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Letter from the Secretary of War, transmitting a report of the commanding general, Department of the Columbia, of his tour in Alaska Territory, in June, 1875.

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LETTER FROM

THE SECRETARY OF WAR,

TRANSMITTING

A report of the commanding general, Department of the Columbia, of his tour in Alaska Territory, in June, 1875.

JANUARY 6, 1876.—Referred to the Committee on Territories and ordered to be printed.

WAR DEPARTMENT, December 20, 1875.

The Secretary of War has the honor to transmit to the United States Senate a copy of the detailed report of the commanding-general, Department of the Columbia, (Brig. Gen. O. O. Howard,) of his tour in Alaska Territory, in June, 1875.

Attention is invited to that part of the report in which General Howard recommends that “Alaska be attached as a county to Washington Territory, or in some other way be furnished with such a government as the treaty with Russia, in the transfer, plainly contemplated.”

WM. W. BELKNAP,
Secretary of War.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE COLUMBIA,
Portland, Oregon, June 30, 1875.

Sir: As I contemplated in my letter to your Office, dated March 29, 1875, I left Portland for Alaska on the 2d instant, and proceeded by the way of the North Pacific Railroad, Puget Sound, and the steamer California, from Victoria.

THE STEAMERS BENICIA AND WOLCOTT—NANAIMO—COAL-MINES—INDIANS.

Hearing that the United States war-steamer Benicia was ordered to Alaska waters, I visited Captain Hopkins, her excellent commander, on board his vessel at Esquimault. He then told me that his order northward had been countermanded, and that he should leave in a day or so for San Francisco. At Port Townsend I had gone on board the revenue-cutter Wolcott, Captain Scammon commanding. Though ill at the time, he assured me that he should set out soon for Alaska, probably Monday, the 7th instant. I was in hopes the Wolcott would
reach Sitka in time to enable me to go to parts of Alaska which it
was not practicable for the California to visit; but I was on my way back
when she passed us in the night, near Wrangel. Being limited in the
amount of fuel to burn and the number of knots allowed (six, I think)
per hour, it took a long time for the Wolcott to make the voyage. I
was much disappointed, for I had hoped this season to have seen more
than I did of the inhabited portions of Alaska.

We spent the 5th at the English post Nanaimo, enabling me, with the
officers of the court-martial accompanying me, to visit the extensive
coal-mines there. Some idea of their extent may be gathered from the
fact that from $25,000 to $30,000 per month are here paid, on an aver-
age, to the workmen, or disbursed in connection with the mines.

I made some observation on the condition of the Indians in this neigh-
borhood. There are but few—not far from 200—mostly pretty well
dressed, and having clean faces; no regular school; a small unimpor-
tant mission of the Methodists. In characteristics, like the Indians with
Father Chirouse, at Tulalip and elsewhere on Puget Sound.

NATURE OF THE INLAND PASSAGE TO FORT WRANGEL.

The voyage from Nanaimo to Wrangel was exceedingly pleasant.
The gulfs and sounds, not rough at this season, are connected by the
straits and passes that seem like a succession of beautiful rivers. A wall
of magnificent mountains, often from 2,000 to 3,000 feet in height, rises
on the right and left, covered with trees, and snow-crowned; cascades
dropping hundreds of feet; streams coursing like silver threads down
the mountain-sides; snow-slides and an occasional glacier; every such
natural feature that travelers go far to see, here meets and delights the
eye. Notwithstanding official reports and conversations with officers
and voyagers to Alaska, I never before realized the fact of this beauti-
ful, sheltered, and comparatively safe inland passage from Fort Town-
send or any part of Puget Sound to Sitka. It is apparently not nearly
as dangerous as the rapids of the Columbia, over which the steamers
of the Oregon Steam Navigation Company are passing every day. But it
requires steady care, such as is exercised by our indefatigable Captain
Hayes and his pilot, Captain Hicks, to know when, where, and how to
pass the swift currents of the several narrows.

INSPECTION OF FORT WRANGLE—SETTLEMENT WITH STICKEEN IN-
DIANS.

By 2½ p. m., Tuesday, June 8, we were at anchor near Fort Wrangel.
I first made a thorough inspection of the detachment and post. Lieut.
John A. Lundeen, Fourth Artillery, is in command. He had with him
Lieut. M. M. Macomb, Fourth Artillery, and twelve enlisted men. The
stockade and buildings appeared in a fair state of preservation, and
the condition and discipline of the command good. The garrison being
small, he rents and occupies only a part of the stockade inclosure, so
that he is necessarily more or less exposed to annoyance from people
who are not connected with the Army. He reports successful attempts
to manufacture strong drinks for sale to Indians and others near by,
which, as yet, he has not had the facilities to reach and hinder. I an-
thorized him to employ a canoe for this work, when the distance rendered it practicable. Major Campbell's vigorous administration has already
had an evident effect in this part of Alaska, to check and almost pre-
vent the illegal traffic in spirituous liquors. As soon as the inspection
was over, the Indians from the "ranches" (as their long rows of houses in plain sight are called) came with dejected looks to interview me. They fortunately had a prime interpreter, in Mr. Alexander Choquette, who speaks English and the Stickeen (Thlinket tongue) with equal readiness. The complaint was that we had taken away their chief, Fernandeste, by force; that our people (the accused prisoners, no doubt) had so frightened him as to the consequences of his detention and journey to Portland, that in terror he took his life; that his immediate relations were worried almost to madness by the sneers and gibes of other Indians, who said they were cowards because they did not have their "revenge" or "settlement."

I learned that under the influence of this passion and drink, an attempt had been made more than once to kill a white man, and that the promise of a "settlement" by me was what the Indians rested in. Now that I had come, they thought I would make it all right. They made several urgent requests, but finally settled on the condition of a "potlatch" of 100 blankets and the dead body of Fernandeste. Having already obtained the permission of the Secretary of War for the issue of blankets, and having the body of Fernandeste with us, (it having been disinterred at Astoria and put on board,) I deemed it the wisest plan to yield to their fervent entreaty, and gave the blankets and body. The whole appearance of the Stickeens changed. That night they gave us a characteristic dance of satisfaction, depicting in their rude way the departure, the suicide and return of Fernandeste, our visit, and the settlement.

EXPEDITION UP THE STICKEEN—CUSTOM-HOUSE; ITS LOCATION—BOUNDARY-LINE IN DOUBT—GLACIERS, ETC.

The next day, by the courtesy of Captain Irving, the owner of the small river-steamer Glenora, having arranged to pay merely the extra expense of fuel, I took our party up the Stickeen River as far as the boundary between our territory and British Columbia. No building is yet erected for the custom-house. The place for the English custom-house officers' tents is supposed to be selected within the British line. Some of our shrewd frontiersmen say that it is not ten marine leagues from the sea, as it should be, there being really doubt as to the summit of the coast-range of mountains. I took a copy of the statement of the boundary-line as published in an English journal. (See paper attached, marked "A.") It seems now to an observer of little consequence among these rough mountains, where the exact line of division really is; but remembering the trouble the settlement of the channel question gave us at Vancouver Island, I deem it of sufficient importance to recommend that the attention of the proper Department be called to the existing doubt not plainly settled by the treaty, that the line may be definitely fixed.

I obtained from a civil engineer, Mr. Wright, who journeyed with us up the river and guided us to the immense glacier and to the hot springs a few miles above the boundary, a recent sketch of the Stickeen River, drawn by himself, (copy attached, marked "B,"*) also an excellent topographical map, quite in detail of British Columbia. The largest of the two glaciers that we saw appears about two and one-half miles in breadth, & is said to extend twenty-five or thirty miles back. It is evidently moving slowly toward the Stickeen, with its immense pile of débris of gravel, blocks of granite, and crushed rocks of all kinds along its front. The hot springs form a short confluent of the Stickeen, two miles above

* Inclosure marked "B" not received at headquarters Military Division Pacific, headquarters of the Army, nor in Adjutant-General's Office.
and on the opposite side of the river. They do not differ from other springs I have visited, except in the great abundance of the flow, and in the great heat; the water being so hot as to scald the hand, at the source.

SITKA—INSPECTION—REPAIRS—HOSPITAL.

We were back at Wrangel by 6 p.m., and were soon on the way to Sitka, by the outside. Here was the only part of the entire passage where there were any symptoms of sea-sickness among the passengers. We came to our anchorage at Sitka Thursday evening, June 10. At 9 a.m., Friday, I made my inspection. As every inspection has shown, the command was in fine condition. Many of the buildings, from long use, need repairs, but their police was excellent. The guard-house has been thoroughly renovated, the cells re-arranged and fixed for light and ventilation; it is the best, considered in all respects, that I have seen in this Department. I authorized some repairs and changes that were so urgent as to demand immediate attention; for example: the repair and extension of the stockade. As it appeared at my inspection, there was no real separation between the commanding officer's quarters and the Indian village. This was the cause of constant danger and annoyance, which will be prevented by the proposed stockade extension. Several of the buildings show rapid signs of decay. The flooring of the rampart surrounding the castle is so rotten that it is dangerous to step upon. The hospital-building is at an inconvenient distance from the garrison, and the commanding officer urges a change to a building inside. I authorized the change, and suggested to Major Campbell, acting as Indian agent, to use the other building vacated for general asylum and hospital purposes. Since then, the protest of the medical department has been so strong, on sanitary grounds, that I have suspended the change till the subject can be again fairly considered.

COMPLAINTS.

Having been troubled by numerous newspaper charges concerning the present management of affairs at Sitka, I deemed it best to give those who are called citizens, consisting of Russians, Aleuts, Half-breeds, American and foreign traders now residing in the town, the opportunity to see me apart from the officers of the garrison. In keeping with this purpose, I met them by appointment at the house of the United States collector, Mr. Berry. Mr. Berry kindly briefed the complaints, which I subsequently carefully considered and acted upon, as will be seen by the memoranda attached, marked "C."

(Note.—The paper marked "C," as received at the Adjutant-General's Office, appears to be a duplicate of "A." The mistake probably occurred at department or division headquarters.)

POLICE REGULATIONS—GENERAL HOSPITAL—POWERS OF ACTING INDIAN AGENT.

The complaints did not prove to be of much importance; certainly not very grievous. To remedy the real ills of the complainants, most of whom are indigent people, I advised Major Campbell to introduce a few police regulations; establish a general hospital, and raise a small revenue, just sufficient to meet the necessities, and detail one of his humane officers to act in the capacity of a police judge. I did not
order these things, because, as military commander, I wished to assume no doubtful powers, but am confident that the law under which Major Campbell will exercise jurisdiction as Indian agent, in an Indian country, will warrant his doing everything that humanity requires for the relief of a community, thus far, suffering from being within the limits of the United States, and yet absolutely without law.

GENERAL HALLECK'S INSTRUCTIONS—JUDGE DEADY'S DECISION—LEGISLATION RECOMMENDED.

The instructions from General Halleck, and transmitted from one commanding officer to another, did imply that the military government should be extended to the Alaska people till Congress should otherwise provide; but the late decision of the Hon. Judge Deady, United States district court, limiting military jurisdiction to the execution of the liquor-law, makes it necessary to be exceedingly cautious. I wish to renew my earnest recommendation that, by proper and speedy legislation, Alaska be attached as a county to Washington Territory, or in some other way be furnished with such a government as the treaty with Russia, in the transfer, plainly contemplated.

MINES AND TIMBER.

With a few gentlemen, I spent Saturday, June 12, in moving around and exploring Baranoff Island to the point where the road from the different mines emerges at the landing, distant, perhaps, twenty miles from Sitka. We ascended the mountain (for here it is nothing else but a wooded mountain) three miles. The first mine had been opened and a considerable quantity of rock thrown out, but was not now worked. The second one, Stewart's, belonging to the Alaska Gold Mining Company, half a mile higher up, presented about the same condition; no one at work. There were evidences of a fair yield of silver and gold in several specimens that I examined. Some one or two miles farther up the mountain our party met half a dozen Sitka Indians carrying bags of quartz upon their backs down the fearful road from the upper or Francis mine. I was struck with the ease with which these muscular Indians carried enormous loads of broken stone, loads I could hardly lift from the ground. The mountain was covered with timber, hemlock, fir, and cedar, the hemlock prevailing.

A log building had been constructed at the second mine, (Stewart's,) of the celebrated Alaska cedar, of large size; yet here this timber was not very abundant. The ground en route was springy for the most part, covered with a soft soil, coated with mosses; at intervals in the ascent a shelving or slaty rock appeared. The trees, for the most part, are large and very high, often reaching two hundred feet, and the pathway obstructed by decaying logs of vast proportions, sometimes eight or ten feet through, crossed by steps cut in their sides. We traversed Silver Bay on our return; a water, narrow like a river, hemmed in by mountainsous islands, and remarkable for its quiet surface, very clearly mirroring the rugged and lofty shores in its depths. The few glimpses at the islands here showed me how difficult a matter it is to prospect the country; but convinced me that, in time, patient exploring and prospecting would show more abundant mineral resources than the present few openings, made with so much labor and expense, lead those interested to believe to be in existence.
Sunday, June 13, in the morning, I attended the Russian religious
service, conducted according to the ritual of the Greek Church. The
cathedral is undergoing repairs, so that the morning service was held
at smaller rooms, at the priest's house. The ceremonial is impressive;
men, women, and children stand or kneel during the exercises; little
boys help in the singing, as in Catholic and some Episcopal churches;
all attendants, perhaps one hundred people, mostly those who speak the
Russian tongue, were neatly dressed and devoted in worship. I wish
I could report that the morality of the priest and people was equal to
their devotion. He is reported frequently for drunkenness, and among
the people (perhaps not the worshippers) licentiousness, with dreadful
consequences, prevails. There is no minister for the Lutheran chapel;
a lay service was improvised at 11 a.m., of song, reading the Scriptures
and speaking, well attended by the garrison. In the evening, by special
appointment, I addressed the people; the house was full; a portion of
my remarks were translated into the Russian language. I tried to show
a depressed people what I believed to be a sovereign remedy, that they
themselves could apply, for the ills that afflicted them; but I could not
fail to see that our Government has not carried out in good faith the
treaty stipulations made at the time of the purchase of the Territory.
Good civil government, as well as religious and secular teaching, is
nowhere in heathendom more needed than in Alaska; and yet up to the
present there is none.

At 2 o'clock p.m. I met the Indians and had an interview with the
chiefs and people. Sitka Jack was absent. He controls, at least, one-
half of the households, (in each house there are usually a family and
branches, sometimes numbering twenty or thirty people,) Anahootz,
the chief who governs the rest, spoke at the meeting for the whole. He
first submits his recommendations from prominent officers, Russian and
American, of sea and land. He is supported on right and left by an
adopted father and a wealthy young Indian. Anahootz said, in sub-
stance:

"Ever since General J. C. Davis came here I have tried to live on
terms of peace and good-will with the whites; nine of my people have
been killed or wounded by white men long ago; now I have the best of
feelings; recognize the fact that the present 'Boston Tyee' (command-
ing officer) was not responsible for the acts of those before him." The
first whites seen among the coast Indians were from Boston. They call
all whites "Boston" men; or women.) "No troubles now, for Major
Campbell had a just way of punishing the Indians. My people never
had trouble with the Russian authorities; but there had been difficulty
under the five predecessors of Major Campbell; now surely the Indians
had no cause of complaint. They do have hard feelings against some
of the store-keepers here, who treat them like dogs. The price the
Indians received for cutting wood was better when it sold for $5 than
now, when it sells for $2. They are paid for labor with a little hard-
tack or flour; and if they complain are kicked from the stores." Ana-
hootz does not think his Indians go to British territory for blankets, but
spend most of their money here at Sitka. Indians from other places
certainly did this. "I object to payments in trade. My people are just
beginning to arrive at what I have long desired: amity with the whites
and with each other, under the protection of a good chief. I have had
many battles in maintenance of this, and my people are just beginning
to see that I am right." I spoke to him of the education of his children,
as the best means of inducing mutual understanding, and of diffusing knowledge of our ways, and advised him to lay the subject before his people. He approves; has "spent sleepless nights thinking for the interest of his people. Wants a good teacher; will build him a school-house. A teacher once came, but did not stay." Then I addressed all the Indians, urging education and industry, and co-operation with their good chief. They heartily assented; hoped the traders would give them better pay, that they might be better dressed next time I came.

Here, as elsewhere, the Indians seem to have abundance of food; they paint their faces (in part or in full) black, making them present often a hideous appearance. They seem generally well-disposed, and are learning to surrender the idea of revenge for the death of a friend. One prominent Indian (a hereditary chief, Anheka by name) brought me Major Tidball’s written statement, that though his relative had been killed, he had acted rightly in the matter, and abstained from acts of revenge. People report that these people have no idea of chastity. I doubt the statement. It is as fair to infer from the practice of some white men here, that they have no just ideas of chastity. Surely they have not improved the Indians by their preceptor or their practice, though of course they know that adultery is forbidden by civil and divine law. The Indians seem gladly to conform to the marriage-law in the British territory, on Puget Sound, and in many other places, where they get a decent example.

**VISITS TO SEVERAL INDIAN TRIBES—THE KOUTZNOUS—ADMIRALTY ISLAND—LAND, HOUSES, ETC.**

Tuesday morning, June 14, the court-martial having adjourned, we proceeded northward by the steamer California, passing through Peril Straits. Here, as farther south, are narrow and deep passages of water flanked by high, snow-crowned hills, covered with rocks and trees, and frequent cascades. We stop at the Koutznois Bay, row a small boat around a point four miles to the north, along Admiralty Island; in a pleasant little nook we come upon the Indian village. Here the island is comparatively low, has some open cultivated land; potatoes are planted here like the celery in eastern gardens, and are said to do well; so also they may obtain a fair crop of turnips, cabbages, beets, and parsnips. The cleared land, not otherwise occupied, had on it good grass. This island is the one General Davis speaks of as better located for a post than Sitka. The Indians were like those at Sitka; seemed to be hearty and fat, living in the same sort of houses as the coast Indians generally in this northern country. The houses have a pitched roof, quite broad and flattish, one door under the gable, (of different shapes in different houses,) just big enough to crawl through. You generally ascend to it by a few steps. The frame is of very large beams, and the planking is always of large and thick material. I measured single planks four feet broad and six inches thick and sixty feet long. The houses, I judge, are generally sixty feet along the front and eighty feet back. In the best of these there is a brick or paved square for hearth and fire, at the center, under an opening in the roof; around this square, a few feet back, a nice banquet terminated inward by a handsome single plank standing on edge, of three feet in breadth. This plank is often carved and colored, looking like the inside of the canoes. On the top of the banquet are usually a few small sleeping-rooms. Over the fire you notice pots, kettles, poles with salmon drying and smoking; skins, furs of different kinds, are thrown upon or against the banquet. I saw,
ALASKA TERRITORY.

too, curious square casks, water-proof, for the fish-oil; and well-made water-tight trunks, that the Indians use in their canoes on long voyages. In one house we observed a very large-sized Indian, with finely-shaped head and high forehead. He was wounded in an Indian skirmish some years ago. His leg was fixed straight by props; his knee swollen to perhaps three times its natural size; his toe-nails, uncut, had grown long and pointed. He lay there on the floor with great patience. His wife seemed ill and was moaning apparently with great pain, at the door of a banquet-room.

The Koutznous treated us with much kindly attention, and told us they did not want Sullivan and his partner, who lived near by and ran a small schooner in and out, with liquor, to stay there. One woman and one man took their part, and chided the other Indians for telling us. These traders understand the game of getting them partially drunk in order to buy their furs, oil, &c., cheap. Sullivan, who is a decrepit old man, lost his partner by sickness and death before our return; and Major Campbell thinks Sullivan is too old and weak to do much more mischief. Thus far, attempts to catch him at his illicit trade have not been successful.

THE CHILCAT'S—SITKA-JACK—METEOROLITE—INDIANS FROM THE INTERIOR OF ALASKA.

Wednesday, the 16th, at daylight, we are anchored at the mouth of the Chilcat River. The strong, cold wind lashes up the waves and everything appears wild and dreary. The Indians (Chilcats) are paddling around the steamer. They appear thin in flesh, but very tough and hardy; not so well clad as those at Sitka. In other respects, in language, size, and features, like them. Here Sitka-Jack, of whom I have spoken, with his canoe thoroughly manned with paddles and carrying a United States flag in the stern, comes up to us in style, and he is welcomed on board the California. He pilots our row-boat over the flats to the small Indian village four miles up the river; tells us that the main Chilcat ranches are some sixteen or eighteen miles farther up. The village we visit is under the shelter of an immense mountain. It is so similar to the Koutznous that I will not further notice it. Here I met an Indian woman from the interior. She said, and others confirmed it, that two days' rowing and walking brought them to a level and open country; that the Indians, speaking a different tongue from the Thlunaut (the Sitka language,) were very numerous there. We found here an enormous meteorite, and tried to get it for the Smithsonian, but some prospector, now up the Chilcat, had engaged it, and the Indians were keeping it for him.

AWKS—THE CACHE.

Having passed in the night from Lynn's canal southward and to the east into the Stephens passage, I find myself, at 4 a.m., in sight of another Indian town. Choquette, the interpreter, and I start in a ship's boat for the town, skirting a rough, wooded shore to our left. Suddenly a small dog appears, barking and moaning; judging from this circumstance, I concluded the Indians had left. Going on shore we found the dog, poor, almost starving, watching an Indian cache in the edge of a wood. Afterward meeting a boat-load of these Indians, (the Awks,) they told us there was not a single person in the town—all had gone off hunting and fishing with their canoes and temporary shelters.
The cache was made of logs, in a place not likely to be noticed; on top certain curious racks were lying. These, Choquette says, the Indians use for making sugar.

When we are again on board, the steamer starts for the Tacon River and reaches its mouth in a few hours. The Tacons are so like the other Indians in everything, that a separate notice is not necessary. The most of the tribe live up the Tacon, but have a small village at its mouth. We had here a pleasant example of a very old Indian, blind and feeble with age, being tenderly cared for by his children or grandchildren. Choquette says this kindness is not usual among these Indians.

SUMDUMS—ICEBERGS—GLACIERS.

We next pass the Sumdums. Just after noon we begin to encounter icebergs, very blue, some apparently as large as the ship. Several remarkable glaciers are working their slow way between the hills toward the strait; one glacier near the Sumdums is immense; extends from top of a mountain 2,500 feet high, to the foot; two or three hundred yards broad and narrowing near the base. The Sumdums live near it. The young chief, Foustchou, meets our boat at a half-way island. He is pleased that I get into his canoe and return to steamer, beating the steamer's boat. After an interview, he asks for a "paper" for himself and the old chief Harteshawk, who was left at the village. I give him one; Choquette reading its contents to him, in substance, that I had met him, putting in a strong word against the liquor-trade with his people, and some other sentiment desirable to leave with them. This was done with each chief. They esteem these "papers" highly, and I think, when they know the contents, they are influenced constantly by them.

PRINCE FREDERICK SOUND.

Perhaps two hours before the sun touched the horizon, this 17th of June, we find ourselves in Prince Frederick's Sound. It may be twenty miles wide, shores irregular, calm and smooth as a mill-pond; mountains rising in the distance, of different shapes, like ghosts; glaciers, in the dimness and evening light, look like the mists and foam of Niagara. The islands and nearer shores are as clearly defined below the water as above. The steamer moves noiselessly toward Prevontet Island, whose distance is four times what it seems. The whole scene is indescribably grand and beautiful. Captain Hays thinks of the centennial anniversary of Bunker Hill; loads his only cannon stoutly, and fires—dipping his flag. The echo is remarkably loud and prolonged.

THE CAKES—DIFFICULTY COMPLETELY SETTLED.

At 10 p.m. we pass, to our left, into a snug little bay named Saganaw. The Cakes, who live near at hand, had undertaken to revenge themselves for the killing of some of their number by the sad mistake of the officers of an armed vessel visiting the bay. The "avengers" were demanded of the tribe, and not being delivered, a gunboat was sent, and their village was destroyed. Either from timidity or hostility, these Cakes had kept aloof from our people ever since. Such is the story told me by the interpreter. As soon as we were at anchor, a Sitka Indian and child appeared in a canoe; by him I send for the chief; he soon ap-
pears and comes on board the steamer. He explains why he did not visit Major Campbell; he was warned against it by a Sitka woman; feared he were against him still, and that he would not be kindly treated; the next time he visited Sitka he would surely report himself to the commanding officer. This chief, a young man, was well dressed, and behaved with dignity, and showed good sense, and I believe has good intentions. The Cakes, such as we saw, appeared well, were pretty well clad and fed. I have not given the numbers of the different tribes, having no means of verifying those already on record. I have assumed their correctness. Some of the villages do not seem to have nearly as many as when the record was made.

FORT TOUGASS.

During the night we returned to Kulznous and left Major Campbell, the little steamer Rose meeting us to take him back to Sitka. We now turn homeward, touching at Shakan and Wrangel. At Fort Toogass it was not safe to anchor in the narrow stream, so that we moved past slowly, that I might see the situation. The Indians communicated with us by canoes. A small tribe, not more than one hundred and thirty, live here, near the beach. Chief's name is Yah-Shute. A custom-house officer lives at the old fort.

CONCERNING PORTIONS OF ALASKA NOT VISITED—EXTRACTS FROM MAJOR CAMPBELL'S REPORTS—FIRE-ARMS, LIQUOR, ETC.

Before closing my report I will present certain complaints and reports that have reached me, where there appears to have been improper administration or a "violation of law." Major Campbell has frequently reported that, through the "Alaska Commercial Company," arms of the modern type are being distributed to the Indians. He says, in report of July 17, just received:

With what are known as Hudson Bay muskets the Indians are comparatively harmless. It will be a very different thing, however, if they succeed in arming themselves with modern arms of precision and power. They are much more intelligent than the Indians of the plains; good marksmen, and throughout the coast are united by a class or caste of warriors called Koch-won-tons. This will enable them to concentrate in vast numbers.

After speaking of President Johnson's countermanding his executive order of August 2, 1868, by another of February 20, 1869, he continues:

The result is that arms and ammunition are shipped to Kodiack and Unalaska, of any kind and in any quantity, and from there distributed among the various trading-posts of the Alaska Commercial Company, to be disposed of as they see fit.

I approve Maj. J. B. Campbell's suggestion, that if not practicable or expedient to compel the arms to be landed at Sitka, that the parties be required to apply for permission to ship through him or some other superior military authority. Other communications go to show that the breech-loading arms have reached even the Sitka Indians from the sources named.

REPORTS OF A CAPTAIN—THE MEASLES—LIQUOR MANUFACTURED—ARMS SOLD.

Major Campbell, in a letter of July 10, says:

A schooner arrived here the 1st of the month, from Kodiack. From the captain, who is a very well-known and intelligent man, named Howard, and from Mr. Shearan, ex-deputy collector at Saint Paul, Kodiack, I learned that the measles had been very badly epidemic
natives and creoles died of the disease last winter. They tell me a liquor called "guss," made of hope, potatoes, sugar, and flour, is very extensively made in that locality. It is said to be very intoxicating. * * * * Mr. Sherman tells me that $250,000 worth of furs (valuation there) are annually shipped from Kodiack, which is the fur-depot for the coast, from Sea Otter Rocks and Onja Island to Neutchuck. He tells me he knew extensive distilling carried on at Ilyans and at Saint Nicholas; and that all whalers carry liquors to trade to the natives. He also says, a man named Redfield runs a bark from San Francisco to Petropavolaski, on the Asiatic side of Behring Sea, in conjunction with a man in San Francisco, that carries liquor almost exclusively. They clear for the Asiatic port, and then run across to this side with the liquor. He tells me that the ships of the Alaska Commercial Company clear direct for Unalaska and Saint Paul Island; that vast quantities of superior arms of all kinds are shipped in their vessels, bonded only not to land on the fur-seal islands of Saint Paul and Saint George; that they are landed at Unalaska, and thence distributed throughout Upper Alaska by means of the company's agencies and ports. The two members of the Icelandic commission that remained at Kodiack to observe the winter climate were passengers on the steamer for San Francisco. They told me that the country suited their people better than any other part of America they had seen; said Kodiack was a fine cattle-raising or sheep country; that herd-grass or timothy grows there luxuriantly, and is indigenous.

I concluded, from my conversation with them and others on the schooner, that these people have been encouraged to the full extent of the fur company's ability.

Major Campbell urges that immigration thither be facilitated, saying: Alaska will long be a source of trouble and expense to the General Government, until a sufficient number of industrious and honest people become inhabitants to enable them to form a government and take a permanent interest in the good order and welfare of society.

COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE ALASKA FUR COMPANY.

A citizen of long standing on this coast writes me:

That the fur-company who have leased the seal business from the United States Government make millions of profit; and that their operations are concealed as much as possible; that vastly greater numbers are killed annually, more than their agreement allows, and that large amounts of hush-money are paid to keep the matter quiet.

In addition to this private letter and official report I had, while in Alaska, a pamphlet put into my hands entitled "A history of the wrongs of Alaska." Deeming the subject of such great importance as to need a thorough investigation of the proper authorities, and that even complaints might become of official cognizance, I attach a copy to this report. Of course I have not the means of judging of the truth or falsity of most of the statements therein contained; but do believe it to be a mistake, and a dangerous precedent, on the part of our Government to give into the hands of any company, however benevolent in its intentions, so vast a monopoly. The subject comes to me directly in the performance of my military duty in the execution of laws and instructions concerning ardent spirits, the sale of arms to Indians, and other police measures.

After leaving Fort Tougass, the steamer anchored, about 10 a.m., (Sunday, June 20,) in the vicinity of Fort Simpson, B. C. All on board had the opportunity of going on shore and attending the service held with the Indians by the Rev. Mr. Crosby. The Indians here speak a different language, but are in other respects like those we had visited, in complexion, size, manner of building houses, and nature of subsistence. The noticeable contrast between these Indians, men, women, and children, and the others, was the cleanliness and order everywhere apparent. The whole population flocked to church, neatly dressed, and engaged in the services almost with unanimity.

The marriage relation is respected; fighting and drunkenness of rare occurrence; and all in consequence of simple and faithful teaching by the missionary here, and the missionary who has reached them indirectly from Mitlicatash, which is located eighteen miles south.
As the military authority is now held responsible for Indian affairs in Alaska, I have thought it best to make a full statement of my observations, with the hope that speedy legislation may be had to give to our Indians there, as well as others, already said to be in advance of others in point of intelligence, certainly as good opportunities in the way of government and instruction as those have in contiguous British territory.

We reached the dock at Portland Friday evening, the 25th of June. As I have already made a verbal report, and General Schofield has acceded to my recommendations of a military nature, I will not repeat. I propose to embrace an account of my visit to Fort Klamath, the lavabeds and vicinity, in my annual report.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

O. O. HOWARD,
Brigadier-General Commanding.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT-GENERAL,
HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE PACIFIC,
San Francisco, California.

[Inclosure marked "A."]

The Northwest Boundary.

The discovery of Cassiar has rendered the following information of value to the government and people of this province. Its publication at this period will probably prevent much apprehension and suspense on all sides.

Convention for the cession of Russian possessions in North America to the United States: concluded 30 of March, 1867. Ratification exchanged June 20, 1867. Proclaimed June 20, 1867.

ARTICLE I. His Majesty the Emperor of all the Russias agrees to cede to the United States by this convention, immediately upon the ratification thereof, all the territory and dominions now possessed by His Majesty on the continent of America and in the adjacent islands, the same being contained within the geographical limits herein set forth, to wit:

The eastern limit is the line of demarkation between the British possessions in North America as established by the convention between Russia and Great Britain of 25-16, 1825, and described in article 3d and 4th of said convention in the following terms: Commencing from the southermost point of the island called the Prince of Wales Island, which point lies in the parallel of 54 degrees 40 minutes north latitude, and between the 131st and 133d degrees of west longitude, (meridian of Greenwich,) the said line shall ascend to the north along the channel called the Portland Channel as far as the point of the continent where it strikes the 56th degree of north latitude. From this last mentioned point the line of demarkation shall follow the summit of the mountains situated parallel to the coast as far as the point of intersection of the 141st degree of west longitude, (of the same meridian,) and finally from the said point of intersection, the said meridian line of the 141st degree, in its prolongation as far as the "Frozen Ocean."

4th. With reference to the line of demarkation laid down in the preceding articles, it is understood: 1st. That the island called the Prince of Wales Island shall belong wholly to Russia, (now, by this cession, to the United States.) 2nd. That whenever the summit of the mountains which extend in a direction parallel to the coast from the 55th degree of north latitude to the point of intersection of the 141st degree of west longitude shall prove to be at the distance of more than ten marine leagues from the ocean; the limit between the British possessions and the line of coast which is to belong to Russia, as above-mentioned, (that is to say, the limit to the possessions ceded by this convention,) shall be formed by a line parallel to the rounding of the coast, and which shall never exceed the distance of ten marine leagues therefrom.

OFFICE OF ALASKA COMMERCIAL COMPANY,
No. 310 Sansouci Street, San Francisco, August 11, 1875.

Col. H. Clay Wood,
A. A. G. Dept, Columbia, Portland, Oregon:

Sir: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 4th instant, with inclosures, and on behalf of the company I beg to express our thanks for the courtesy of answering the inquiries made by us.
I take the liberty of inclosing herewith an application made to Captain Campbell, commanding at Sitka, for license, authorizing the company to continue its business at the place named therein, which I have to request you to subject to the examination of the general commanding the department, and if found correct by him, and necessary to be made, I will thank you to forward it to its proper destination. It is supposed that the license mentioned in paragraph 3, of order 96, Sitka, July 12, 1875, is requisite in order that the company may continue its business, although that portion of your letter which says that "so long as the company and its agents and employees strictly comply with the provisions of the acts of Congress and the military orders relative to Alaska trade, the company will not be interfered with by military commanders, etc., etc.," might with some propriety be regarded as a sufficient license. We do not suppose, however, that it was so intended; that it was meant rather to admonish the company that its business interests and trade is subject to the searching scrutiny and impartial supervision of the military authority. In this connection I beg to assure the general commanding that to all this the company makes no objection, but on the contrary rejoices that the new régime has been established.

When the general commanding comes to know that chiefly through the efforts of the managers of this company the act of March 3, 1873, was passed, which has made Alaska Indian country and brought it under military control, he will begin to appreciate the motive of the company and the struggle which it has maintained singly and without substantial aid from the Government to prevent the utter destruction alike of trade and Indians in Alaska by the traffic in spirits. In that part of Alaska where the company carries on its business it has been the only barrier to the nefarious and murderous traffic in whisky with the Indians, and much of the abuse and misrepresentation of this company, which has found its utterance in the public prints and anonymous pamphlets, has originated with the disappointed and thwarted liquor-traders in Alaska and their confederates in San Francisco.

This company has been, now is, and will continue to be the vigilant and relentless and uncompromising enemy to the liquor-traffic in Alaska, and all its agencies and connections, and we are glad to know that the power of the Government, through its most reliable and effective Department, (for such purpose,) is to be exerted to protect the people of Alaska from the great enemy of the Indian race.

Very respectfully, yours,

JOHN F. MILLER,

President Alaska Commercial Company.

Official copy respectfully furnished the assistant adjutant-general Military Division of the Pacific, to accompany my report of visit to Alaska Territory, dated June 30, 1875.

O. O. HOWARD,

Brigadier-General Commanding.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE PACIFIC,
San Francisco, August 23, 1875.

Respectfully forwarded to the Adjutant-General, (through headquarters of the Army,) in connection with General Howard's report of June 30, 1875, referred to within, forwarded from these headquarters August 21, 1875.

J. M. SCHOFIELD,
Major-General, U. S. A.

A HISTORY OF THE WRONGS OF ALASKA.—AN APPEAL TO THE PEOPLE AND PRESS OF AMERICA.

[Printed by order of the Anti-Monopoly Association of the Pacific coast, February, 1875.]

AN APPEAL TO THE PEOPLE AND PRESS OF AMERICA.

SAN FRANCISCO, January, 1875.

Inasmuch as the hope of receiving redress of the Government has hitherto been disappointed, and all appeals to the same which have been made during the last six years in behalf of the cause, in which we now raise our voice again, have been left unheeded; and a flagrant stain on the honor of our free country, which could be wiped out by one word of the Congress of the United States, is suffered to exist—a monument of the shame of America—we now address ourselves to the people, in the heart of which love of freedom, patriotism, and justice still live, and to its mighty voice and champion the Press, and appeal to them to take up this cause which ought to concern every citizen that loves his country. We speak of the servitude of the civilized inhabitants of Saint George and Saint Paul Islands in Alaska, and of the fur-seal monopoly that has been granted by the Government.

The wrong that has been done is so great, the violation of the principles of republicanism
A HISTORY OF THE WRONGS OF ALASKA.

THE RUSSO-AMERICAN COMPANY.

Alaska was discovered about a century ago by Russian fur-hunters, who, sailing east from the coast of Siberia, first came upon the Aleutian Archipelago, which they took possession of in the name of the Czar. Having established themselves on these islands, and having thoroughly subjected and christianized the docile natives, they pushed farther east, found and explored the extensive coast of the main-land, and, after many hard fights with the warlike tribes of these regions, established posts along the Behring's Sea and the North Pacific. The Russian Government had granted to these early adventurers especial rights in regard to the countries which they had discovered for the Crown, and thus was the foundation laid of that tremendous concern, the Russo-American Company, that held undisputed sway over Alaska till it was purchased by the United States.

This company enjoyed, under the suffrage of the Emperor, the most positive power, and over half a century ruled the country with an iron rod; having absolute right over it, and everything in it, except the unexplored regions of the far interior, and the many tribes of free savages that recognize no master. The sole object of this company was the fur-trade, and as it was constantly fearful that the attention of the Russian government might be excited, it strictly forbade the search after minerals, allowed no enterprise except those connected with the fur-trade, stifled immediately any reports of discoveries, permitted no outsider to remain in the country, and guarded the latter with a jealousy equal to that of our own.

Of the imperial commissioners who were, from time to time, dispatched to this far-away piece of the Czar's dominions, several suddenly died on their way home through Siberia, while most of them were dealt with according to the American style, that is, they returned richer and happier men, and reported everything as desired. Finally the Government at St. Petersburg became disgusted, and sold Alaska to the United States. The insurmountable barrier that had walled it in so long fell on the day when:

THE STARS AND STRIPES

ascended that old flag-staff at Sitka, and the Territory was thrown wide open to every energetic individual. There now commenced a time such as had never been seen in Alaska before; vessel after vessel, laden with merchandise, left the Golden Gate and shaped its course for the new acquisitions; trading and fishing stations arose everywhere on the coast; a fleet of gallant schooners cruised on the cod-banks; gold, copper, and coal were discovered at many localities, and the sails of American ships whitened every sound and bay. There was no doubt that Alaska was in a fair way of being developed, and all those engaged in the Territory were convinced of the fact. It was about this time when a party of capitalists proposed to stock the Alaska peninsula with sheep and cattle, when there was a plan of establishing a settlement of New England fishermen at Kinal, and when an eastern firm made preparations for ship-building at Sitka.

But the people that had chanced their time and capital, and often enough their personal safety, in Alaska; that were preparing the way for civilization and development, and fondly believed themselves under the protection of a free and just Government, did not know that corruption stalked almost undisguised through the congressional halls at Washington; that the Representatives of the people were ready for personal gain to violate the sacred principles of our Constitution, to ignore the rights of the people, and to pollute the fair name of America with an indelible stain. A cloud arose that ripped the beginning development of Alaska in the bud, and put an end to all enterprise except the fur-trade of one rich and powerful company.

Although our space is limited, we must go a little into details to make the circumstances fully comprehensible, and to show how the ruin of Alaska was wrought.

The Russo-American Company had at the time of the transfer the following property that had to be disposed of: A large number of ware, store, and dwelling houses at Sitka and Kodiak, and all their forts and stations on the islands and on the main-land; an enormous stock of goods, representing a capital in proportion, and a fleet of steamers and sailing-vessels. All this was to be sold, and Prince Makouzi, former governor of Alaska and president of the company, was intrusted with the business.
He had not long to wait for a customer, for a number of capitalists of San Francisco had formed themselves into a trading company and hastened to make overtures to the Russian prince.

The concern that thus sprang into existence was the firm of

HUTCHINSON, KOHL & CO.

This company proposed to buy the whole property as it stood, ships, stations, and goods, and their offer was eagerly accepted by Maksoutof. What the arrangements were, what price was paid, has never leaked out, but it is known that everything was sold at a ruinous figure; that Hutchinson, Kohl & Co., cleared over $500,000 on the transaction, and that Prince Maksoutof returned to Russia with a fortune. This, however, does not concern us or the public, but there was immediately inaugurated a system of suppression and high-handed outrages by Hutchinson, Kohl & Co., with the assistance of this Russian prince and by Federal officers which deserves our closest attention, while a number of fraudulent transactions showed that the new and powerful but entirely unprincipled concern was capable of any action, no matter how lawless and contemptible, to approach the object which it was aiming at, which was nothing less than the monopolization of the entire Territory of Alaska.

INTIMIDATING THE NATIVES.

As soon as said sale between Hutchinson, Kohl & Co. and the Russo-American Company had been effected, the representatives of the former and Prince Maksoutof started on a tour along the coast of the Territory, for the purpose of transferring the various stations and the property belonging thereto. Wherever they went, the prince, of whom they stood in mortal fear, announced to the natives that Hutchinson, Kohl & Co. had taken the place of the Russian Company; had the same absolute power; had complete jurisdiction over them, and that if they would dare to trade with any other parties they would be punished in the most severe manner.

Placards in the Russian language, which made known the decree of the prince, were hung up at all stations, and the Aleuts and ignorant Russians were threatened with imprisonment and corporal punishment if they would dare to break the commands.

These poor people, although they were Christians, and of average intelligence, of course thought all this was true, especially as American officers (to their shame be it said) used their official position and authority to furthermore intimidate these natives and represent to them Hutchinson, Kohl & Co. in the same manner as Maksoutof and his Russian officials had done.

The natives thus imposed upon were the civilized and Christian Aleuts and Creoles along the coast and on the Aleutian Islands, (for the spirited savages of the interior and the Alexander Archipelago cared as little for the prince as they did for Brigham Young;) and so great was the terror that the former had been inspired with, that it was at first with the greatest difficulty, and at many places impossible, to induce them to trade with other parties, or, if so, only secretly and under cover of night.

CHEATING UNCLE SAM.

A little stroke of business was also indulged in by this happy combination of this princely Russian and these republican Americans, by which the Government of the United States was cheated out of a large amount of, then, very valuable property. The accounts of the Russian company being somewhat obscure to the Americans, Prince Maksoutof claimed nearly all the Government buildings as company's property and delivered them to Hutchinson, Kohl & Co., and thus the Government had frequently to buy back what was already its rightful property.

These things happened during the years 1867 and 1868. It was also about this time that Hutchinson, Kohl & Co.'s steamer Fideliter, which was an English vessel, was fraudulently brought under the American flag, through the assistance of Collector Dodge, at Sitka, for which she has since been confiscated by the Government.

MAKING WAR UPON ENTERPRISE.

While Hutchinson, Kohl & Co. were thus ruling the Aleuts by false representations and tyrannical treatment, they also found means to severely annoy and often crush the other traders and fur companies that were also engaged in the Territory. As the restless energy of most of these parties at once forbade all hope of driving them out of the field by fair means, unfair and corrupt ones were immediately resorted to, and it was principally through the assistance of the United States revenue-officers that this was accomplished. Of course it is hard to prove that these officers were hired, but their favoritism was so undisguised, and the
16 ALASKA TERRITORY.

rewards, which they received for their services, so openly distributed, that there can be no doubt in this matter. The most zealous revenue-officials, in the interest of Hutchinson, Kohl & Co., were, W. S. Dodge, collector at Sitka; Samuel Falconer, acting collector at Sitka, (afterward in the employ of Hutchinson, Kohl & Co.;) Mr. H. H. McIntyre, special agent of the Treasury Department, (now general agent of Hutchinson, Kohl & Co., the Alaska Commercial Company;) Wm. Kapus, collector of Sitka, (afterward general agent of Hutchinson, Kohl & Co., or the Alaska Commercial Company;) General Miller, collector of San Francisco, (now president of the Alaska Commercial Company,) and several others.

In those days Sitka was the only port of entry in Alaska, and all vessels coming to the Territory had to enter and clear at that port before they could proceed on their voyage. Then also existed a law prohibiting the introduction of liquors, arms, and ammunition into the country, (except under severe restrictions,) making them articles of contraband; and there had been adopted, by the Secretary of the Treasury, a great number of special regulations in regard to Alaska, which were of the most unpractical and conflicting nature, and seemed to have no other object than to throw obstacles in the way of the trade.

These circumstances now afforded the revenue-officers the most welcome opportunities to annoy whomsoever they pleased, and this they did with a vengeance.

FAVORITISM SHOWN TO HUTCHINSON, KOHL & CO.

While Hutchinson, Kohl & Co.'s vessels left San Francisco without difficulty, cause to Sitka, entered, cleared, and departed without hindrance, without search, and without delay, the other parties had to undergo a perfect ordeal of tribulations before they got out of the clutches of these Federal officers. At San Francisco the trouble generally commenced, and, thanks to Collector Miller's kind efforts, it was connected with nearly as much trouble to clear a vessel for Alaska as if she had been suspected of being a pirate, intending to start on some filibustering expedition.

This was, however, nothing compared with the annoyances that commenced when the ships arrived at Sitka. Here they were often detained for days and weeks, without a shadow of a cause; vessels, of which there could not be the slightest doubt that they had, in every respect, complied with the revenue-laws, were searched from deck to keelson; lighter vessels were hauled alongside and every package was taken out, and then, if nothing could be found against them, they were reluctantly allowed to reload their cargoes and depart. The more anxious these parties seemed to be to reach their trading-grounds, the longer were they generally kept at Sitka, the confusing revenue regulations serving the officers as ample excuse for their arbitrary measures.

But those that got off with delays and annoyances only, fared comparatively well, for a number of vessels were actually seized on the most flimsy pretext, and, in charge of revenue-officers, sent back to San Francisco. In every case, as soon as a hearing could be had, these vessels were released by the courts, but the voyages were broken up; enterprises had to be abandoned, and failures and ruin came over the owners and shareholders.

ONE OF THE MOST NOTORIOUS CASES

is that of the ship Caesarowitch, which, on March 24, 1869, was seized by Collector Falconer, at Sitka, and was sent back to San Francisco in charge of a lieutenant of the revenue-cutter Reliance. She arrived in San Francisco April 18th: the case was heard in the district court on April 20th, and at once dismissed, and a few days later the good ship was again on her way to Alaska. The damage done to the owners by this little trick was estimated by outsiders at least $100,000, and the former commenced suit against the Government for double that amount. This little affair broke Mr. Falconer's back; he lost his position, but he at once received a profitable situation with Hutchinson, Kohl & Co., as a reward for his services.

The cases of the General Harney, the steamer John L. Stephens, the Lewis Perry, the Alaska, and other vessels, were all of a similar kind, and against none of them could a case be made out.

But while Hutchinson, Kohl & Co.'s ships went always scot free, it must not be supposed that their undisturbed hold never contained any of the contraband articles; on the contrary, arms, ammunition, and liquor reached their stations in abundance, and they openly flaunted in the faces of their rivals the advantages which they enjoyed.

Our space permits us not to refer to all cases and incidents which we have recorded in connection with these matters, but we will briefly relate one occurrence which particularly illustrates what members of the firm of Hutchinson, Kohl & Co. stooped to inure those who traded in Alaska.

In the spring of 1868 the steamer Constantine, belonging to Hutchinson, Kohl & Co., sailed from Sitka to Victoria, carrying a number of passengers and some freight, among the latter several lots of furs belonging to traders at Sitka.

When the steamer reached Blumner Pass, not far from Victoria, she struck upon a rock and knocked a hole in her bottom, but sustained no serious damage, as she lay in a calm,
river-like channel, high out of the water, and had settled down on the reef on an even keel and in an easy position. The passengers, some of whom were ladies, remained on board till assistance came from Victoria. The ship, too, was hauled off after a few days, and she was soon as good as ever.

But some of the members of Hutchinson, Kohl & Co., who had been on board, and who were now in Victoria, asserted that most of the freight, and especially the skins, which had a value of about $8,000 to $10,000, had been lost, and, in spite of numerous protests of the owners, asserted that nothing had been saved. Mr. D. Schirpser, who had shipped a lot of fine skins, and who had come down on the Constantine, in vain appealed to Captain Kohl, Mr. Hutchinson, and Mr. Boscovitch, all members of the firm, and finally gave up all hope of recovering his property.

But one day, when Mr. Schirpser managed to get into the back yard of Mr. Boscovitch, who had a tobacco business at Victoria, he there discovered his cases and packages of furs, still having his name on them, stowed away under a shed. Mr. Schirpser had Mr. Hutchinson immediately arrested, who had to give bonds to the amount of $10,000; but he afterward concluded to have the case brought before the courts of San Francisco; but while he was on his way down, Boscovitch telegraphed to the company, and they immediately settled with Mr. Martin, (partner of Mr. Schirpser, in San Francisco,) who had heard of the wreck, but knew no details, for about one-quarter the value of the skins, and when Mr. Schirpser himself arrived he found his way to justice cut off.

**A PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION.**

The traders and business men who were interested in Alaska, and who were thus beset on all sides, and had in vain sought redress from the Government, finally joined hands for mutual protection against the warfare that was carried on against them by Hutchinson, Kohl & Co., and their allies, the revenue-officers, and in 1869 formed "The Alaska Traders' Protective Association," Mr. C.J. Janson, president, which, on May 3d, organized, and adopted the following resolutions:

Whereas for more than a year past the commerce of Alaska, with its great natural wealth and resources, has been monopolized by one firm, to the prejudice of the public interests, and in manifest disregard and violation of the legal rights of the citizens of the United States, and especially of the merchants of San Francisco; and

Whereas the revenue-officers of the Federal Government in Alaska have persistently used, and still continue to use their power, authority, and influence to assist a monopoly, and to crush out and drive away from that Territory all other traders; and

Whereas the said firm, possessing a monopoly, favored by the revenue-officers, has been allowed to control the trade of Alaska, to the exclusion of all other traders; and

Whereas Treasury and custom-house regulations, and military orders, have been made and enforced, to destroy the public trade with Alaska by burdening it with enormous restrictions, impossible of observance, which said firm has been permitted and is still allowed to utterly disregard; and

Whereas the ships and steamers sent by merchants of San Francisco to Alaska, for the purpose of trade, have been repeatedly seized, and their cargoes confiscated, without due process of law, and in violation of law; and

Whereas merchants in Alaska, engaged in trade, have been illegally seized, imprisoned, and their property taken from them for the purpose of expelling them from the said Territory, thereby to leave the same under the control of said monopoly; and

Whereas the corruption of Government officers in Alaska, and the ignorance of the Government at Washington in reference to affairs in that Territory, are such that redress or protection from these quarters now seems hopeless; and

Whereas it seems impossible by individual action to exert any influence with the Government, to secure justice and break down and destroy said monopoly: Therefore, We, merchants and citizens of San Francisco, interested in the trade of Alaska, have formed and united ourselves into an association, to be called "The Alaska Traders' Protective Association," for the protection and enforcement of our rights in and to the trade of said Territory.

Adopted, San Francisco, May 3d, 1869.

Then follows the constitution, which is of no interest.

Here the whole tale of lawlessness, violence, and corruption, that would have disgraced Mexico, is told in a few words; comment is unnecessary.

But it was to come

**A GREAT DEAL WORSE THAN THAT,**

and the public were soon to find out that this concern of Hutchinson, Kohl & Co.—that had trampled under foot everything that had the name of justice, fairness, and humanity; that had been the worst enemy of the new Territory—was to become the especial favorite of the Government; that for its sake the rights of American citizens were to be disregarded, and
that for its sake the Constitution of the United States and the settled policy of our country were to be violated.

We will explain how this happened.

THE FUR-SEAL ISLANDS.

In the Behring Sea lie the two small islands Saint George and Saint Paul, which are inhabited each by a community of Christian and fully civilized Creoles and Aleuts. Of all the wealth in furs that the whole immense Territory of Alaska produces, these two islands furnish over half; for here assemble every spring the precious fur-seals in countless numbers, haul up in immense rookeries on the shore for breeding purposes, and remain till late autumn. These seals are very easily taken, as it is only necessary to drive a number of them inland, for a mile or two, and there kill them with clubs. It was natural that, as soon as the Territory was opened to the Americans, a number of companies should immediately dispatch their ships to these mines of wealth; and in 1868 we find Taylor & Bendell, Williams & Havens, Parrot & Co., Captain Morgan, Hutchinson, Kohl & Co., and others, having stations on these islands and energetically engaged in taking skins; and, strange as it may seem, in spite of the obstacles thrown into the way of the other parties, Hutchinson, Kohl & Co. were among the last that arrived; which shows with what energy the former were possessed.

This year, 1868, was a golden one for the inhabitants of Saint George and Saint Paul; the rival companies strove for their favor; every man, woman, and half-grown child found the most profitable employment; and the coveted luxuries of the Americans, as clothing and dresses, groceries, implements of all kinds, ornaments, musical instruments, &c., which these parties furnished them, as well as the treatment which they received and the liberty which they enjoyed, made their life happy and comfortable.

ATTEMPTING SPECIAL LEGISLATION.

But this was not to remain so long; the arch-enemies of Alaska were plotting to get these islands into their sole possession, and how well their deeply-laid plan succeeded has been shown by subsequent events. It became soon evident, already as early as 1868, that Hutchinson, Kohl & Co. not only controlled the revenue-officers in Alaska and the collector of the port of San Francisco, (who is now the president of the Alaska Commercial Co.), but that they had also gained a great influence at Washington; that deep games were being played in our national capital, and that the Executive and Treasury Departments, as well as Congress, were discriminating in favor of said concern.

The most shrewd and wily members of the company came to Washington, backed by unlimited funds to gorge the greedy vultures that hover around our seat of Government, and immediately such shameless lobbying and intrigues were set in operation that even the old war-horses of the lobby were astounded. As if touched by magic, we see, suddenly, a number of Senators and members of the administration assume the championhip for Hutchinson, Kohl & Co., and soon it was reported that the fur-seal islands were to be leased to them, to the exclusion of everybody else.

When the first rumor of the intended lease of said islands and their inhabitants to a mercantile firm got abroad, it was not believed that such a violation of the letter of law and the spirit of our free country would be attempted. People knew that they were living in the United States of America and not in Turkey, and that a President stood at the head of the nation and not the Shah of Persia. But when the infamous scheme assumed more form, and when Senator Cole, of California, actually introduced his villainous bill in Congress, there arose an outcry against it so loud and distinct that any administration but that at the helm at Washington would have heard and respected it.

GENERAL OPPOSITION.

Not only was the matter daily discussed by the press and universally condemned; not only were the frauds, the corruption, and the misuse in Alaskan affairs again and again exposed and denounced in the most severe language, but all classes of citizens, especially on the Pacific coast, raised their voice against this gigantic scheme. The Chambers of Commerce of San Francisco and several Eastern cities held special sessions and protested against it, and these, as well as the most influential merchants of San Francisco, repeatedly memorialized President Grant and Congress, and appealed to their sense of justice, their patriotism, and their duty.

QUOTATIONS TAKEN FROM THE PRESS AND GENERAL PROTESTS.

We will quote a few of the expressions made in regard to this matter by California papers. In a long article, headed "Monopolizing Alaska," in the Bulletin, January 23, 1869, we find:

Hutchinson, Kohl & Co. having, however, secured for themselves, under a republican
government, all the privileges enjoyed by a company that was one of the worst representa-
tives of Russian serfdom," &c.

The Daily Herald, January 22, 1869, in speaking of Senator Cole's bill, says:

"The bill is utterly indefensible."

The Daily Morning Call, February 18, 1869, brings an article, headed "Gigantic scheme
to monopolize the fur-trade of Alaska," from which we extract the following:

"The bill introduced by Mr. Cole, in the Senate of the United States, to prevent the
extermination of fur-bearing animals in Alaska, embodies a scheme for the wholesale appro-
pration of all the resources of that region by a handful of capitalists, such as cannot but
excite public indignation."

The Bulletin, February 25, says:

"Now, it is better that every fur-bearing seal in Alaska should be destroyed within the
next twelve months than that such a monopoly as this, proposed in Congress, should ever
be perpetuated in the new Territory."

From the Chronicle, January 29, 1869, we quote:

"The merchants of San Francisco, whose interest would suffer severely by the successful
passage of the 'monopoly bill,' have concluded to memorialize Congress against its passage,
and we have been shown the document, which bear the signatures of many of our most
prominent commercial firms."

The Atla California, January 30, 1869, after having commented upon Hutchinson, Kohl
& Co.'s doings in Alaska, continues:

"But a bolder step became necessary to protect them against the restless enterprise of
American citizens, and accordingly they have applied to the Congress of the United States
for such a charter."

And again, in the same article, we find:

"A proposition so monstrous has never been made to any Congress."

And again:

"These wretched Aleuts are handed over, body and soul, to the tender mercies of a single,
grasping firm, to have and to hold in a worse than Russian serfdom, by the legitimate suc-
cessors of the imperial monopoly, which has just been routed out of its stronghold of
power by the (nominal) dawning of republicanism in the hitherto benighted regions of the
North."

And in a letter to the Bulletin, dated Washington, March 26, 1869, we find:

"For some time the pressure brought to bear on the House committee to induce favor-
able action on the Senate bill, has been exceedingly heavy, and the efforts of the would-be
monopolists have been of a nature so earnest and persistent as to excite surprise, even among
the habitants of the Capitol who were most accustomed to witness displays of desperate lob-
ying—surprise, however, which was dissipated when the magnitude of the coveted prize
was placed in view."

While thus the press not only of California, but of the Eastern States as well, condemned
this monstrous scheme, the Chamber of Commerce and the most influential citizens of San
Francisco took the most active steps to prevent the passage of the bill. A memorial to Con-
gress was prepared by San Francisco merchants, January 28, 1869, which reads as fol-
lows:

"We, the undersigned merchants of the city of San Francisco, California, specially in-
terested in the trade of Alaska, and also interested for the honor of our country in the estima-
tion of the civilized world, and anxious to save the inhabitants of Alaska from a slavery
inconsistent with our Federal Constitution, and opposed to a ruinous monopoly, destructive
not only to the interests of trade, but obnoxious to our free institutions, do solemnly pro-
test, in behalf not only of ourselves and of the Pacific coast, but of commerce, humanity,
justice, and an enlightened public policy, against the passage of the bill now before the Con-
gress of the United States, and introduced by Senator Cole, of this State, entitled 'An act to
prevent the extermination of fur-bearing animals in Alaska, and to protect the inhabitants
thereof.'"

"We, in common with all the citizens of the Pacific coast, feel a deep interest in the newly-
acquired Territory of Alaska, and see it in its great natural resources a legitimate source of
wealth to enterprising merchants and traders, and we are unwilling that the whole trade of
this vast region should be monopolized by one firm, whose only claim to public consideration
is the large fortune it has made in that Territory, and its persistent and too successful en-
deavors to discourage and destroy competition."

While the helpless inhabitants of Alaska are unable to memorialize your honorable body
for themselves, and plead in their own behalf, we, as a matter of justice and humanity, pro-
test in their name against the attempt now being made through this bill to reduce them to a
condition of vassalage to one company, from whom we believe they have already suffered
much.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

Agapinus Honcharenko, Taylor and Bendel, E. Tibbey, John Parrott, Louis B. Parrott,
baum and Co., L. E. Heck and Co., Fordham and Jennings, Wellman, Peck and Co.,
Mitchell and Kessing, Irvine and Co., Wilmerding and Kellogg, A. Walker, L. N. Handy
20 ALASKA TERRITORY


"San Francisco, California, January 28th, 1869."

Another memorial, to President Grant, which was prepared in June, and very extensively signed, contains still more urgent language, it reads:

Memorial to the President of the United States, for the protection of the rights and interests of the people and Government of the United States in the Territory of Alaska, by merchant and citizens of the city of San Francisco. California.

Your petitioners, merchants, bankers, and business men of the city of San Francisco, engaged or deeply interested in the trade of Alaska, and in its development, respectfully submit the following memorial for the consideration of the Executive of the United States, trusting that it will be favorably regarded and acted upon.

The condition of affairs in Alaska, from the time that Territory was ceded to the United States, has been, and still continues to be, highly prejudicial to the rights of the citizens of the Pacific coast, and especially of this city, interested in its commerce, and, we deeply regret to say, disreputable to the United States revenue-officers in that Territory, and unfortunate for the true interests of our Government therein.

We will not weary you with lengthy details, but respectfully submit the following facts, of which we have been informed, and which we believe to be true. They are within the personal knowledge of some of your petitioners.

The trade of Alaska, or, at least, that portion of it which relates to the killing of seals and the acquisition of their skins, has been, from the first, controlled by the firm of Hutchinson, Kohl & Co., to the exclusion of other merchants and traders, who profess the same legal right in that Territory.

The said firm has been permitted to control the action of United States revenue-officers in Alaska, to secure its interests and break down and expel all competitors.

Mr. Samuel Falconer, special deputy collector at Sitka, is an agent of said firm. In confirmation of this statement we submit the following extract from the Alaska Herald, published in this city, of May 1, 1869:

"Hutchinson, Kohl & Co. Imagine that all Russian America is their empire. A few weeks ago Mr. Falconer, the agent of this firm in Alaska, also deputy collector at Sitka, seized the schooners Alaska and Lewis Perry, not for the violation of the law, but to prevent these traders from doing business in their empire."

Nearly every steamer attached to the United States military posts in Alaska is an agent or employe of said firm. The six citizens permitted by law to remain upon the islands of Saint Paul and Saint George, a United States military reservation, are all connected with said firm. Other officers of the Federal Government in Alaska, if not in the actual employ of said firm, are at least attached to it in interest by corrupt means.

The natural consequence of this deplorable condition of things is, that the said firm controls almost the whole revenue service of this Government in Alaska, and that the revenue-officers use their power, authority and influence, in many cases corruptly, to advance the interests of said firm, and crush out all competition, thereby leaving the whole trade of Alaska in the hands of the most valuable portion of it, with said firm.

Said firm has been repeatedly permitted to openly violate or disregard the Treasury and custom-house regulations and military orders, affecting the trade of Alaska, while the same have been enforced against all others with undue rigor, in violation of their true spirit and intent. All but the agents and employes of said firm have been expelled from the United States military posts in Alaska.

Steamers and ships belonging to citizens of San Francisco, lawfully engaged in trade with Alaska, have been seized by United States revenue-officers, in said Territory, in the interests of said firm, and for its benefit, without due process of law, and in violation of law.

Even vessels attached to the revenue service of the United States have been used by said firm for the transportation of its property, while the expense of the same was paid out of the public Treasury.

Upon the islands of Saint George and Saint Paul, said firm, through its agents in settlements attached to the United States military posts, has been permitted to monopolize the trade in the fur-seals, only found on said islands, to the exclusion of all other citizens.

We respectfully submit, that the monopoly of the trade of Alaska, possessed by the said firm, is in violation of our laws, and of the spirit of our institutions, and is in gross violation and disregard of the rights of your petitioners, in common with all other citizens of the United States.
States in said Territory, and that we feel deeply aggrieved thereby. We respectfully pray that such measures may be taken by this Government as will put an end to said monopoly, and admit all other citizens of the United States to equal rights and participation in the trade of Alaska.

We further submit, that the natives of Alaska are ignorant of the United States laws and Treasury regulations for that Territory, because the same have not been published in their language—the Russian—which nearly all the Alaskans can read and write.

We respectfully recommend that the same be published in the Alaska Herald, a newspaper printed in the Russian and English languages in this city, in the Russian language, and also printed in that language, for gratuitous distribution among the five thousand natives of Alaska, who, we are informed, can read. We further respectfully submit, that said laws and regulations are not known and understood by the people on this coast, and respectfully recommend that the same be published in one or more of the public newspapers of this city.

Your petitioners pray that an investigation may be ordered, forthwith, into the administration of the revenue-laws and regulations in Alaska, and that all officers in the employ of, or receiving pay from, said firm of Hutchinson, Kohl & Co., be forthwith discharged from the public service, and be succeeded by faithful and disinterested men, who shall be free from the corrupt influences of said firm, and abstain from administering their offices and wielding their power and authority for its benefit. That all the sutlers now attached to United States military posts in Alaska, being all, or nearly all, in the employ of said firm, be forthwith discharged, and superseded by disinterested men.

Your petitioners further recommend and pray, that no person, other than natives of Alaska be permitted to engage in the trade of said Territory, unless he first file his declaration of his purpose so to do, with the collector of this port that no vessel be permitted to clear for Alaska, or enter any of its ports, or touch at any portion of its territory, without first having obtained a clearance from the custom-house of San Francisco direct for Alaska, and the filing in said office of a declaration by the owner or master of such vessel that the same will engage in the trade of Alaska. Several vessels have sailed from Siberia to Alaska, loaded with opium and other goods, upon which heavy duties are imposed, and by going direct to Sitka and clearing there for this city, as though their cargoes were the products of Alaska, have escaped the payment of duties upon their cargoes, thus defrauding the revenue of the United States of large sums, which, we believe, amount in the aggregate to more than two hundred thousand dollars; that no vessel be permitted to engage in the fur-seal trade of Alaska, without a clearance from the custom-house at San Francisco, and a declaration by the owner or master thereof, filed therein, of intention to kill or purchase fur-seals, or to do both; that none but citizens of the United States be permitted to engage in the trade of said Territory, unless he first file his declaration of his purpose to do, with the collector of this port that no vessel be permitted to clear for Alaska, or reside on said islands, or to purchase seal-skins procured thereon, and that, consequently, said firm possesses a monopoly of said trade, to the manifest prejudice of the public, and to the detriment of the public revenue, which loses the sum that might with competition be collected on said skins.

Your petitioners would further respectfully recommend and pray, with respect to the fur-seal trade of Alaskas, that laws be passed, and in the mean-time Treasury regulations be promulgated, prohibiting the killing of seals upon the islands of Saint George and Saint Paul by any but natives of Alaska, and except from September to November of each year, and that only a certain number per annum on each island be killed; that it shall be unlawful to kill female seals, or pups under one year of age. That every seal-skin, before its sale, be exhibited to a United States inspector, to be appointed on each of said islands for such purpose, who, if the same appear to have been killed in violation of law, shall confiscate the same for the public benefit, and fine or punish, in such manner as may be prescribed, the person exhibiting the same; that said skins be sold to traders in the presence of such inspectors, and at that time of sale by the natives, the purchaser thereof be required to pay such inspectors such Government tax as may be imposed for each skin, and, after such payment, the said skins shall be stamped or branded by such officers.

We respectfully submit, that at present, no person other than United States troops and revenue-officers, and agents to said Hutchinson, Kohl & Co., are permitted to reside or land upon either of said islands, or to purchase seal-skins procured thereon, and that, consequently, said firm possesses a monopoly of said trade, to the manifest prejudice of the public, and to the detriment of the public revenue, which loses the sum that might with competition be collected on said skins.

We respectfully recommend and pray that some one place on each of said islands may be designated as a public market, in which citizens of the United States may be permitted to reside and purchase said seal-skins, during a certain season to be designated for the sale of the same; and that the purchase of such seal-skins in said markets may be thereon open to the competition of citizens of the United States; or, that the right to purchase said seal-skins upon said islands, each separately, be sold at public auction in San Francisco, to the responsible bidder who offers the highest sum therefor, and that no person or firm be permitted to purchase such franchise for more than one of said islands; or that sealed bids for the sale of such franchise be received by the collector of this port, or the Treasury agent of the United States in this city.

We respectfully request that an answer to this memorial be forwarded to the

SAN FRANCISCO, June 15, 1869.
The chamber of commerce, at regular and special sessions, discussed the matter earnestly, and at a meeting held on February 22, 1869, the president was instructed to telegraph to our delegates in Congress, requesting them to unitedly use their influence to at least delay action upon the subject of a disposition of the fur-seal interest of Alaska.

At this meeting a petition of Aleuts to the chamber of commerce of San Francisco was received, imploring the same for aid and protection against oppression by Hutchinson, Kohl & Co.

Soon after, a special meeting having been called for the purpose, the chamber of commerce memorialized Congress, asking equal rights for all parties, and at the same time protection to the fur-bearing animals, and a bill in regard to Alaska was prepared by the former, and submitted to the latter, which, if it had been adopted, would have solved the problem to everybody's satisfaction.

But amidst all this storm of indignation and protests, the President of the United States and the Congress, then in session, exhibited the utmost disregard for the wishes of the people so unmistakably pronounced.

The interest of the whole Pacific coast, the clamor of the entire press, the loud voice of the public, and the plain letter of the Constitution of the United States were outweighed by the influence of one concern, that came prepared with unlimited funds which it distributed with a lavish hand. It was coolly resolved that the principal wealth of Alaska should be handed over to Hutchinson, Kohl & Co., and that the unfortunate Aleuts of Saint Paul and Saint George should be delivered into their hands; but as this could not be done without Congress having regularly acted upon it, a plan was devised which would enable Hutchinson, Kohl & Co. to enjoy in the mean time all the privileges which they coveted.

FAVORITISM SHOWN BY THE GOVERNMENT TO HUTCHINSON, KOHL & CO.

This was done in the following manner: In order to prevent the speedy extermination of the fur-seals, it was resolved that the Government itself should take charge of the islands till Congress had acted upon the matter, and that no more seals should be killed than were needed for the support of the inhabitants, say from 2,000 to 3,000; (so far so good, a most excellent measure; but now comes the real object,) and that all parties, then having stations on the islands should be driven off, except Hutchinson, Kohl & Co., and Williams & Haven, the latter of which had consolidated with the former.

Collector Miller, of San Francisco, received therefore a dispatch signed by Secretary McCulloch, and dated Washington, February 13, 1869, which says:

"Steamer Alexander (belonging to Hutchinson, Kohl & Co.) may clear inballast with sea-stores direct for Saint Paul and Saint George, to remove property of owners, and part of their employes; send with her two trustworthy inspectors to remain on said islands, and prevent landing of any person or merchandise until relieved by Lincoln."

Thus Hutchinson, Kohl & Co.'s vessel was commissioned to do the Government's work, and General Miller, who soon after resigned his collectorship to become president of the Alaska Commercial Company, was instructed with the selection of two trustworthy inspectors. Of course these orders were only a form; the real intention was that Hutchinson, Kohl & Co. should take immediate possession of Saint Paul and Saint George, and when Col. Frank W. Wicker, then collector of Alaska, and Mr. Vincent Colyer visited the islands during 1869, as special agents of the Government, they found that instead of 3,000 seals altogether over 60,000 seals had been killed on Saint Paul alone; and when Colonel Wicker made a report of the fact to the Government, he was immediately relieved. The skins were of course appropriated by Hutchinson, Kohl & Co.

During the same year, when Mr. Thomas Taylor, of the firm of Taylor & Bendel, of San Francisco, touched at the islands in his schooner, Page, to look after his property, which his employes had been forced to abandon, he found that his buildings had been appropriated by the Government, and he was peremptorily ordered to leave.

THE LEASE.

When the chances of Hutchinson, Kohl & Co. of getting possession of the fur-seal islands became almost a certainty, not only Williams & Haven had joined them, but Collector Miller (who is a special friend and favorite of General Grant, and who had served the company so well and his country so badly) resigned his collectorship of the port of San Francisco to become president of this enlarged concern, which now called itself "The Alaska Commercial Company." In the mean time, while the lobbying at Washington went bravely on, it had been decided that said islands were to be leased, but in order to preserve at least an appearance of fairness, not to the Alaska Commercial Company, but to the highest bidder; but that this was nothing else but a blind to satisfy and appease the public. Subsequent events have sufficiently proven.

Congress passed an act entitled:
AN ACT to prevent the extermination of fur-bearing animals in Alaska, approved July 1, 1870.

The principal provisions of the act are the following:
No more than 100,000 seals a year are allowed to be killed on both islands together, (75,000 seals on Saint Paul Island, and 25,000 on Saint George Island,) under pain of forfeiture of the lease.

Terms of the lease twenty years from May 1, 1870. The yearly rental to be no less than $50,000 per annum.
The lease to be made immediately after the passage of the act—to the best advantage of the United States—to proper and responsible parties, having due regard to the interest of the Government, the native inhabitants, the parties heretofore engaged in the trade, and the preservation of the seal-fisheries.

The wording of the act clearly indicates that the lease should go to the highest responsible bidder filling the conditions and qualifications required by the act. This seems also to have been the opinion of Secretary Boutwell, but the Alaska Commercial Company insisted that the lease-act was passed for their special benefit. They were so importunate that the Secretary of the Treasury felt induced to apply to the Attorney-General for advice.

This application was made in a letter, under date of July 2, 1870, to the purport that the lease should be awarded to the highest responsible bidder, to the best advantage of the United States, according to the wording of the act.

The Secretary of the Treasury then issued the following advertisement, dated July 8, 1870:

"Advertisement.

The Secretary of the Treasury will receive sealed proposals until 12 o'clock noon, Wednesday, the 20th of July inst., for the exclusive right to take fur-seals upon the islands Saint Paul and Saint George, Alaska, for the term of twenty years from the 1st day of May, 1870, agreeably to the provisions of an act approved July 1, 1870, entitled 'An act to prevent the extermination of fur-bearing animals in Alaska.'

In addition to the specific terms prescribed in the act, the successful bidder will be required to provide a suitable building for a public school on each island, and to pay the expense of maintaining a school therein for not less than eight months in each year, as may be required by the Secretary of the Treasury.

'Also to pay the natives of the islands for the labor performed by them, as may be necessary for their proper support, under regulations as may be prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury.'

The remaining Alaska traders, though having strenuously worked against the lease-act while it was pending, knew full well that the lease in such hands as those of the Alaska Commercial Company would be equivalent to a monopoly of the whole of Alaska Territory, and also equivalent to their gradual ejection from it.

They were consequently compelled, in order to save their investments, to compete for and bid on the lease.

The 20th day of July was the last day of receiving bids. On that last day the Treasury Department issued a singular memorandum, which we subjoin:

"Office of the Secretary, July 20, 1870.

Memorandum in reference to bids for the exclusive right to take fur-seals upon the islands Saint Paul and Saint George, read before the persons present at the opening of the bids at 12 o'clock noon, July 20, 1870:

First. The successful bidder will be required to deposit security within three days, to the amount of $50,000 in lawful money or bonds of the United States, for the due execution of the contract, agreeably to 'An act to prevent the extermination of fur-bearing animals in Alaska,' approved July 1, 1870.

Second. It being apparent from the language employed in the act aforesaid that it was the intention of Congress to give a preference to the Alaska Commercial Company in the award of their contracts, I think it proper to state, before the bids are opened, that the contract will be awarded to the said company if their proposal shall be not more than ten per cent. below that of the highest bidder.

Third. No bid will be accepted unless made by a responsible party acquainted with the business, or skilled in kindred pursuits to such an extent as to render it probable that the contract will be so executed as to secure the results contemplated by the lease.

The Secretary then proceeded to open the bids, of which there were fourteen. The lowest bid was that of the Alaska Commercial Company, amounting to $65,000 rental a year, and the highest bid that of Louis Goldstone, for a combination of various San Francisco firms, amounting to a yearly rental of $227,500.

The principal parties in the combination of firms from whom Goldstone had made the bids were the firm of Taylor & Bendel, one of the most respectable and prominent houses of San Francisco, that had been engaged in the Alaska trade from its opening, and having the additional advantage over the Alaska Commercial Company of prior occupation. The inquiries
immediately instituted by the Government in Washington, through the agency of Custom-house Collector Phelps, of San Francisco, as to their standing and responsibility, were of a character in every way satisfactory.

Notwithstanding this and the great discrepancy in the bids, the Alaska Commercial Company entered various protests, which were referred by Mr. Boutwell to the Attorney-General, then Mr. A. T. Akerman, who heard arguments on both sides, and under date of July 29th decided in favor of Goldstone and associates.

After the delivery of Mr. Akerman's opinion, it was everywhere taken for granted that the lease would be awarded to Goldstone. Nobody had any doubt of it. All obstacles had been removed, and all protests done away with.

On July 30 Mr. Goldstone consequently called at the Treasury Office for the lease, but to his utter astonishment and consternation he was informed that the lease had been awarded to the Alaska Commercial Company, on the terms of his own (Goldstone's) bid. The communication was made by Acting Secretary William A. Richardson, whose face in giving the information was crimsoned with shame. Mr. Boutwell had secretly left for Massachusetts.

Thus it came to pass that the scheme succeeded; that slavery and bondage, for the abolition of which a few years before the best blood of America had been sacrificed, was here restored and was openly sanctioned by Congress; that free and liberal America had openly granted a monopoly of trade, and was placed on a footing with the most despotic of the powers of Europe, Russia, and that Christian communities, together with their two islands, were leased to the Alaska Commercial Company for twenty years. Alas! Alaska was then, indeed, an appropriate term.

ACCUSED OF BRIBERY.

If the prize that the Alaska Commercial Company had thus gained was enormous, it can be imagined that a tremendous sum had to be sacrificed to satisfy the political cormorants, and the press in those days made the most sweeping charges against members of Congress and members of the administration, and there was an ugly rumor that the brother-in-law of the President, Mr. Dent, had been made a partner of the concern at the eleventh hour.

STATE OF THE INHABITANTS OF THE FUR-SEAL ISLANDS.

Although the Alaska Commercial Company has, ever since the wretched people of Saint George and Saint Paul were delivered into their hands, asserted that the latter are well satisfied with their condition, and that they are as happy as the day is long; yet the meager news that, in spite of the vigilance of the company, have reached San Francisco, tell a different tale, and they are so restricted by the terms of the lease that they are in nothing else but a state of bondage and slavery.

The inhabitants of these islands are shut off from communication with the outer world like a colony of convicts, as no vessel is permitted to touch at, or no person allowed to land on, their soil except those belonging to the Alaska Commercial Company. They are not allowed to leave the island without permission. They are forced to accept 40 cents per skin, which are worth from $10 to $20 each at London, and they must pay for the commodities of life what the Alaska Commercial Company demands of them. And if we consider that they are brought into this condition by the Government of the United States, which has the sacred duty to protect the personal liberty of every individual within its domain, we cannot imagine a more flagrant case of the violation of the principles of republicanism than that which here presents itself.

Considering, furthermore, the course which Hutchinson, Kohl & Co., which is now the Alaska Commercial Company, have ever pursued since their name has been known, how little they have respected what humanity, law, and justice demands, we are forced to believe that the condition of the inhabitants of Saint George and Saint Paul is not such as they represent; and that the latter deeply feel their degradation and long for the light of freedom which sheds its rays everywhere within the wide boundaries of our country, except at this benighted spot, has been shown by that touching appeal which, after many obstacles, finally reached the ears of the American people, but only to be left unheed by those parties that wielded the power and that held the remedy in their hands, but whose interest was at stake.

THE SUPPRESSED PETITION.

We refer to the famous petition of the inhabitants of Saint George Island, which cannot be read without a feeling of regret, shame, and indignation, and the history of which, briefly given, is as follows:

When the fur-seal islands had been about a year in possession of the Alaska Commercial Company, there arrived in San Francisco a native of the island of Saint George, by the name of Peter Rupi, who brought to Apagius Homesharenko, editor of the Alaska Herald, a paper published in San Francisco, a petition, written in the Russian language, which had
THE SUPPRESSED PETITION.

We, the undersigned natives of Saint George Island, Alaska, and citizens of the United States, by virtue of treaty stipulations, feeling aggrieved at the mismanagement of the affairs of this Territory, resulting in serious grievances to us, availed ourselves of the medium of a petition to the General Government, in the hopes of accomplishing, through such means, such reforms in the management of Alaskan affairs as would tend to ameliorate the unhappy condition in which we found ourselves placed.

This petition was framed in 1869, and was intrusted to the care of our countryman I. Archimandritoff, to be forwarded to the proper authorities at Washington for their action thereon in our relief; but we are sorry to say it never reached its destination. Again we prepared the petition, and this time, to assure its delivery to the authorities at Washington, we intrusted it to Mr. N. Byninctki, a United States official from Washington, at the time present on the island. This officer received the petition in 1870, and promised faithfully to present the same to the authorities at Washington; but on his return among us, in the year 1871, we were again destined to disappointment, for on our urgent inquiry as to what had been done with our petition we received no answer. We have, in view of these facts, been forced to the conclusion that our petition to insure us the redress of our grievances, addressed to the supreme authority at Washington, has been suppressed.

Now, therefore, we, the undersigned, forward, for publication in the Alaska Herald a copy of the said suppressed petition, in hopes that it may, by that means, reach the ear of the General Government, and the proper authorities thereof, at Washington.

Petition.

SAINT GEORGE ISLAND, ALASKA, August 5, 1871.

We, the undersigned natives of Saint George Island, Alaska, and citizens of the United States, consider that we have been treated by the United States Government without due consideration to our wants and necessities.

That we can read and write, and are capable of holding correspondence with the Government.

That Government, without consulting us, or understanding our situation, wants, and necessities, leased the island on which we live for twenty years, thereby virtually sentencing us to a twenty years' imprisonment.

That we recognize by this act that we have been reduced to a species of slavery, and that we are compelled to labor and to receive thereof only forty cents per fur-seal-skin, or 50 cents per day for labor, when we can procure it, an amount entirely inadequate to our wants and which leaves us dependents and paupers, checking our prosperity, and impeding the progress of our civilization.

That in consequence the education of our children, a privilege secured to other citizens of the United States, must be abandoned. Morally, religiously, socially, and commercially, our destiny is in the hands of the lessees of the Government.

We are the slaves of these lessees, and at their mercy.

We are shut out from all intercourse with other portions of the republic, and are consequently debarred from improvement by mutual correspondence with sister communities, and from learning through such intercourse how to advance in the common civilization of our country.

Even merchants and traders are excluded from our shores by these lessees, and competition is thus cut off, and we are dependent only on the mercies of our masters. The employés of the company (lessees of our island) often beat and violently assault us, threatening to drive every Aleut from the island, and that they have that power, through this lease, obtained by them from Government at a cost of many thousand dollars. These employés are careless and indifferent about the fur-seal, our only resource and support for ourselves and families.

The lessees are permitted to kill 25,000 per annum. When we bring them skins, they select only the first-class skins, and order us to take the rest out of their sight. By this means, out of one hundred skins, about 75 are purchased by them, and the rest, 25 skins, have to be thrown into the sea. The rejected skins which are cast into the sea and destroyed would find a ready sale with other outside traders, who are eager to purchase them; and thus are the fur-seals gradually disappearing; our labor is partially lost, and 25 per cent. of the wealth of our industry is lost to us because no one is allowed to visit our shores to trade with us, but the lessees of our island, whom we are compelled to regard in the light of masters and even tyrants.

In conclusion, we beg respectfully of the United States Government, and of our fellow-citizens all over the republic, to regard us not as wild Indians—we are not such—but as fellow...
citizens struggling to advance in civilization, and to become worthy to be esteemed as fellow-citizens of the republic.

Peter Rezantzow,  
Andronic Rezantzow,  
Niciphor Veculow,  
Peter Rupi,  
Alexis Shvetcow,  
Egor Koleschow,  
Ivan Plimenomon,  
Sabbia Koleschow,  
Job Philemonow,  
Zacha: Ustugow,  
Platon Veculow,  
Ciprian Mercuriew,  
Peter Chlebow,  
Ustin Shvetcow,  
Semen Philemonow,  
Alexis Galamin,  
Boris Gaismin,  
Alexis Ustugow,  
Barpholomeus Malovanski,  
Ivan Shein,  
Ivan Popoff,  
Alexander Ustugow,  
Sebastian Mercuriew,  
Neophit Shvetcow,  
Joseph Shvetcow,  
Nicholas Ustogow,  
Phoca Shein,  
Ivan Akupski.

This petition created a sensation in California as well as in the East, and was a bombshell to the Alaska Commercial Company. Again did the press raise its voice in behalf of these unfortunate Aleuts; again was the unconstitutionality of the lease held up before the public, and again were justice and fairness demanded. But once more did the storm of indignation break upon the stoical front that the Government presented; the Alaska Commercial Company declared the petition a fabrication, and probably spent another cool $50,000 where it did most good, and that ended the matter. The Government did not take the slightest notice of the petition, and the Alaska Commercial Company has been careful that not another one should leave the island again.

We exclaim, again, Alas, Alaska!

ONE MORE EFFORT.

It was now evident, beyond all doubt, that, although the General Government was fully acquainted with every detail of this disgraceful affair, no redress could be obtained at Washington; still, one more effort was made by the indignant citizens of San Francisco, and, in February, 1872, the senate of the State of California was memorialized and implored to use its influence with the Government of the United States in behalf of this cause. We give here the memorial:

Memorial to the honorable the Senate and the House of Representatives of the State of California.

The memorial of the undersigned, citizens of the United States and merchants and traders of the city of San Francisco, most respectfully represents:

That whereas the purchase of the Territory of Alaska by the United States Government, at a cost of over $7,000,000, paid out of the public Treasury, was a national act, the purpose of which was the acquisition of territory with a view to the eventual carrying out the terms of a State or States for admission into the Union, with power reserved in the General Government intermediate such acquisition, and the ultimate object for which all territory is acquired, to exercise such authority over the same as a wise and prudent administration should dictate;

And whereas the isolated position of Alaska, and the peculiar resources of that Territory render the inhabitants thereof singularly dependent on commerce for the supply of most of the necessaries of life, without which they must be abandoned to the most pitiable privations and be reduced to the most urgent distress;

And whereas, in view of the above facts, a wise and prudent administration of the affairs in the government of said Territory would dictate that trade and intercourse between said Territory and the rest of the republic should be guaranteed free, uninterrupted and untrammeled, and every facility should be afforded by the General Government to promote such intercourse for the mutual benefit of all citizens of the republic, and for the development of such resources as may lie dormant in that distant territory;

And whereas the entire Pacific coast is immediately interested in the promotion of such trade and intercourse with Alaska, and especially the State of California, whose position and resources and commercial facilities especially design it to be the purveyor to the wants of its fellow-citizens in Alaska, and the magazine from which may be drawn such supplies as may be required by them and not afforded in their latitude;

And whereas the Congress of the United States, in the exercise of its legitimate authority, given under paragraph 3 of Section VIII of Article I of the Federal Constitution, which empowers Congress "to regulate commerce among the several States, &c., has unwisely, injudiciously, and imprudently, and in the absence of all knowledge of the wants, rights, and desires of the people of that Territory, and by undue influence and corrupt practices of parties personally and pecuniarily interested, seeking to betray the interests of said people, and to mislead and deceive the General Government, made a certain contract with the Alaska Commercial Company, in the nature of a lease of the important islands of St. Paul and St.
George in Behring Sea, the said islands being the only known home of the fur-seal in America;

And whereas by the terms of said contract, or lease, Congress has surrendered to the said company, for a period of twenty years, the entire resources of the said islands, together with the inhabitants thereof, in their foreign intercourse and the entire regulation of the trade therewith, and has invested the said company with such arbitrary privileges and powers as to virtually give to said company a monopoly of the entire resources and commercial interests of the said Territory, thereby shutting in the inhabitants thereof from all intercourse, through the medium of commerce, with their fellow-citizens elsewhere in the Union except through the agents and employes of the said monopoly;

And whereas, by the terms of the said contract or lease, the Congress of the United States has abdicated in favor of said monopoly that portion of the sovereign power of the Government of the United States which can rightfully be exercised by Congress alone;

And whereas the executive branch of the General Government, through its officers and agents, thereto prompted by like undue influences and corrupt practices and means, has been led to sustain and support the said monopoly in the illegal exercise of its unconstitutional privileges and powers; in that—

It has surrendered itself, through its revenue-officers in Alaska, to the control of this monopoly;

It has permitted Federal officers to act as agents of the said monopoly;

It has permitted Federal officers to become stockholders in said monopoly;

It has suffered the said monopoly, from time to time and on repeated occasions, to violate with impunity the customs, regulations, and military orders affecting trade with Alaska, by the laxity and collusion of its agents, acting in the double capacity of Federal officers and agents of the said monopoly, while the said regulations and orders were rigorously and arbitrarily enforced against other merchants and traders, to a degree in violation of the spirit and intent of the same;

It has caused steamers and vessels to be illegally seized and sold by its officers in Alaska at the dictation of the said monopoly, and upon pretended infractions of the said regulations and orders, solely for the purpose of impeding commerce, driving out competition with said monopoly, and to suppress trade with the people of Alaska, and have thereby entailed great loss to the commercial interests of California, and subjected the merchants of this State to great cost and expense in contesting false and frivolous charges preferred by executive officials acting in the said double capacity as Federal officers and agents of the said monopoly;

It has, through its agents on this coast, prostituted its powers at the dictation of, and in the interest of, said monopoly, to hedge in, confine, and cripple the rights and privileges of the salmon and codfish fleets of this State sailing in Alaskan waters, by forbidding the bartering of merchandise, even for necessary supplies, while the same officials have permitted the fishing-vessels of the said monopoly to exercise unrestricted trade with that Territory;

It has suffered its revenue-cutters, while in public service and under public expense and pay, to be used by the said monopoly for the transportation of the effects of said monopoly;

And whereas the executive branch of the General Government, by the acts aforesaid and otherwise, has abdicated that portion of the sovereign power and authority which can rightfully be exercised by the Executive of the Government alone, acting through agents and officers exclusively devoted to the duties of their respective offices, in favor of the agents of said monopoly, claiming to act under the double capacity of agents for both the Government and said monopoly;

And whereas the legitimate consequence of said abdication by the legislative and executive powers of the General Government, and the delegation of these powers to the said monopoly, its agents and officers, has been an almost total suppression of trade and commerce with every portion of Alaska, so that intercourse with the people and inhabitants of that Territory is rendered difficult and expensive if not impossible; the productions of the said Territory have been locked up, and the large commercial interests of the Pacific coast, and of this State in particular, suffer and decline, while the inhabitants of Alaska have been, by the action of the General Government, consigned to a species of slavery for the term of twenty years; they are thus held as prisoners, virtually chained and manacled, without having committed any breach of the laws or been found guilty of having committed any crimes. This is a violent usurpation of the sacred guarantees of the Constitution. The people of the United States have shed their best blood and hampered themselves with debt to give freedom to four millions of slaves. Now, by a strange coincidence, they find that they have paid over $7,000,000 for Alaska, one direct result of which has been the enslavement of a portion of its inhabitants. Such a gross insult to the American spirit of liberty deserves to be blotted from the records of our national life which it has disgraced. In this age, when the watchword is the universal brotherhood of man; when the Africans, the Chinese and other nations, long held in servitude, are feeling the glorious impulses of freedom as known to the citizens of the American Republic, is it not a shame and a crime that the foul spot of serfdom and slavery curses

ALASKA TERRITORY.
Alaska? Surely the action of Congress in legislating away the lives and liberty of the Alaskans to a soulless monopoly must arouse in the hearts of the American people a public sentiment which will immediately annul such a piece of barbarous legislation:

Now therefore we, the undersigned, being personally cognizant of the above fact, and sincere in the deductions arrived therefrom, would, in view thereof, most respectfully petition your honorable bodies in joint convention, by concurrent resolution, address the Congress of the United States, at its present session, petitioning that honorable body, in the interests of your memorialists and of the merchants and traders and commerce of San Francisco, the Pacific coast, and the entire nation, and in the interests of humanity and progress, of right and justice, and in vindication of the integrity of our institutions which denounce all efforts at the enthrallment of the people or any portion thereof, to annul the said illegal and unconstitutional contract or lease above mentioned, and to open up Alaska to free and unrestricted commercial intercourse, subject only to such wise and wholesome general regulations of trade as will act and be binding upon all alike; and as a preliminary to such a step, praying that a commission be appointed by Congress, at its present session, to investigate the evils which attend the management of Alaskan affairs, and the infrac- ti ons of the terms of the said contract or lease by the said Alaska Commercial Company, said commission to be composed in whole or in part of merchants of San Francisco.


Now, what was the fate of this memorial? It was presented to the California legislature by Senator Perkins on February 9th, 1872, and referred to the committee on Federal relations. General Miller immediately interviewed this committee and pronounced the statements set forth in said memorial as false, and his word outweighed the signatures of hundreds of the best citizens of San Francisco, and said honest committee refused to forward the memorial to Congress.

THE RESULT OF THE LEASE.

From the day the lease was signed the doom of Alaska was sealed. Baffled and cut off on all sides, the dismayed firms and individuals that followed their various pursuits in the country, were forced to withdraw, one after another; the plans then under consideration were abandoned, and to-day there are hardly any white men in the Territory but the employees of the Alaska Commercial Company. It seems strange at the first glance, that the lease of two small islands should stop the development of the whole immense Territory, but it is not more so than that the possession of a narrow thread of land through a country should give a railroad ring the power to lord it over cities, counties, and States.

On said two islands—Saint George and Saint Paul—the wealth is heaped up on the beach in the form of millions of fur-seals, worth from $10 to $20 each, and without exertion the Alaska Commercial Company makes here alone about $1,000,000 clear profit per year. (The dividends of the Alaska Commercial Company for 1873 reached $1,300,000.) Now with such immense riches at its command it is an easy matter for this company to crush any enterprise in the rest of the whole Territory, which it claims as its own dominion, and where enough natural dangers and difficulties await the trader, fisherman, and explorer, without those prepared for them by an overwhelming monopoly.

As already the old tyrannical Russian company correctly anticipated that enterprise, discovery, and the development of the Territory would interfere with their fur-trade, would attract the attention of outsiders, and would curtail their privileges, so has also the Alaska Commercial Company made it its principle to exclude everybody but itself from Alaska, and has therefore declared war against everything that looks like enterprise, exploration, discovery, immigration, and development; and as already explained, through the means of the tremendous wealth and other advantages, furnished to it by the lease of the fur-sea-islands, has already succeeded in making itself the master of the whole Territory.

To give striking proof how, since the advent of the Alaska Commercial Company, the
trade with the Territory has almost entirely ceased, we will give the lists of the vessels that cleared for Alaska during the months of February, March, and April, respectively, in 1869 and 1874.

GREAT DIMINUTION OF TRADE.

We will say, as an explanation, that the spring and early summer is the time when most ships sail for Alaska. They go up in spring and return in fall, as during the winter the coasts of Alaska are the most dangerous localities in the world.

Vessels cleared for Alaska in---

1869.

Feb. 7. Schooner Legal Tender, Alsop & Co.
Feb. 27. Bark Washington, N. Bichard.
Mar. 5. Steamer Alexander, Hutchinson, Kohl & Co.
Mar. 7. Schooner Alaska, Lynde & Hough.
Mar. 7. Schooner General Harney, T. F. Tittel.
Mar. 10. Steamer Constantine, Hutchinson, Kohl & Co.
Mar. 10. Schooner Alice, Malovansky & Co.
Mar. 11. Ship Cesarewicz, Ice Company.
Mar. 20. Brig Victoria, Wright & Bowne.
Apr. 2. Schooner Page, Taylor & Bendel.
Apr. 7. Brig Commodore, Parrott & Co.
Apr. 17. Brig Olga, Ice Company.
Apr. 18. Bark Peking, Ice Company.
Apr. 18. Schooner Fanny, W. N. Shelby.
Apr. 27. Schooner Lizzie, C. I. Janson.
Apr. 27. Bark Atalanta, Pope & Talbot.

This list does not include the fishing-vessels.

We see that, while during the months of February, March, and April, as many as twenty-four vessels sailed for Alaska in 1869, of which only three belonged to Hutchinson, Kohl & Co., and twenty-one to other parties, during the same months in 1874 only seven vessels cleared for the Territory, of which five belonged to the Alaska Commercial Company and only two to other firms, or eighteen less than in 1869.

Do not these figures tell a serious tale? Does it not prove that we can safely assert that the interest of the whole Pacific coast has been injured by the lease; that the Alaska Commercial Company has a monopoly over the whole Territory of Alaska, and that it has killed its trade?

Most positively does it prove all this, and this state of affairs has long been feared and predicted by the press, by the merchants, and by the general public of the Pacific coast, as we have already circumstantially explained in the foregoing pages.

THE COMMENTS OF THE PRESS.

We will again quote a few of the many papers and authors that have recognized the fact and have discussed the matter.

In a work entitled "Hidden Treasures: or, Fishing Around the Northwest Coast," a very able little work, by J. L. McDonald, we find the following:

"The villainous law, passed ostensibly for the protection of fur-bearing animals, should
have been more justly entitled 'An act to enslave the people of Alaska, to obstruct the fisheries, and to check the development of the northwest coast.' By the terms of this act the inhabitants of Saint Paul and Saint George and the adjacent islands are strictly forbidden any intercourse with 'the rest of mankind;' they are forced by necessity to sell their products to the company, and to receive such considerations in return as this soulless monopoly may see fit to give. The obstructions which the fur company has in former years thrown in the way of individual traders and fishermen in those regions are very well known. The subsidized Federal officers in the interests of the company have given such trouble to private enterprises; several vessels have been seized on very flimsy pretenses and sent for trial to San Francisco. In every instance those vessels have been liberatcd and the masters and supercargoes exonerated by the courts. Voyages have thus been broken up, heavy losses have fallen upon humble adventurers, failures have followed, and peaceful commerce has been seriously obstructed. Several suits for heavy damages are now pending in the courts on the North Pacific coast against the revenue-officers formerly serving on the coast of Alaska.'

And again in the same book:

"Sincerely believing that the 'fur franchise' in Alaska is obstructive to the development of the vast resources latent in those regions, subversive of the best interests of the people of that Territory, and embarrassing to the traders and fishermen in and around those shores, we most earnestly ask Congress to repeal that odious measure, and let 'justice be done though the heavens fall.'"

The Sacramento Reporter, July 8, 1870, says:

"Gradually this firm, or company, threw off all cloak, openly claimed a monopoly, and warred upon all traders."

From the Chicago Tribune, January 4, 1873, we take:

"It practically holds the same relation to Alaska that the old Russo-American did, and that the Hudson’s Bay Company does to the adjoining British possessions. It has rival in the trade, but they are gradually disappearing under the treatment known in California as the little game of freeze-out. The company is reported very wealthy, and can afford to undersell and overbuy its rivals, until they have to give up the losing game. It is accommodating, even generous, when its own interests are not at stake. It discomfits everything which tends to the development of the country, such as exploration, immigration, &c., because a settled Territory produces no furs. If a man is bound to go there, and it cannot help it, it is then full of accommodation, and helps him all it can during his stay there, and hastens his departure."

This is an extract from an article by Mr. Harrington, astronomer in the United States Coast Survey, who had been a year in Alaska.

But of the greatest weight are the words of a distinguished officer of the United States Army, General Jefferson C. Davis, commanding the Department of Alaska. He says:

"Since the declaration of Congress, at its last session, of Saint Paul and Saint George islands as special reservations of the Government, they have been under the control of officers of the revenue service, sent there for the purpose of executing the laws prohibiting the landing at or killing of fur-seals upon them. During my official visit there, in the beginning of the present summer, and while engaged in investigating the affairs of the natives, as well as the manner in which the troops had performed their duties, I learned that, under one pretext and another, privileged parties had been permitted to land and remain on those reservations, and had been allowed to kill the animals at pleasure. During last summer at least 55,000 seals were killed on the two islands; probably more than that number. The pretenses under which this was authorized was that of enabling the natives to subsist themselves without expense to the Government. In an economical point of view this would seem quite right; but the facts are that the natives are cooped upon these islands where they are compelled to work for those private parties or starve; in other words, they are to-day in a complete state of slavery. Competition in trade has been universally established, and is now pretty well understood by the natives and traders throughout the country; wherever the former can paddle his canoe, or the latter penetrate with his goods, such is the case. These isolated islands of Saint Paul and Saint George in Behring Sea, the richest possessions in natural wealth, considering their small area on the continent, form the only exceptions. The natives are peaceful, honest, and capable of transacting ordinary business quite well, and would doubtless improve themselves if they had a fair chance, but their present complete enslavement and robbery, by an unscrupulous ring of speculators, will ever prevent such progress."

—Report of brevet major-general commanding Department of Alaska, to Secretary of War, August 20, 1870.
CONCEALING THE TRUE VALUE OF ALASKA TERRITORY.

In order to stifle the interest that the public took in Alaska, and to prevent, as much as possible, that the same should be made the object of American enterprise, the Alaska Commercial Company has always been very anxious to have Alaska represented as a very undesirable and inhospitable country, without charms of any kind, and its fur-trade as throwing off but a limited profit, exhibiting in this respect again the same spirit as the old Russian company.

The Government officials, who in various capacities were sent out from time to time to Alaska, and who were generally won over to private interests before they even left San Francisco or Washington, gave, therefore, always the most unfavorable account of the country; while men whose honor and integrity cannot be doubted, represent the country as it is, as far as they know it. Such men are Secretary Seward; Professor Davidson, of scientific fame; General Jefferson C. Davis, former military governor of Alaska; Vincent Colyer, and Dr. W. H. Dall, of the United States Coast Survey.

All these distinguished persons speak of the astonishing mildness of climate of certain portions of Alaska, of the rankness and luxuriousness of the vegetation, of the density and extension of the timber-lands, of the indications of minerals, of the magnitude of the fur-trade, and of the incredible abundance of aquatic life.

REPORT OF HENRY W. ELLIOTT.

The last official report submitted to the Government is that of Mr. Henry W. Elliott, special agent of the Treasury Department, which, we are sorry to say, is in direct contradiction to the statements made by such persons as we have just named. Mr. Elliott has publicly claimed, this winter at Washington, that he knows more about Alaska than any one person; that he had been in the Territory before the transfer to the United States, and many years since, and that he is the only person qualified to judge what that country needs. Let us see what right Mr. Elliott has to these claims.

During the year 1865 Mr. Elliott, then an employee of the telegraph company that attempted to establish a line from America to Europe via Siberia, was stationed at Puget Sound, about eight hundred miles from the southern boundary of Alaska, and never approached it nearer than that until the year 1872, when it had been five years American territory.

On the strength of this Mr. Elliott asserts that he has been in Alaska before the American advent. We will now show what experience he has had in the country since.

Mr. Elliott went first to Alaska in the spring of 1872, in a subordinate position, being assistant to Captain Bryant, who was then the Government agent on Saint Paul, the largest of the fur-seal islands; where he, Mr. Elliott, married a native girl. Mr. Elliott remained on the island about a year, returning in 1873, without having seen anything of the rest of the immense territory, except the little Aleut-village Illiluliuk on Ounalaska island, where he touched on his way up and down. After his arrival at Washington he published a work on the habits of the fur-seals, and made himself conspicuous by preferring charges against Captain Bryant, who, by the way, had proved himself not very pliable in the hands of the Alaska Commercial Company, and consequently was anything but popular with them.

With a strong breeze of powerful influence, we now see Mr. Elliott sailing into a position specially created for him, and for which an appropriation is set aside by Congress. He was appointed a special agent of the Government to investigate the resources of the fur-trade, and the condition of the natives of Alaska, and last May he set sail in the revenue-cutter Reliance, which had been placed at his service for this purpose.

Mr. Elliott proceeded first to Sitka, on Baranof Island, thence to Ounalaska Island, thence to the two fur-seal islands, Saint George and Saint Paul, thence to Saint Mattheew's, and lastly to Saint Lawrence Island, staying only a few days at each place, and returning via Ounalaska to San Francisco, where he arrived again in September. That is to say, Mr. Elliott, having landed on six of the countless islands of Alaska, and having never set a foot on, or even been in sight of the main land, has now submitted a circumstantial report on the Territory to the Government.

If we bear in mind that Alaska has as much area as one-quarter of the whole United States, and a coast-line of ten thousand miles; that it is fringed by thousands of islands and that it is inhabited by hundreds of tribes of aborigines, belonging to three distinct stocks of men, and speaking many different languages, it becomes plain that it requires years of travel, exploring, and study to become acquainted with the subject upon which Mr. Elliott has reported, after a few months' pleasure-cruise in the North Pacific and the Bering Sea; after having landed on said six islands, and after having seen a few hundred Aleuts of the three thousand civilized and the fifty thousand savage inhabitants of Alaska.

Mr. Elliott's report is now just such as the Alaska Commercial Company desires, and might be mistaken for a statement written by a member of that company.
Mr. Elliott very minutely describes scenes and people which he has never approached within five hundred or more miles, and represents the whole Territory a desolate and barren mass of basaltic rock; where no white man, not even the hardy Icelander, would live without being forced. He says the climate is fearful, and that no vegetable, not even the potato, will flourish under its frowning sky; that all its resources, the timber, the fisheries, and even the fur-trade are vastly overrated, and that there is but one praiseworthy institution in the whole country, and that is the Alaska Commercial Company.

He is of the opinion that in order to give this poor but honest company a chance to make a little money, and the seals getting too thick on the islands anyhow, the former should be allowed to take 150,000 skins instead of 100,000, as stipulated by the lease; while he also gently hints at his own merits in bringing these facts to the cognizance of the Government.

The aim and purpose of such arguments are too transparent to need comment, and although we have no doubt that it does not pay for Mr. Elliott to have any different views, yet we are surprised to find him so little shrewd as to come out with such undisguised and clumsy praise of the Alaska Commercial Company, which lets at once the cat out of the bag.

But we must admit that we admire Mr. Elliott's cheek, not only in asserting that he knows more of Alaska than any one man, but in submitting to the Government a report, so weak and absurd, and so full of mistakes and misstatements, that we cannot accept them all as having been made through his ignorance of the country.

We should have thought that Mr. Elliott would have posted himself a little on the subject that he was going to report upon, by reading the excellent books that have been published on Alaska, and avoid such blunders as will neither do him or the Alaska Commercial Company any good.

Considering that the Government has the very best means to get reliable information about Alaska, and could, for instance, utilize the experience of Dr. W. H. Dall, (who, since 1865, has been nearly every year in the Territory surveying and exploring,) and still persistently selects men of little experience to get its advice and information from, the question naturally suggests itself: Are really correct and true statements and reports in regard to Alaska wanted, or only such as will serve certain purposes?

A CURSORY DESCRIPTION OF THE RESOURCES OF ALASKA.

Of course we must abstain from giving a description of such a Territory as Alaska, which covers an area larger than the Territory of California, Oregon, Nevada, Utah, and Arizona together, but a few statements in regard to its climate, &c., will perhaps not be lost.

The climate of Alaska, (excepting that portion which lies within the Arctic circle,) and especially that bordering on the North Pacific Ocean, is, varying according to latitude and local geographical conditions, equal to that of North Germany, Scotland, and Scandinavia. This country is traversed by large navigable rivers, with many tributaries, has beautiful forests, and millions of acres adapted to agriculture and grazing; and when we mention that during the summer the plains and valleys are waving breast-high with grass and vegetation, while the air is laden with the fragrance of the wild flowers, nothing more need be said of its fertility. Game of all kinds is abundant everywhere. On the Alaska Peninsula herds of reindeer are found at all seasons of the year, and the fisheries are not insignificant, as Mr. Elliott thinks, but immense, for the codfish abounds everywhere on the coast; large schools of herring fill the bays, and the dense masses of salmon that during the run make up even the smallest stream, must be seen to be appreciated. As a matter of course, a rough winter follows the delightful summer, but along the coast the former is tempered by the influence of warm currents of the sea, that here course along the American Continent.

There is not any doubt that rye, barley, and oats, as well as all kinds of vegetables, can be raised there as easily as in Northern Europe or the State of Maine, and that for stock-raising the country is particularly well adapted.

To show that the potato will grow very well in Alaska, contrary to Mr. Elliott's statements, we will illustrate by examples: During 1868 and 1869, a man by the name of Doyl raised on a small island in the harbor; the same were also grown in the military garden at that place. The Russians always raised their own vegetables, including cabbage. The same man, Doyl, raised small quantities of barley and wheat, as an experiment, at Kina, which grew up rank and tall, filled well, and ripened completely. At Kodiak, and on the Aleutian Islands, the vegetables grow enormously large, though their flavor is a little coarse, and even at Northern Saint Michael, in latitude 64, turnips and potatoes for the use of the men are successfully raised.

In the mining e especially coal, fishing, the canning, smoking, and salting of salmon, lumbering, ship-building, mining, and the fur-trade, that will bring people to Alaska, and will induce capitalists to invest their money in it, and if the lease should be abolished and free competition opened once more, there would soon spring up an era of enterprise and activity throughout the Territory which would surpass that of any former epoch, and ten ships would sail...
for our beautiful northern empire for every one that now shapes its lonely course to its deserted coasts.

THE REMEDY.

And now, we ask, how long is this burning shame of leasing civilized Creoles and of granting monopolies to continue, in open violation of the Constitution? How long shall this immense Territory, that belongs to the people and not to President Grant, nor to the Alaska Commercial Company, be practically the property of a few wealthy individuals, and how long shall we be obliged to bow our heads with shame before the more liberal nations of Europe, that have abolished slavery, monopolies, and royalties of trade?

The history of the wrongs of Alaska, which the foregoing pages contain, and which we submit to the public, although it is necessarily brief and incomplete, is a true and just statement of these events. It has not been written with a view of injuring personally the members of the Alaska Commercial Company, but simply to expose the unconstitutionality and the injustice of the Alaska business; and as said company is so deeply implicated in it, and has been the direct cause of all this wrong and misrule, we had to strike at it with all our might.

Still, we did forbear to give many examples and statements of cases of cruelty and oppression, and condemnable actions, which would implicate personally members and employés of said company, but we will not hesitate to give them publicity if this cause demands it.

As Congress has reserved, in the bill in regard to this lease, the power to repeal the same at its pleasure, and as this lease has already been violated and fully forfeited, especially by killing more seals than are therein stipulated, (only the best skins being shipped, and the rest rejected and thrown into the sea,) we have no doubt that the first Congress of the United States to which this matter will be presented in the proper light, will at last do justice to all—will abolish the lease, and adopt a plan in regard to Alaska similar to that proposed by the Chamber of Commerce of San Francisco several years ago; a plan that would make of Alaska what it was originally intended to be—a vast tributary to the wealth of our nation.

And once more, before we close, we call upon the people and the press of America, in the name of humanity, patriotism, and the public interest, to use all their influence to have a law repealed that does injustice to thousands of citizens, that has killed a large portion of the trade and enterprise of the Pacific coast, and that has delivered into bondage whole communities of civilized human beings that feel their situation deeply, and are capable of drawing up such touching petitions as we have given.

Published by order of the Anti-Monopoly Association of the Pacific coast.

CHAS. LEEGE, Secretary.

Communications must be addressed to P. O. box No. 218.
S. Ex. 12—3