifty miles to the shore. The question of when a large part of Bering Sea will be dry land would seem to be one of not more than a century of time at most.

BOUND FOR THE ARCTIC OCEAN.

On the 19th July, having finished coaling, the Thetis was again under way, this time for St. Michaels and the various native settlements on the Arctic Ocean. Once fairly out of Ounalaska Harbor and upon the broad waters of Bering Sea, the fires were banked, and during that night and nearly the whole of that day the ship stood on under sail alone, before a moderate breeze, though the sky was overcast and misty. On the 22nd we experienced the lowest temperature since the beginning of the cruise; I do not remember the exact figures marked by the mercurial indicator, but my notes say that though favored by a moderate breeze the sky was overcast, the fog impenetrable and the weather decidedly damp and altogether disagreeable, so much so, indeed, that instead of the cooling drinks to which we had been accustomed in a lower latitude, we found we could imbibe much more comfort and consolation from an occasional glass of "Scotch dew," heated to the proper temperature and flavored with the usual condiments. Seated in the cabin of our good ship discussing the probabilities of a change in the weather, and speculating over our glasses of "hot scotch" about the chances of being able to obtain for our friends at home a few skins when we should have left behind us the last trading station of the Alaska Commercial Company, my mind reverted quite naturally to the sweltering thousands and millions in the Eastern States and cities, and I could "just have wished me there," when the thought that I would run much less risk of being lost or wrecked in Arctic ice than of being sun-struck were I in the south or east, checked the wish—but not the flow of sympathy which welled up in my heart for the unfortunate friends afar off, who on that 22nd day of July were probably wearing wetted sponges in their hats, and filling themselves to the brim with aerated waters in the vain endeavor to attain a physical temperature the amelioration of which is not found at the nozzle of a soda fountain. A good fire in the grate was necessary to comfort in the cabin, and heavy overcoats indispensable on deck—and that I may here remark was the rule rather than the exception during the remainder of the cruise.

MAURICE E. KENEALY, Editor and Publisher.

SITKA, ALASKA TERRITORY, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1888.

## A POETIC PICTURE

### Of Sitka's Sublime Scenery—The View from the Castle Summit—Nature's Marvelous Handiwork Graphically Portrayed.

It is not often that our honored Collector of Customs, Mr. A. K. Delaney, contributes anything to the public press, but by the last mail there came to hand a Milwaukee newspaper in which appears a letter emanating from his pen. The communication referred to was not written for publication, but somehow or other it crept into print. Treating, as it does, of sights and scenes so familiar to the residents of Sitka will be sufficient reason for reproducing it in the columns of THE ALASKAN. For although the subject has been the theme of many a scribe during the past year or two, what Mr. Delaney writes will be found to be entirely new. His graphic description brings forcibly to the imagination the realism of the magnificent scenery around us.

"SITKA, ALASKA,
October 3, 1888.

After the most beautiful summer I have ever experienced, our fall gales commenced Sept. 10, when the elements were unchained, and a storm, the severest I have yet witnessed on this coast, for several successive days paid its respects to this far-away outpost of civilization. The fury of the elements, together with rambling thoughts of the past and conjectures of the future, begot within me a spirit of unrest, akin to that I have often imagined to possess the caged lion, and in hope to shake off this spell, I climbed the rickety steps leading up to the rock on which the old Russian Castle stands, to take a look at the sea. The Castle is now tenantless, and as I have grown fond of watching the ocean, especially in a storm, the place has become one of my favorite resorts. So I mounted up to the cupola, from which a magnificent view can be obtained. The scene from this point is at all times surpassingly grand, but when the gales are on, it is sublime and impressive in the extreme. To the eastward, behind the Castle, the quaint, old town of log houses with weather-beaten, moss-covered roofs, lies slumbering in the storm. From the midst of them, with startling prominence, rise the green dome and steeple of the old Russian Cathedral, its tapering spire surmounted by the complex, gilded cross of the Greek Church. Behind all, and flanking on either side, stand Mounts Verstovia and Baranoff, gloomy and shaggy-breasted with the growth of dark evergreens. Extending from their bases, is a shelf of comparatively level lands, denuded of its timber during the Russian occupation, triangular in form, with two of its sides sloping down to the sea. At the angle which points towards the ocean is the rock on which the Castle stands, and the white settlement lies along the southwesterly side of the triangle, while, stretched in a line along the beach, which forms the northwesterly side, stand the crude dwellings of the Indian village, sheltered from the open ocean by the largest of the many hundred islands that are scattered around the harbor. The channel lying between this island and the Indian village resembles a broad, deep river, and is the one by which the steamers usually come and go, being essentially the terminal arm of the famous inland passage.

Along the somber sides of the mountains, and in beauteous contrast with their deep green covering, veils of silvery mist, floating up from the valley, are caught by the impetuous wind and whirled into a myriad of fantastic forms, while in the opening between the two mountains and several miles back from the sea, rise the bold, grey cliffs of the gorge—ponderous heaps of solid rock, forming, in places, sheer precipices, thousands of feet high, between whose perpendicular walls the Indian River plunges over its rocky bed in its onward march to the sea. From behind Verstovia, this rugged and craggy range extends to the southwest until it breaks off at the ocean's edge. Down the jagged wall of one of the most conspicuous of these precipices falls a single, silver thread, many hundred feet long, marking the leap of a tiny cascade; and on such of the slopes of the range as face the south and west, thus securing the nourishing influences of both the sunshine and the warm breath of the Japan current, are spread carpets of green and yellow moss, seemingly of the softest and most delicate texture; but the northerly and easterly slants, deprived of these influences, are covered with fields of perpetual snow, whose white is rendered more intense by contrast with the black crags which tower above them and by the gleaming blue of glaciers and ice-fields below. The latter, during the greater portion of the year, are entirely covered with blankets of snow but, during the exceptionally warm and sunshiny weather of the past summer, these coverings have been cast off, exposing to view immense ice formations, along which great seams and fissures are visible.

To the westward of the Castle and below the rock on which it stands, is the harbor, shut in from the sea by a cordon of rock-bound islands. A southwesterly gale, sweeping across the vast expanse of the Pacific and gathering velocity as it moves on, breaks with terrific force on this rugged shore. But above the wind rises the sullen, thundering roar of the surf, mounting high into the air in great sheets of spray, as old ocean in its massive breathings heaves its waters on the rock-ribbed islands of the bay. Away out to the sea, beyond the line of the surf and rising three thousand feet above the sea's level, grim and lonely, its crest blackened with scoria and wrinkled with lava—the indelible marks of volcanic action,—Mount Edgecomb stands, like a battle-scarred sentinel, guarding the entrance of the bay. Beyond Edgecomb, the mighty waste of Pacific's waters, lashed to fury by the gale, stretches away and away to the horizon's edge.

Such were my surroundings on the day of the late congressional convention—somewhat different from those of a fashionable watering place, in the balmy days of a Wisconsin autumn, two years ago.

"ARTHUR K. DELANEY."

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Form 125 1906

# Signal Corps, United States Army.

## Telegram.

**Received at** July 30 II Sitka Als.

2 SO B CO B ● Paid. 2 Extra.

U-Gravity Penn July 30 II.

Mr Serge Kostromytinoff Sitka.

Vsdushevno privetstouem 25 letiem imolitvenno blagospelaem

Archbishop Platon Bishop Alexander

IIIOAm.

204 from The Alaskan, Mar. 17, 1888

## BARANOFF CASTLE.

MY DEAR KENEALY: Lieutenant Fred. Schwatka, and Ruhamah Seidmore, each somewhat noted for the exuberance of their Alaskan fancies, have *seid*-more in their graceful and eloquent prose, about our Castle Ghosts than I shall be able to do with the tinkling cymbals of my rude rhymes. But I am so sure that no ruin is well appointed without a ghost or two, and so desirous that our ghosts shall not go down into the charnel house of forgetfulness, that I yield to the temptation of attempting their resurrection by sending you what follows, to be embalmed in the time-defying columns of THE ALASKAN, or cremated in your office stove.

I feel certain that no respectable ghost could rest easy under either affliction.

I know that nearly every ruined Castle on the Rhine keeps a ghost or two in stock, and we who are living on the very *rind* of American civilization, should not be outdone in that regard.

Seriously, our Castle is a rough jewel in an antique setting, and it is with a feeling of almost personal pain, that I note, day after day, increasing signs of its ultimate obliteration.

Impressed with the belief that unless something be speedily done toward preserving it, that it will meet the inevitable fate of all mutable things, I believe it to be a kind of duty to rescue from oblivion any legends about this venerable pile, and hand them down, however rudely fashioned, hoping that at the last, they shall be clothed anew, and made immortal by the genius of some weird painter, coming after we are gone.

Truly yours,
HENRY E. HAYDON.

SITKA, ALASKA, March 14, 1888.

### THE LEGEND.

I.

Oh ! Castle, grim and hoary,
Shorn of every pristine glory,
You will live in song and story
Though thy splendors all have flown.
While the sad sea winds are singing
And the ocean surge up-springing
Its briny tears are flinging
At thy feet, with solemn moan.

II.

Lo ! I catch the silver gleaming
Of the sunset gently beaming,
As if there were some meaning
Borne to thee from out the West:
Do departed sons and daughters
Talk with thee across the waters?
Does the Russian faith they brought us,
Bring sweet peace for thine unrest?

III.

In the stormy, wintry weather,
When the shades of evening gather,
And the dusky raven feather
Of the black night, quickly falls.
In the cold and bleak December,
Do phantoms, tall and slender,
Haunt the places they remember
In thy now deserted halls?

IV.

Do they come in silks brocaded,
Full blown flowers and buds unmated,
Maids and matrons all translated
From the silent, shadowy land;
With their lords and loves beside them,
So that none may dare deride them
If by day the world descried them
Dancing with that ghostly band?

V.

List ! I hear the music swelling
From this gaunt and ghastly dwelling,
And the dancing waves are telling
A strange story of the past,
The birds fly low to listen,
And the islands seem to glisten,
And a weird, uncanny chrism
Above all seems overcast.

VI.

In the days now long departed,
Two young lovers, tender hearted,
Whose bark of life had started
Without heed of time and tide,
Kept their trysting in the Castle,
Each to each a willing vassal,
While the elder folk held wassail,
They wandered, side by side.

VII.

When the stormy winds were crying,
And the ocean spray was flying,

And the wild birds were replying
To the thunders of the sea;
Bound by love's immortal tether,
What cared they for wind and weather?
Sunshine always when together—
Pledged to truth and constancy.

VIII.

She was the high born daughter
Of a Prince across the water,
And her watchful father brought her
To this far off northern land.
But sweet fate had overtook her,
Love, though blind, could not o'erlook her,
And if all the world forsook her
She still owned her heart and hand.

IX.

And she gave both of them gladly,
For she loved her lover madly,
And she never thought how sadly
Could a love so pure and true
Be the cause of their undoing—
Bring the curse of awful ruin;
Or, that murder, pale, was brewing
For them—rosemary and rue.

X.

He was young and fair, and stately,
And he bore himself sedately
With a native grace, which greatly
Added to his noble mind.
No princely race had borne him;
No ancestral name hung o'er him;
With his future all before him—
What cared he for days behind?

XI.

And he loved the Prince's daughter,
And not knowing fear, he sought her.
Like the tide of ocean water
Rose the tide of love in him.
When their happy troth was plighted
And their red, warm lips united,
Like a hero newly knighted,
With life's glass filled to the brim;

XII.

He felt pledged to high endeavor,
Which no time nor change could sever;
Like the Northern star, forever
Would her love shine as his guide.
Sung in song, and told in story,
Queen of Court, and camp, and foray,
Of his life the crowning glory,
What ill fortune could betide?

XIII.

And no thought of dire disaster
Made his pulses beat the faster,
When his haughty Russian master
Came to him one fateful day;
And ordered quick repairing
For a mission full of daring,
With some other brave hearts sharing
From the warships in the bay.

XIV.

One long kiss on sweet lips, saintly,
Some fond words spoken, faintly;
For he loved the Princess quaintly,
As men love some far bright star.
No complaint nor murmur making,
With his true heart almost breaking,
Sad and tender love-leave taking,
For the glory of the Czar.

XV.

"Oh! my love, do not forestall me,
For whatever may befall me
I shall hear your sweet voice call me
Through the intervening space;
I shall feel your white arms clinging,
And the tears, which now are springing,
Are like priceless jewels flinging
A new splendor on thy face.

XVI.

"Wherever fate may send me,
Your sweet love its strength shall lend me,
And Dame Fortune will befriend me
Surely bringing safe return.
And wheresoe'er I wander,
Neither time nor change can sunder
Those true ties which grow the fonder,
While the lamp of life shall burn.

XVII.

"Though I sail for seas uncharted,
All the days that we are parted,
(Like this one on which I started),
'Neath these dreary Northern skies;
Shall be hallowed days and tender
With one blest thing to remember—
The nights lit by the splendor
Of the love light in your eyes."

* * * *

XVIII.

With love's sad and strong persistence
And gentle, sweet insistence,
She gazed across the distance
From the Castle's rocky steep;
While beyond the sunset's gloaming
From the wild waves crested foaming
Came a weird, uncanny moaning,
Like souls crying from the deep.

XIX.

And the days passed slow and dreary,
And the months were long and weary,
And a year went by, un-cheery,
And no token nor a sign
Came by word, or ship, or letter,
To make the drear days better;
And love's changeful, fateful fetter
Had grown weak by lapse of time.

XX.

And a Prince made sweet confession;
At her feet, with proud concession,
Laid his heart, and each possession
Of a noble, lordly race.
And her plighted troth forgetting,
Neither caring, nor regretting,
With a fickle nature letting
Him usurp another's place.

XXI.

And the wedding night came lowering
With dismal, dark clouds glowering,
And rain and sleet downpouring,
And wild winds mountain born.
The sea, like one forsaking
A lost love, was madly breaking,
And the Castle rudely shaking
In the tumult of the storm.

XXII.

But within was light and splendor,
And brave men and maidens slender,
And sweet things to remember
For a happy, bridal time;
While outside, grim Death was stalking,
To the waves and mountains talking,
Toward the Castle swiftly walking
For two victims in their prime.

XXIII.

And he came, a guest unbidden,
By pall and grave clothes hidden,
And his cold hands laid unchidden
On the shoulders of the bride:
"Lo! my love, long have I waited,
And I come at last belated;
By death we two are fated
To walk the darksome valley, side by side."

XXIV.

With his storm-torn brain benighted,
Past the shuddering guests affrighted,
Strode that form which once delighted
In manly, courteous grace.
For no cause stop't or staid he
'Til he stood before the Lady,—
Then in hollow accents said he:
"Now, I greet thee face to face!

XXV.

"From this cold world's dreary prison,
By a purple dire baptism,
Shall our ransomed souls arisen
From their tenements of clay;
Find some place where is no sorrow,
And no parting on the morrow,
Where love cannot lend nor borrow,
But keeps its own alway.

XXVI.

"And the promise you have spoken
In the past shall not be broken;
And I seal it with this token.—
Sign it with this dagger thrust,
We shall nevermore be parted,
But forever single hearted
The blood, this sharp blade started,
Shall cement united dust."

XXVII.

Then the dagger pierced her bosom,
And his own life's cord did loosen,
And he fell beside his chosen
On the polished cedar floor.
While, without, the wild waves wailing,
Were like mountain demons hailing
To phantom vessels sailing
Far beyond the rocky shore.

XXVIII.

The slow, lapsing years are flitting
Round the Castle grimly sitting
Like a yellow old crone knitting
With the sombre yarn of fate.
All bereft of sons and daughters,
Looking out across the waters
Toward the far off land which brought us
Such a tale of love and hate.

XXIX.

But if any heart undaunted
By Castle's horror haunted,
Dare to brave your walls enchanted
At this murder's trysting time,
Lo! the Lady and her lover,
Where the darkest shadows hover,
Will their ghastly forms uncover
'Till the morning watches chime.




# The Alaskan

*Entered at the Postoffice, Sitka, Alaska, as Second-class Mail Matter.*

THREE DOLLARS A YEAR.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1888.


Archbishop Vladimir, of the Greeco-Russian Church, who is making a tour of inspection of all the Greek Churches in the United States, was a passenger by the Ancon to Sitka. He was accompanied by Father Donskoy who returned from a two weeks' visit to Juneau. Special and largely attended services were held in the Cathedral on Wednesday and Thursday, at which the Archbishop officiated; preaching a sermon in English on the evening of the last named day. It is understood that several improvements will be made in the Cathedral and that the Archbishop has directed that a chapel be erected at Killisnoo and a priest appointed to minister to the spiritual welfare of the natives in that village and the vicinity. The Archbishop, who returned on the same steamer, took with him four boys, members of Russian families of this town, who will be educated in San Francisco by the church.

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One of our citizens who is well and favorably known here and whose veracity is unquestioned, contributes the subjoined account of a visit to the old home of the Baranoffs:

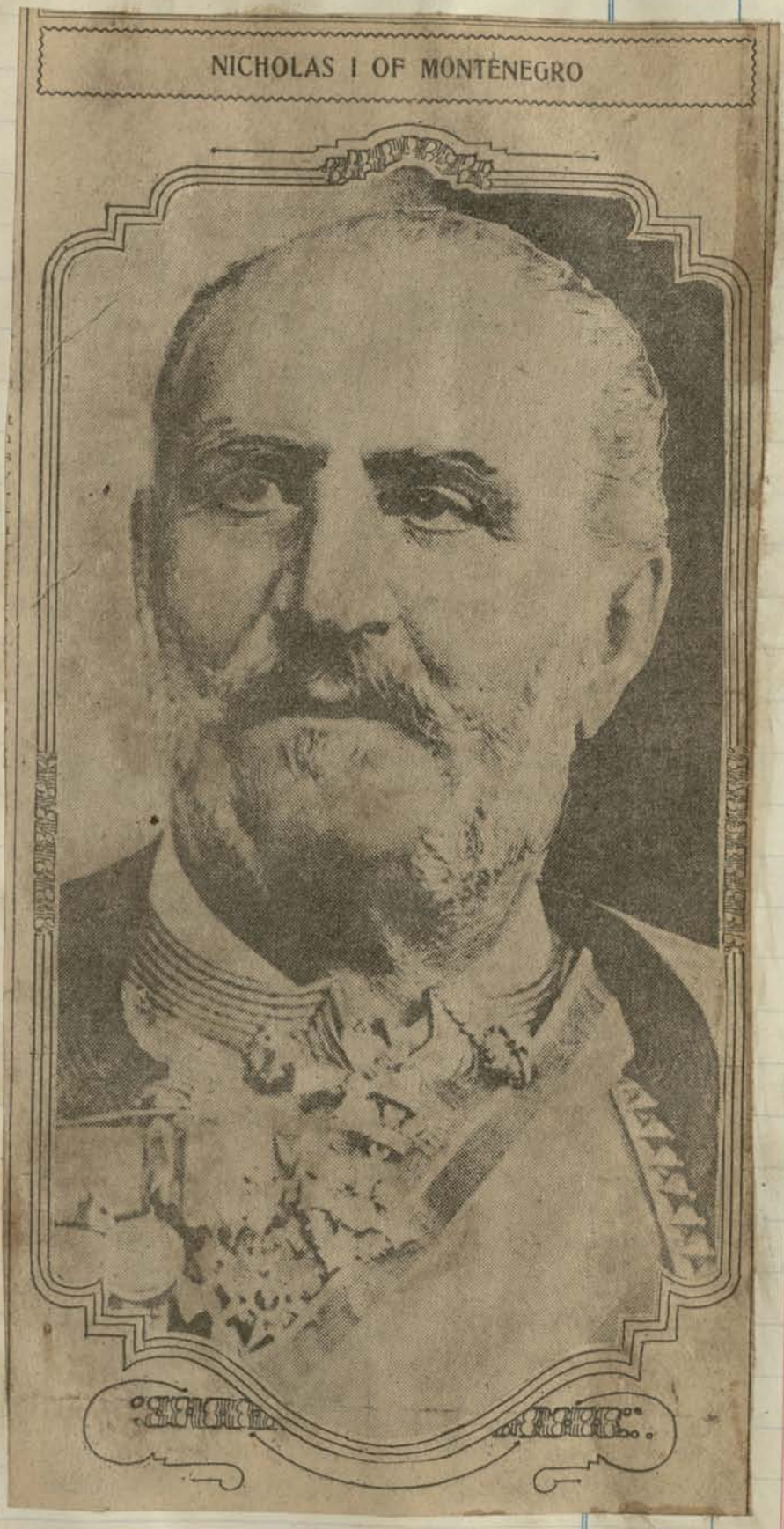
"Last Saturday, Nov. 24th, I paid my first visit to Baranoff Castle. As usual, the weather was rather rainy and dismal. I first went into the ball-room and with my back to the door, was looking at the decorations in the window left there from the last ball. Suddenly, a sound of something in motion attracted my attention; turning, I heard a noise as if of a man with heavy shoes on ascending the first flight of stairs. I immediately went to the foot of the stairway and continued to hear the noise, this time as if it were on the second flight, and still on it seemed to go upward until it reached the roof, when it ceased. I then went up-stairs and searched every room, but could find nothing in the shape of a human being. Subsequently I continued my search to the very top of the building and still could find no one.

I do not believe in ghosts, but I cannot imagine what caused the noise. Some one might suggest "Rats;" if this be the case, the rodent in question must have weighed about 150 pounds. I believe that on the occasion of the ball of the Boys in Blue, the man on watch heard noises during the night, but what I heard was in the afternoon, about 2 o'clock.—Yours truly,

'AMERICA.'

P. S. I have never had 'the snakes.'"

NICHOLAS I OF MONTENEGRO



Head Qrs Sitka Alaska
July 11th 1870.

Orders
No 99

George Kastrometinoff is hereby appointed as Interpretor of this Post to date from the 1st Instant in place of Mr. Phillipson and will be paid at the same rate as the Interpreter has been paid heretofore.

By order of Captain Mendenhall

John T. Lindeu
1st Lieut. 4th Arty
Post Adjutant

My first appointment by Uncle Sam.
at the rate of $5 per month and a ration.

U.S. Dep. Sitka Alaska June 13th 1876

To whom it may concern.-

George J. Kostromitinoff of Sitka Alaska has been known by me for nearly two years.- I take great pleasure in bearing testimony to his honesty, sobriety, industry and intelligence, and recommend him as a very competent interpreter of the Russian and Indian languages as spoken in the Alexander Archipelago.- He has acted in that capacity for me for the last nine months, and has given entire satisfaction.-

J. P. Campbell
Capt 4th Artillery Com'd.
& Indian Agent for Alaska

Custom House, Sitka, Alaska,
Collector's Office, September 1, 1881.

Mr George Kostromitinoff,
Sitka, Alaska.

Dear Sir:

As I am now expecting soon to leave Alaska, for a time, I desire to express to you the gratification I have derived, both personally & officially, from an intimate association with you during my three years residence in this Territory.—

In & during that time we have passed through many changes. We have suffered together under the terrible condition of want of all adequate protection from Indian violence, & we have enjoyed

the presence of happier hours of peace & security. In both & under all circumstances I have ever found you the same, as calm & courageous amid dangers, as you have been moderate & sensible in pleasant times:

As an Interpreter you have rendered many & most valuable services before any compensation came As a gentleman your conduct has been always above reproach in any respect. It will be a gratification to me to give this testimony at all times, as it is to believe in your friendship -

I am

Very sincerely Yours
M. D. Ball
Collector

U. S. S. Wachusett. 3d Rate
Sitka - Alaska.
Oct. 18. 1881.

Mr. George Kashmetinoff.
Interpreter - U. S. S. Wachusett

Dear Sir

In severing our official connection - I beg leave to express to you my high appreciation of your services as an interpreter and of your character as a gentleman.

It will always give me great pleasure to hear of your continued happiness and prosperity. and should you visit the Eastern States. I sincerely hope I may have the opportunity of entertaining you at my own home.

Very sincerely
Your friend
Edward P. Lull
Comdr. Comdg
Senior Officer in Harb.

MAJOR JOHN TWEEDALE,
UNITED STATES ARMY,

ASSISTANT CHIEF, RECORD AND PENSION OFFICE,
WAR DEPARTMENT.

RECORD AND PENSION OFFICE,
WAR DEPARTMENT,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

August 7,1899.

My dear Sir:

I got back to Washington on the 21st of last month, and the business upon which I went to Alaska has turned out so satisfactorily that I wish to express to you my sincere thanks for the very efficient aid you rendered me and also the Government, at Skaguay in July last.

Hoping that the acquaintance that we made then will long continue and that I may be able to serve you sometime, and with kind regards to yourself and Judge Johnson, I am,

Very truly yours,

John Tweedale

U.S.A.

George Kostrometinoff, Esq.,
Sitka, Alaska.

xxx:-

Major Tweedale was sent by United States Government to take Indian testimony, living on Chilcat river and vicinity, concerning the disputed Alaska boundary line. The dispute was made by Canada.

U. S. S. Wachusett. 3rd Rate
Sitka. Alaska.
Oct. 18- 1881

Mr. George Kastromitinoff.
Sir.

Please proceed to Portland Oregon. in charge of the Indian prisoner- Ka-ta-tah- and the three Indian witnesses- and on your arrival report to Mr. Edward S. Kearney. U. S. Marshall- who will take charge of the witnesses & prisoner.

Please also report to Hon. Rufus Malloy- U. S. District Attorney for service as interpreter & witness in the case of Ka-ta-tah- and inform him that since the date of my letter to him. the Indian murderer has acknowledged that he killed the bodies of the two murdered men. Campbell & Malloy- and is consequently a valuable witness.

On Completing your duties please return to Sitka & report to Comd. Glass.

Reporters Nov. 14th
Henry Glass
Comdr U.S.N

Very Respectfully
Edward Turner
Comdr
Dist Officer in Alaska

February 19th 1912. First detachment of marines, 26 in number, has left Sitka on the steamer "Al-Kai" at 11.30 o'clock P. M. —

March 17th 1912. on Sunday night at second detachment of marines has left Sitka on the steamer "Alki" and at 4 o'clock in the afternoon the flag in front of the marine barracks was lowered down, and the post was abandoned.

June 8th 1912. At 7 o'clock in the afternoon the volcanic ashes were falling at Sitka, they came from Katmai volcano which outbursted on the 6th of June about o'clock in the afternoon.

(ash also fell in Juneau + Whitehorse)

# The Thlinget.

DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE NATIVE PEOPLE OF ALASKA

SITKA, ALASKA, NOVEMBER, 1911.

Mr. John M. Coleman and Miss Anna Kostrometinoff were married in Seattle, Wash. on the third day of November. The groom is the Executive officer of the U. S. S. Gedney, and the bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Kostrometinoff of this place. Their many friends in the Northland send congratulations, wishing them happiness, long life and prosperity.

JUNEAU, ALASKA, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1911.

## MRS. COLEMAN RETURNS NORTH ON JEFFERSON

Mrs. J. M. Coleman, who before her marriage recently to Lieutenant Coleman was Miss Anna Kostrometinoff of Sitka, arrived last night from Seattle, returning to her home in Sitka after a trip below. Lieutenant Coleman will return north later.

Mrs. Coleman is a daughter of George Kostrometinoff, pioneer of Sitka and custodian of the Russian church.

Mrs. Anna Coleman left Sitka for Seattle on the 5th day of May 1912 at 1 o'clock in the morning, to meet her husband who has been to Panama on the U. S. Ship Patterson and was expected in Seattle on or about the 10th

THE GREEK-RUSSIAN MISSION
of the
ORTHODOX EASTERN CATHOLIC CHURCH.
M. G. ANDREADES
Lakeview Ave. Seattle, Wn.
U. S. AMERICA.

Seattle, Wn. November 3d/11.

Достоуважаемый Сергей Гиновичъ!

Примите мои сердечныя поздравленія и благопожеланія по случаю бракосочетанія Вашей дочери-Анны Сергеевны. Только что в. 7.30 p.m. имѣлъ удовольствіе благословить бракъ ея съ Mr John Colemanʼомъ. Съ моей стороны было сдѣлано все что только возможно было и надѣюсь, всѣ остались довольны. Жаль только, что Вы не могли присутствовать, по случаю болѣзни Вашей супруги. Не за то Вамъ вѣнецъ замѣнила сестра Ваша, которой пріѣхала изъ Такомы ея Mr F. Guertin.

Наталья Петровна отъ души желаетъ скорѣйшаго выздоровленія, а молодымъ-счастливой супружеской жизни.

Остаюсь преданный Вамъ
Іеромонахъ М. Андреевъ.

Anna has left Sitka on the 28th day of October at 5 o'clock in the morning for Seattle, Wash.

Anna was married to Mr. John M. Coleman at the Greek Russian Church in Seattle, Wash. on the 3rd day of November 1911. at 7.30 o'clock P. M.

Form 126—1908

**Signal Corps, United States Army.**

**Telegram.**

Received at

15..So..Y..S.. 10 PAID

Seattle 4, 1911.

George Kostrometinoff,

Sitka, Alaska.

Married November third Russian Church Mrs. Rowe Gurtius Marie present.

Anna Coleman

9.14AM.

Memorandum

Родился 9го Ноября 1910 года
въ 6. 30 часовъ вечера.

JUNEAU, ALASKA,

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1911.

**COLEMAN- KOSTTROMINOFF**

Announcements of the marriage of Mr. John Coleman and Miss Anna Kostrominoff, both of Sitka, arrived from Seattle in the last mail.

---

*Mr. and Mrs. George Kostrometinoff*
*announce the marriage of their daughter*
*Anna*
*to*
*Mr. John M. Coleman*
*on Friday, the third of November*
*nineteen hundred and eleven*
*Seattle, Washington*

# A complete list of the Russian Bishops

in ~~America~~. viz:

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bishop Innocent | from | 1840 | to 1850. | |
| " Peter | " | 1859 | " 1864. | At Sitka |
| " Paul | " | 1867 | " 1870. | |
| " John | " | 1870 | " 1876 | |

In 1872, the Episcopal See was transferred from Sitka to San Francisco as that City was then in direct communication with Aleutian Islands. ~~*~~ there was no steamers running from Western Alaska to Sitka at that time.

Bishop John was succeeded in 1879 by Bishop Nestor, who making a round of his eparchy, in 1882 was drowned near St. Michael. The body of the deceased, brought by the waves on the beach where it was found by the natives and afterward was brought to Unalaska on Steamer St. Paul and it was buried at that place.

From the death of Bishop Nestor, to 1888, the mission was governed by the Archpriest Veliaminoff. In 1888 Bishop Vladimir came from Russia and stayed until 1891 when he was succeeded by Bishop Nicholas. The latter remained in America until 1898. Bishop Nicholas was succeeded by Bishop Tikhon.

In 1905 The Episcopal See was transferred from San Francisco to New York and Bishop Tikhon was made an Arch Bishop

In 190[illegible] Bishop Innocent Pustynsky was appointed by the Holy Synod of Russia as Bishop of Alaska, and arrived in Sitka on the 4-17th day of May 1904

in America.

In 1907 ~~Bishop~~ Arch Bishop Tikhon was succeeded by Archbishop Platon. who head-quarters is now in New-York City, 15 & 97th Street.

In 1909 Bishop Innocent together with Father Antony Vassileff, has left Sitka for Russia at 5 oclock A. M. February 20"

On the 22d day of June 1910 Arch-Bishop Platon together with Arch-priest Ostrovsky and Deacon Vsevolod Anaronoff arrived on the steamer "Dolphin" at 3.50 oclock P. M. Wednesday.

On the 26" day of June 1911. Rt. Rev. Alexander arrived at Sitka with deacon Rev. Peter Zaichenko. And on the 17th day of July 1911, Bishop left Sitka on the steamer "City of Seattle" for New York, leaving Rev. Peter Zachenko here, who was ordained as a priest to be stationed at Killisnoo.

A complete list of the Russian Governors under the Russian regimen in the Russian Colonies in America or in the Territory of Alaska as it now called, as follows to wit:

Grigor Ivanovich Shelikhoff, from August 3d 1784 until July 27th 1791.

Alexander Baranoff, from July 27th 1791 until 11th of January 1818.

Captain Hagaymaster of the Russian Navy relieved Baranoff on the 11th of January 1818 at 2 P. M., but on account of ill health had to leave Colonies the following year leaving Lieut. Hanovsky temporaly in charge.

M. I. Murravieff, from January 1821 until 1826.

G. Chistiakoff, from 1826 until 1831

Baron F. P. Wrangel, from 1831 until 1836.

I. A. Kosprianoff, from 1836 until 1840.

Lieut. Commander A. K. Etolin from 1840 until 1845. 1843

Lieut Commander Tebenkoff from 1845 until 1850.

Lieut Commander Rosenberg from 1851 until 1853.

Commander Vaevatsky from 1854
until 1859. 1857

Commander Fruhelm from 1859 until 1864.

Prince Demitrius Maksutoff from 1864
until 18th of October 1867 when the Russian
American Colonies were turned over to the
United States upon payment of $7.200.000.xx

Baranoff Castle was build in 1808 by
Count Baranoff. -

# ЦЕРЕМОНІАЛЪ

# Столѣтнаго Юбилея Православія

— въ —

## Алеутской Епархіи,

Имѣющаго быть 25-го Сентября, 1894-го года.

1. Наканунѣ юбилейнаго дня, **въ субботу 24-го сентября**, юбилейное торжество начинается **заупокойной литургіей** по всѣмъ прежде почившимъ отцамъ и братіямъ, принадлежавшимъ когда-либо къ Алеутской Епархіи, наипаче же по миссіонерамъ, потрудившимся здѣсь съ первыхъ дней основанія Православной Церкви, именно: Епископѣ Іоасафѣ, инокѣ Германѣ, Ювеналіи, Афанасіи, Ѳеофилѣ; Преосвященнымъ: Иннокентіи, Петрѣ, Павлѣ, Іоасафѣ, Несторѣ и другимъ трудникамъ. Послѣ литургіи имѣетъ быть отслужена торжественно панихида, при чемъ, если погода будетъ хорошая, рекомендуется всему духовенству Епархіи сдѣлать это на **кладбищахъ**, идя съ **крестнымъ ходомъ** туда и обратно.

2. Въ субботу вечеромъ отслужить торжественно **всенощное бдѣніе съ освященіемъ хлѣбовъ, величаніемъ преподобному Сергію и елеопомазаніемъ**, при этомъ священникъ раздаетъ народу **крестики и иконки**, а грамотнымъ—брошюры религіозно-нравственнаго содержанія и преимущественно брошюру подъ заглавіемъ „Жизнь Валаамскаго монаха Германа, американскаго миссіонера.“

3. Въ самый день преподобнаго Сергія, 25-го Сентября, торжество начать **водоосвященіемъ**, а затѣмъ, по совершеніи **литургіи и молебнаго пѣнія**, сдѣлать **крестный ходъ** вокругъ церкви, а при благопріятныхъ условіяхъ, и вокругъ селенія на источники, съ **окропленіемъ** св. водою домовъ прихожанъ, которые пожелали бы этого. За литургіей священники должны сказать приличное случаю **слово** на мѣстныхъ нарѣчіяхъ.

4 Вечеромъ въ тотъ день, послѣ торжественной вечерни и акафиста Спасителю, собрать дѣтей въ школу и ознакомить ихъ со смысломъ совершеннаго празднества, а въ память объ этомъ событіи раздать имъ по экземпляру Евангелія на русскомъ языкѣ и катихизиса на алеутскомъ, или иномъ какомъ мѣстномъ нарѣчіи.

5. Остальныя подробности этого дѣла, какъ-то: украшеніе церквей и школъ, ознаменованіе празднества пожертвованіями на благотворительныя дѣла, устроеніе памятниковъ, особенно на могилахъ первыхъ миссіонеровъ и т. п., представляются, согласно мѣстнымъ условіямъ, заботамъ причтовъ, церковныхъ старостъ и прихожанъ.

Election Form 12—1906. Sec. 5, Subd. 2., Par. 3. Del. Act.

# NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO JUDGES OF ELECTION

SITKA, ALASKA.

To Geo. Kostromitinoff

SITKA, ALASKA

You are hereby notified that pursuant to an Act of Congress entitled "An Act Providing for the election of a Delegate to the House of Representatives from the Territorry of Alaska," I have this day, by order duly made and entered, appointed you a judge of election in and for the SITKA, ALASKA Voting Precinct or precinct No. 1, of the SITKA, ALASKA Recording District. The other judges of election are A. E. Lapsevitch and W. G. Beattie

The polling place for SITKA, ALASKA Voting Precinct is at SITKA, ALASKA

~~1906~~ 1908 The polls must be opened at 8 A. M. and closed at 7 P. M. on Election Day, August ~~14th~~, ~~1906~~.

The oath of office and instructions will be forwarded to the polling place with election stationery, etc. You will at once consult with the other judges, and with them arrange for and provide, at such polling place, a suitable place for holding the election, and also provide a ballot box, the expense of such building not to exceed $10.00. As soon as this is done, you will fill out the enclosed blank and return the same to me. In any event, this slip properly filled out must be returned furthwith.

Sidney E. Flowers
Commissioner and Ex-Officio Recorder

SITKA, ALASKA
Recording District.

"I give, devise and bequeath all my property, real and personal, of every kind and nature, to my wife, Mary W. Harriman, to be hers absolutely and forever, and I do hereby nominate and appoint the said Mary W. Harriman to be executrix of this will."

234


The Medical Cabinet of

OUR HELP FROM THE LORD

The Russian Orthodox Mission

SITKA, ALASKA, U. S. A.

Prescription for M.....

Date ..... 190...

Dr. .....

Mrs. P. Kachawaroff
resquests your presence at the
Marriage of her daughter
Natalia
to
Geo. S. Kostromitinoff
Wednesday Evening August 4th.
at 7.30 P. M.
Russian Church 1713 Powell St.
Reception after the Marriage Ceremony at
1715 Powell Street.
San Francisco 1886.

Mr. & Mrs. Geo. Kostrometinoff.

AT  HOME

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.,
AUGUST 4, 1886.

SITKA, ALASKA,
AUGUST 18, 1886.

United States Senate,

WASHINGTON, D. C., , 18 .

Hon. H. L. Dawes, of Massachusetts, Chairman,
" F. B. Stockbridge, Michigan.
" C. F. Manderson, Nebraska.
" J. K. Jones, Arkansas.
} U. S. Senate Com on Ind. Aff.

William M. Olin, Clerk of Committee

W. P. Canaday, Sergeant-at-arms, U.S. Senate

J. H. Marshall, Messenger, U.S. Senate

Paid Rec'd $20.00

" Roby 9.00

" Jamison 16.50

" Jake 10.50

" Jamison 2.00

" Peter 2.00

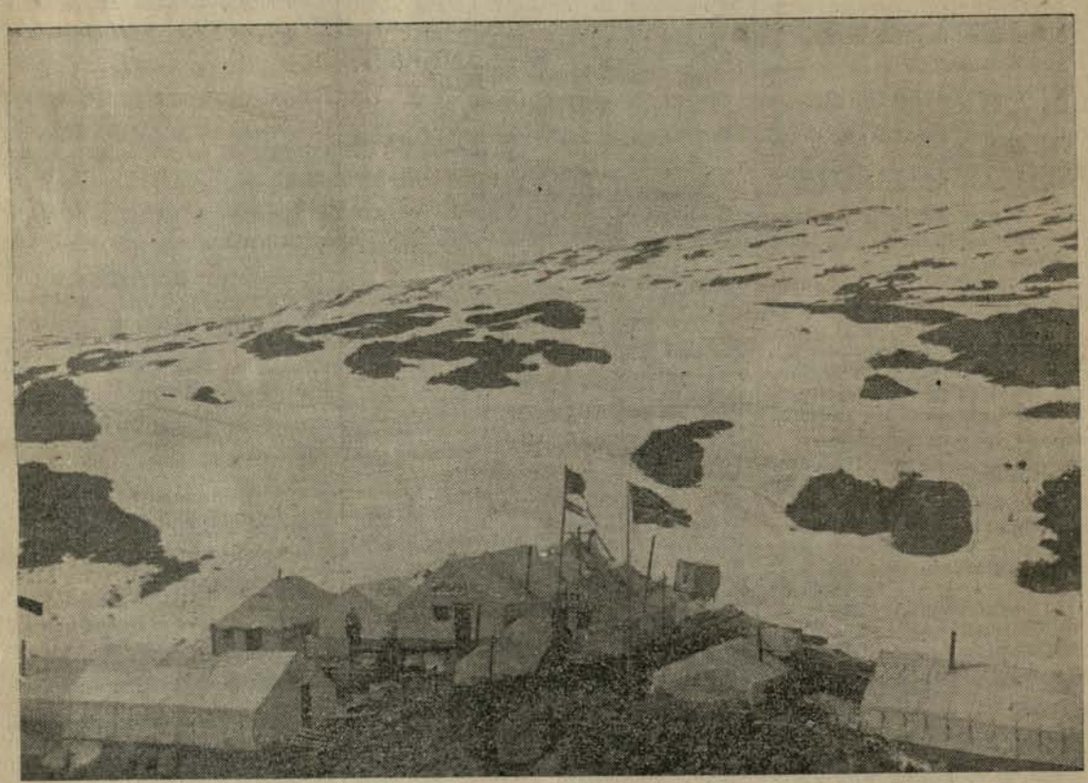
Jas Read 1.00 " Bennett 2.00

7063

13763

Shingles 10.00
Boom 7.00
3.00
3.00
3.00
1.00

# Where the Alaska Boundary Crosses Summit of White Pass.



THE accompanying half tone is from a photograph taken this summer on the summit of White Pass by Rev. E. M. Randall. The line at this point intersects a village, one half being under the Stars and Stripes and the other under the British flag. The houses on which the rival flags are raised are private homes and have no official standing.

Should be 1897.

-1900.-

# OFFICIAL DIRECTORY OF ALASKA.

DISTRICT GOVERNMENT.

Governor—John G. Brady: Private Secretary, Mrs. Gertrude Knapp.
U. S. Judge—C. S Johnson
U. S. Attorney—Robert A. Friedrich.
Assistant U. S. Attorney—Alfred J. Daly.
District Clerk—Albert D. Elliot.
Deputy Clerk—Joseph J. Rogers.
U. S. Marshal—J. M. Shoup.
Court Interpreter—George Kostrometinoff.

Commissioners—C. W. Tuttle, Sitka; Norman E. Malcolm, Juneau; F. P. Tustin Ft. Wrangel; L. R. Woodward, Unalaska; Phillip Gallaher, Kodiak; C. A. Sigbrede, Dyea; W. J. Jones, Circle City; Chas. H. Isham, Unga; Lennox B. Shepard, St Michaels, Sol Ripinsky, Haines Mission; A. P. Swineford, Kachikan; W. A. Kelly, Sitka.

Deputy Marshals—W. H. McNair, Sitka; W. S. Staley, Juneau; Wm. D. Grant, Wrangel; R. Y. Street, Douglas; Edward C. Hasey, Kodiak; Lewis L. Bowers, Unga; James C. Blaine, Unalaska; and Josias M. Tanner, Dyea; C. L. Vawter, St. Michaels; F. M. Canton, Circle City.

U. S. LAND OFFICERS

Surveyor General—W. L. Distin.
Register—John W. Dudley, Sitka
Receiver—A. J. Apperson. do

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

Special Agent—C. C. Georgeson.

BUREAU OF EDUCATION.

Agent—Sheldon Jackson.
Assistant Agent—William Hamilton.
Superintendent of Schools—W. A. Kelly

INTERNAL REVENUE.

Deputy Collector—H. E. Battin, Skagway

POST OFFICE.

Postmaster at Sitka—Mrs. A. M. Archangelsky.

CUSTOMS OFFICERS.

Collector—J. W. Ivey.
Special Deputy—W. P. McBride.
Deputy Collector—W. D. McNair, Sitka.
Stenographer D. E. McNair, Sitka.

Deputy Collectors—John M. Tenney, Juneau; J. H. Causten, Wrangel; John R. Beegle, Mary Island: Claud B. Cannon Kodiak; Frederick Sargent, Kariuk; J. F. Sinnott, Unga; Wm. Gauntlet Unalaska; E. T. Hatch St. Michaels; Chas. Smith, Circle City; Allen J. Walker, Dyea; G. A. Waggoner, White Pass; John Goodell, Orca C. L. Andrews, Skagway.

Inspectors Afloat—Angul Fleming, O. J Laird W. F. Thomas.

OFFICER U. S. MARINE CORPS.

Capt. Jos. H. Pendleton, Commanding.