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Letter from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, in answer to a resolution of the Senate of March 9, 1880, the report of Captain Bailey upon the number, occupation, and condition of the people of Alaska; the report of the Supervising Surgeon-General Marine Hospital Service on the same subject; also report of Special Agent Otis upon the illicit traffic in rum and fire-arms.

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LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,

TRANSMITTING,

In answer to a resolution of the Senate of March 9, 1880, the report of Captain Bailey upon the number, occupation, and condition of the people of Alaska; the report of the Supervising Surgeon-General Marine Hospital Service on the same subject; also report of Special Agent Otis upon the illicit traffic in rum and fire-arms.

MARCH 31, 1880.—Ordered to lie on the table and be printed.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
March 30, 1880.

HON. WILLIAM A. WHEELER,
Vice-President of the United States:

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Senate resolution calling for a copy of the report of Capt. George W. Bailey, of the Revenue Marine, upon the numbers, location, occupation, and condition of the people of Alaska, together with a statement as to the climate and resources of that region, and any further information in possession of the Secretary of the Treasury on the condition of affairs in Alaska; also, for a copy of the report of Supervising Surgeon-General of the Marine Hospital Service containing the report of Dr. White upon the same subject.

In reply, I inclose a printed copy of Captain Bailey's report, which embraces as one of its accompaniments the report of Dr. White, referred to in said resolution. I inclose also a copy of a report of Special Agent Otis, in charge of the Seal Islands, upon the illicit traffic in rum and fire-arms carried on by lawless traders navigating the waters of the northern coast of Alaska, and copy of the report of the Supervising Surgeon-General of the Marine Hospital Service.

The general tenor of recent reports from Alaska indicates a state of peace and good order in that country. Indeed, no disturbance has at any time been experienced, except in the neighborhood of Sitka, where it appears from Captain Bailey's report there is a population of 78 Americans, 247 Creoles, and about 1,000 Indians. The latter are likely to be augmented from time to time by roving bands from the mainland, and the British possessions, and the whites by the return of men from the mines in the fall of each year.

The receipts from customs, imposts, tonnage tax, &c., in all Alaska for the past fiscal year were \$2,586.30, and the expenses on the same account, \$10,912.01. The receipts and expenditures on account of the

seal fisheries are excluded from this statement. In the light of the present information it seems doubtful if any material increase in the amount or importance of the commerce of that region is likely soon to occur.

It will be observed that Captain Bailey's careful enumeration of the population shows less than two hundred and fifty whites residing in Alaska, and that the whole number of inhabitants, including about 4,000 Aleuts and 14,000 Eskimos and Indians, is probably less than 20,000.

There is, however, urgent demand for provision by law for some simple system of administering justice in the Territory. To meet this need a bill has been prepared by officers of this department familiar with the requirements of the people in this respect, which is now pending before Congress. (See S. bill 1426.)

The bill provides for the appointment of four justices of the peace and four constables for Alaska, and makes applicable to that country certain of the laws of the State of Oregon. The machinery of government provided by said bill is effective, simple, and inexpensive, and, in the judgment of this department, ample to meet the present requirements of the Territory.

The presence of a revenue steam-cutter cruising in Alaskan waters is found necessary for the protection of the seal fisheries and sea-otter hunting grounds, and the enforcement of the general provisions of law governing that country. A vessel specially designed for that service, and properly equipped, would furnish sufficient protection for the greater part of the Territory. Indeed, no government can be administered upon the principal extent of the coasts except a vessel be used for transportation.

It is believed that a vigorous pursuit of the illicit traders in rum and fire-arms, whose operations are fully described in the report of Special Agent Otis, referred to above, would result in breaking up their traffic. The attention of Congress has heretofore been called to the necessity of an appropriation for the construction of a new vessel for this service.

Very respectfully,

JOHN SHERMAN,
Secretary.

REPORT UPON ALASKA AND ITS PEOPLE, BY CAPTAIN GEORGE W. BAILEY OF THE UNITED STATES REVENUE MARINE, GIVING STATISTICS AS TO THE NUMBERS, LOCATION, PURSUITS, AND SOCIAL CONDITION OF THE INHABITANTS; THE CLIMATE, PRODUCTIONS, AND GENERAL RESOURCES OF THE COUNTRY; AND OF THE COMMERCE, OCEAN CURRENTS, ETC.

INTRODUCTORY LETTER.

UNITED STATES REVENUE MARINE,
Treasury Department, November —, 1879.

Hon. JOHN SHERMAN,
Secretary of the Treasury :

SIR: In the discharge of a painful duty, I have the honor to report to you the death of Captain George W. Bailey, of the Revenue Marine, while returning with his command, the revenue-steamer Rush, from Alaska to San Francisco, when about four days out from the latter port. On the morning of October 16, 1879, when the vessel was steaming at about eight knots an hour with a heavy sea running, Captain Bailey

went on deck at 4.20, and, in conversation with the officer of the deck, complained of sea-sickness. The captain remained a short time, then returned to his cabin, the officer going to the forward part of the vessel. The captain was not seen thereafter; and it is presumed that he went to the side of the vessel and was carried overboard by a lurch of the ship. His loss was not discovered until 6 a. m., when his cabin was found empty by the boy who went to his berth to communicate with him.

The report upon the condition of affairs in Alaska, prepared by Captain Bailey before his death, is worthy of particular attention. This officer was directed by department orders of April last to cruise with his command in the waters of Alaska and among the islands of the Aleutian archipelago until about October 15, the close of the season of practical navigation in the Alaska region, with a view to protecting the seal fisheries and the sea-otter hunting-grounds.

He was also charged with making careful observations upon the commerce of those waters, and upon the population of the islands; the pursuits, habits of life, character, &c., of the people; and the industrial and other resources of the country; also, with making soundings, coast surveys, and geographical and astronomical observations of the region named.

Captain Bailey's experience in cruising heretofore in those remote waters, extending over a period of several years, and giving him an intimate acquaintance with the natives; his known good judgment and tact in dealing with these uneducated people; his practical turn of mind, combined with great thoroughness in executing the labors to which he was assigned, and his moderation in viewing the results of his work, particularly fitted him for the performance of the duties confided to him.

His report may accordingly be relied upon for its truthfulness, impartiality, and accuracy, and is believed to be a valuable acquisition to the published information regarding this most distant part of our territorial possessions.

Very respectfully,

E. W. CLARK,
Chief of Division.

REPORT.

UNITED STATES REVENUE MARINE,
United States Revenue-Steamer "Richard Rush," October —, 1879.

HON JOHN SHERMAN,
Secretary of the Treasury, Washington, D. C. :

SIR: Agreeably to orders contained in department letter of April 21, 1879, "E. W. C.," for me to proceed with the revenue-steamer "Rush," on a cruise to the waters of Alaska, to enforce the provisions of law and protection of the interests of the government on the seal islands and the sea-otter hunting-grounds, and of Alaska generally, I have the honor to make the following report of my cruise :

This vessel left San Francisco on May 8, and I proceeded up the coast, reaching Manaimo, British Columbia, on the morning of May 12. The next day we received fifty-eight (58) tons of coal, and on the 14th at 4 a. m. left for the north, through the inside passage, stopping at several

of the different anchorages in British Columbia, and reaching Fort Simpson, British Columbia, on the 17th, where we remained for the night. On the morning of the 18th we passed into the waters of Alaska, and the same evening anchored off a settlement of the Hyda Indians, in an arm of Karzarn or Karta Bay, Prince of Wales Island. We visited the village, and called upon the chief ("Scowl," by name), who is entirely blind. He has immediate control of about two hundred and fifty (250) Indians, resident at this village, and is also acknowledged chief of all the Hydass on Queen Charlotte's and Prince of Wales Islands. We found no white men living here, and most of the Indians away fishing and hunting, this being the sealing season on the outer coasts of Queen Charlotte's and Prince of Wales Islands. During April and May all the coast Indians, from the mouth of the Straits of Fuca to the north end of Prince of Wales Island, find profitable employment in taking fur-seals which seem to be making the passage along the coast to the north, being probably a portion of the vast number that finally congregate at the seal islands later in the season. I am informed by the Indians that the most of the seals taken along this coast are females, and their skins find a market at the different Hudson Bay posts, principally Fort Simpson, Fort Rupert, and at a post called Wassett, on Queen Charlotte's Island, although some few are sold at Klawac, a trading-post in our possession on the outside of Prince of Wales Island.

FORT WRANGEL.

From Karzarn we proceeded to Fort Wrangel, a place of considerable note, on account of the gold mines up the Stikeen River. I called on the principal men of the place, and was informed that the permanent population (white) is seventy-five persons, although in the winter it is increased by two hundred and fifty or three hundred miners, who prefer stopping here to going to Victoria and other points in British Columbia, where the most of them belong. The white residents consist of one deputy collector and one inspector of customs, some ten or more storekeepers, with their clerks, porters, &c., and representatives of the different trades—carpenters, shoemakers, tailors, &c. There are also located here a missionary and his wife, who have apparently done considerable good among the Indians for the short time they have been here—six months. There is also a school and home for young girls, kept by Mrs. McFarland, a teacher sent here about eighteen months since by the Presbyterians, and supported by them.

The Indians belonging at this place (the Stickeens) number about two hundred and fifty. At the same time, there are upwards of two thousand about the place, consisting of Chilkats, Tahkos, Sundowns, Kakes, and Hydass, during the summer and fall, employed in transporting goods and stores up the Stikeen River to the gold mines. These Indians quarrel among themselves, but have little, if any, trouble with the whites, and the people of Wrangel consider themselves in no danger from them, claiming that if the white people (miners who winter here) behaved as well as the Indians, it would be a quiet community.

There is also located here a Catholic Mission.

SITKA.

We left Wrangel on the 20th for Sitka. In passing from the Duke of Clarence Straits, by Point St. Albans, toward Cape Decision, halfway between the two points, and directly at the entrance of the Affleck's

Canal, we located an island not down on the chart, a full report of which will be sent to the Coast Survey. We passed around Cape Ommaney, and reached Sitka on the morning of the 21st. At Sitka we found the United States ship "Alaska" in port, and everything quiet and orderly among the Indians remaining there. Large numbers of them, however, had left for the summer's hunting and fishing. The salmon cannery, owned by Cutting & Co., of San Francisco, and represented by Mr. Hunter, with twenty men, located at Old Sitka, was ready for business when the salmon should commence running. The reports from the gold mine located at Silver Bay, a few miles from Sitka, were encouraging, as the stamp-mill was in position and ready for crushing the ore which had been mined, but waiting for water, (May 20,) as the motive-power for running the mill is dependent on the melting of the snow.

The population of Sitka at the present time is three hundred and twenty-five persons, classified in the following order: Native American citizens, thirty-four; naturalized citizens, forty-four; Russians and their descendants who became citizens by treaty, two hundred and forty-seven. There are also twenty men who came up from San Francisco to work during the salmon season and not included in the permanent population. I enclose a paper herewith, marked "A," giving the names and occupations of all the present residents of Sitka. [This paper is not published with enclosures of Captain Bailey's report.] The estimated number of Indians who reside at Sitka is about one thousand, all of whom are at home during the winter; and their number is increased at times from the surrounding tribes to two thousand.

The only vessels in port at the time of our visit were the steamer "Rose," 46 tons; schooner "Nellie Eades," 27 tons; and schooner "Gold Hunter," 6 tons, owned at and hailing from Sitka, all of them repairing, consequent upon old age and being so long unemployed.

We left Sitka at 4 p. m. May 22, for Kodiak, giving a passage to two teachers, the Revs. S. E. Hoary and A. E. Baer, sent to Alaska by the Society of Mennonites. They propose to go up Cook's Inlet and establish schools among the Indians of that section. We reached Kodiak at 5 p. m. on the 25th, and found no vessels in port.

KODIAK.

This village contains a population of three hundred and seventeen persons, consisting of nine Americans, four naturalized citizens, with two Russians, and two hundred and eighty-seven Creoles, citizens by treaty, and fifteen Kolosh Indians, who have made this their home for many years. There are two stores kept by the two trading companies, the Alaska Commercial Company and the Western Fur and Trading Company, this being their depot for supplying the outlying stations from the head of Cook's Inlet, with the islands adjacent to Kodiak and west on the main land to Katmai.

On Wooded Island, which forms part of the harbor of Kodiak, the American Russian Company is located, having extensive ice-houses, a large store, and a saw mill. The ice-houses are filled every winter, but no ice has been shipped for several years, the company receiving a certain sum yearly from the ice companies at San Francisco not to ship any. The people living on Wooded Island are the ice company's agent, Mr. Stauf, and one hundred and four Aleuts, and sixty-two Creoles. The Aleuts are mostly hunters of the sea otter. The Creoles find employment from the company at the saw-mill and in farming, the extent of which consists in cultivating a field of oats of ten acres, and about two acres of potatoes.

AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES OF ALASKA.

There is probably more land under cultivation on Wooded Island than in all other portions of Alaska. The agent of the company is building a small vessel (now in frame) of about 20 tons, the labor performed by the Creoles, the workmanship comparing favorably with that of ship-carpenters in California or elsewhere. As to the commerce of Kodiak, there are five small vessels owned and hailing from this port, principally engaged in hunting and trading—the largest one of 14 tons burden. During the year an occasional fishing-vessel calls here, and the two trading companies have each a vessel making two trips yearly from San Francisco.

CHUMAGIN ISLANDS.

We left Kodiak May 28, and ran a line of soundings to the Chumagin Islands, reaching Ounga on the evening of the 30th. At Delaroff Harbor, on the island of Ounga, is situated the only settlement of any note on these islands. The population is made up of ten white men and one hundred and seventy-three natives, a few of them Creoles, but principally Aleuts. Six of the white men are married to native women; five of them have children. The other white men are adventurers, who have left the different fishing-vessels in former years, and have remained here for the purpose of hunting during the winter months. The two trading companies are represented here, each having a store and large stock of goods.

COD FISHING.

The vicinity of the Chumagin Islands is the principal cod-fishing ground of Alaska; large quantities of these fish are taken annually, ten vessels being employed this year in the business. A firm in San Francisco, McCullum & Co., have a fishery on the north side of Popoff Island, at a place called Pirate Cove, where they have their salt stored for curing the fish, and where two of their vessels winter after the season is over. They have also several men employed in fishing from the shores in small boats at this station. I am informed that there are about six hundred thousand (600,000) fish caught about these islands during the season. This year, when we last visited the islands (25th August), there had been six hundred and fifty thousand (650,000) taken, and the most of the vessels had gone, those remaining reporting a scarcity of fish.

COAL.

At Coal Harbor, on the north end of Ounga Island, is a coal mine, opened by capital from Santa Barbara, California, in 1876. There has but little coal yet been taken out of the mine, one thousand tons in all. Seven hundred tons have been shipped to San Francisco and the rest consumed in this vicinity, some of the Trading Company's vessels getting coal here to supply their different stations. This coal is of an inferior quality, and only fit for burning in stoves. It is of no value for steam, burning very quickly and not having the requisite heating qualities. At our last visit to this place (August 27) there was only one man (the superintendent) at the mine to look out for company's property. There was no coal for sale, and the mining was virtually abandoned. This same vein of coal was worked years ago by the Russians,

but found of no value for steaming purposes, and consequently abandoned.

There is a small settlement of Creoles on the island of Korovinsky, not visited by us. Their numbers will be found in the report of the population taken from the Belkovsky church-records.

BELKOVSKY.

We left the Chumagin Islands on the 30th of May and continued our course west along the shores of the main-land toward Belkovsky, but did not reach that place until June 4, on account of bad weather. Belkovsky is the first settlement on the peninsula going west from Ounga. It is the most important place in this whole section of country, on account of its being the center of the best otter-hunting grounds in Alaska. It has no port or harbor, and vessels can only lie there when the winds are off shore; in fact, but few vessels call there, other than those of the two trading companies, which touch during the summer to bring trade-goods and take away the furs, principally sea-otter, with a few fox, bear, and deer skins.

Belkovsky has a total population of two hundred and sixty-six, consisting of three Americans, one Russian, eighty-two Creoles, and one hundred and eighty Aleuts. It has a fine church-building, this being the center of church affairs for the district, which includes six settlements, all of them being visited by the priest at odd times during the year, but under constant charge of a deacon, who is allowed to perform only a part of the church service.

The Alaska Commercial Company and the Western Fur and Trading Company have each a fine store and large stock of goods at this place, and do apparently a thriving business. The people are all hunters, and seem to be in good circumstances, well clothed and provided for, and are no doubt the best off pecuniarily of any of the Aleuts, excepting the Seal Islanders. Quite a number of them have frame houses to live in, built by the two trading companies. This year otter hunting has been good, more than the average number (twelve hundred) have been taken, the people being kept constantly employed owing to the increased price for them. The two companies are in lively competition for the ascendancy in the trade. The place was again visited by us late in August.

OUNALASKA.

From Belkovsky we proceeded to Ounalaska, where we arrived June 6. Ounalaska is the largest commercial port of the Aleutian Islands, and now a port of entry—this year collecting duties to the amount of six hundred and ninety-seven dollars. It is also the principal depot of the two large trading companies, the Alaska Commercial Company and the Western Fur and Trading Company, the former distributing from this point store and trade goods to the outposts of the district. It has twenty-three stations in all, which extend from the Kuskoquim River and Bristol Bay on the main-land to Attou, the westernmost point in our possessions, and include all the Aleutian Islands and coast east as far as Ounga. This company has also a fine wharf with three large warehouses, a fine dwelling, store, and school-house, with several frame houses for its best hunters to live in. The Western Fur and Trading Company has erected this year a fine store, with the necessary warehouses for the trade. It has provided quite an extensive stock of goods, and

is competing with the former company. It has just started here, and has as yet done but a small business.

There is a full priest resident at Ounalaska, and the church-building presents a creditable appearance; church matters being conducted at this station on a seemingly more proper basis than in any other part of the Territory. Upon the whole, the town (Illoook) presents more of the appearance of civilization than any other west of Kodiak, excepting those of the Seal Islands. It has a population of three hundred and forty-eight souls; eight being Americans, one hundred and eighteen Creoles, and two hundred and twenty-two Aleuts. The American population includes a deputy collector and one of the United States Signal Service Corps, the others being agents and employés of the trading companies.

With the exception of the Tyone, or chief of the people, and a few designated as "church-workers," the population are all otter hunters, spending their time at the different hunting grounds extending from the Island of the Four Mountains in Seventy-two Pass, eastward as far as Sanaak.

Of late years a few of the people have been taken by the Alaska Commercial Company to the Seal Islands as laborers, the Seal Islanders not caring to do anything outside of the regular business of taking seals. The greater part of the summer the place is almost depopulated of the male portion of the community, leaving only a few of the women and old men, who are supposed to be laying in a store of fish for the winter. A portion of the women and youngsters are also given employment by the company in haymaking, getting a supply sufficient to feed the stock, consisting of fifteen cows and twenty-five sheep, during the long winter, when the cattle cannot graze. The pasturage during the summer is excellent, and what few cows and sheep are kept seem to be in fine condition. The grass grows luxuriantly in the valleys in this vicinity, but owing to the mists, fogs, and want of sun, it is found to be hard work to cure sufficient hay to keep the cattle through the winter.

The priest, Father Shiesnakoff, and two Creoles have each a small garden where potatoes and turnips are raised. The turnips are excellent, but the potatoes are small and watery, the yield being hardly sufficient to preserve the seed. They company have also a small garden, but make no pretensions to raising anything but a few radishes and some lettuce, which, in the season, is only sufficient for their Sunday dinner. The people seem to have their wants well supplied as to the bare necessities of life. They have been quite successful in hunting this year, but fish have been scarce, only a few salmon having been taken. Herring have, however, been plentiful, and if the people have the good fortune to get a whale or two they will be well supplied for the winter, as they depend more or less on the catch of whales to make food plenty during the six months of winter. Lately their friends at the Seal Islands have sent them some seal meat and blubber, and I understand that the fur company brings considerable quantities of it to Ounalaska for distribution among the people of the different stations. The principal food of all the Aleutian people is fish, seal, and sea lion meat, and the meat and blubber of whales. They seem to care nothing for the products of the soil. It is probable that very few vegetables could be raised if the attempt were made.

EDUCATION IN ALASKA.

There is located at the village of Ounalaska a school, the teacher

being one of the church officials, but there seems to be no regular attendance of the children, their parents not caring whether they attend or not; and the teachers are perhaps fully as indifferent, for if only a few children come they adjourn until the next day, or until more are present. There is apparently no attempt to teach English, as I understand it is not encouraged by the parents for some cause. The rudiments of Russian are taught, and a few of the older people can read and write; but whether the rising generation will advance that far is uncertain, on account of the lack of interest taken by their parents and teachers, although they tell me that in winter they are more regular in attendance. This lack of interest in the education of the young seems to be universal in all parts of the Territory among the Aleuts and Creoles.

THE SEAL ISLANDS.

After filling our bunkers with coal, we left Ounalaska (June 12) for the Seal Islands, where we arrived the next evening. The day following, we landed three tons of coal on Otter Island and left Lieutenant Wyckoff and two men on St. Paul, with instructions to proceed to Otter Island as soon as the company could furnish him with two men and a whale-boat, this same arrangement having been made every year. We had no boat to spare for the purpose, and one is requisite to take water to Otter Island, there being none at that place suitable for drinking. We found that sealing had already commenced, both at St. George and St. Paul, although there were but few seals in sight, the company's agent reporting that they were late this season. It seems, however, that they soon made their appearance, for when we again called (July 25) the sealing on both islands was finished, and most of the skins had been shipped on the steamer St. Paul. I would here mention that we called at these islands four different times during the season—the last time, September 29, when we took on board Lieutenant Wyckoff and the two men. At this time, the islands seemed alive with seals, and, from the reports of every one, full as many as ever; and it is fair to presume that in number they do not decrease. Lieutenant Wyckoff reports that quite a number of seal would haul ashore at Otter Island during the summer. They were not inclined to stop there, but probably would if there were no one living on the island. He saw but four or five pups which were born there, but later in the season quite a number of young cows came there with the male seals. There were no strange vessels seen about the islands this year or last. In 1877, our first year in these waters, there was a vessel (the schooner "Industry") about the islands late in September, which without doubt intended to take seals. She touched at St. George, under the plea that she was short of water, but, hearing that the "Rush" was still about the islands, left very abruptly without waiting to water ship. I would respectfully state that, in my opinion, it is only necessary that a revenue vessel should be known to be in these waters during the season for the protection of the islands; that it is not necessary to locate an officer and men from the vessel on Otter Island; and that now, there being two special agents during the season at each island, an occasional visit by them in their boat from St. Paul to Otter Island would be sufficient for its protection. The number of inhabitants on St. Paul and St. George will be found in the list of population of the different places visited by us.

ATTOU.

We left St. Paul on June 14 for a cruise to the westward, arriving at Attou, the westernmost island of the Aleutian group, June 19. The harbor (called Tchitchagoff) is on the northeast end of the island, where is located the only settlement upon it. At the time of our visit the inhabitants numbered one hundred and six in all, the sexes being about evenly divided. The men were all absent, otter hunting, the larger number on the island of Semitchi, about seventeen miles distant, to the eastward. A portion of them hunt on the south side of Attou, and sometimes cross in their large boats to the island of Agatou, twenty miles distant to the southwest. The only fur bearing animals procured at this station are the sea-otter and a few blue foxes. In late years these animals have become scarce, the otter having almost entirely disappeared, they having only averaged twenty-five skins yearly for the last five years. This year they had taken only eight otter, and two hundred and twenty-five blue foxes during the winter. In early Russian times Attou was considered one of their best stations. The Attou people, although the poorest financially, seem the healthiest and happiest of any on the Aleutian Islands, caused probably by their being so far removed from intercourse with the world at large. There seems to be a strong love of home among them, they being loath to leave it. The Alaska Commercial Company has offered to move them to other islands, where sea-otter is more plentiful, but they decline, and are willing to live on fish alone (their principal food), hoping some day the otter, which is so constantly hunted to the eastward, will return to them. The Alaska Commercial Company has a store here, its agent being the Tyone, or chief of the people. He is also the church official (a deacon), and reads the service on saints' days and Sundays. I was informed by the Tyone that these people are indebted to the fur company about five thousand dollars, and with no present prospects of the debt being any less. They hardly get skins enough to keep them in tea, sugar, and flour, let alone the clothes they wear. They are consequently very poor, and if the store should be taken away, they would suffer for the above necessities of life. I believe it is only out of charity to them that the fur company keeps its store at this station. There are no white people living here, nor is the island visited by any vessel except the Alaska Commercial Company's schooner, which calls here in the spring and fall to bring supplies and take away what few skins have been procured by the people. These people depend entirely on drift-wood for fuel, and on fish for their principal food. In the season they get a few gull and goose eggs, and in the fall some berries are gathered. There is but one run of salmon, which is short, only a few of them being taken. The fish taken are principally cod and halibut. In former times they used to raise a few vegetables (potatoes and turnips), but from some cause their seed gave out, and for several years they have not raised anything. This spring the company's vessel left them some potatoes, which they have planted, and we gave them turnip and other seeds, and advised them to plant them also. They have also domesticated some wild geese, large numbers of which visit this island every year, remaining long enough to lay their eggs and hatch their young. These people are not beggars, nor have they appealed for help, but I understand there is an effort being made by the priest of the Ounalaska district to have the Seal Islanders help them (through the church), they being the wealthiest of any of the Aleuts, and best able to help their poorer neighbors. On June 24 we left Attou on our return to the eastward.

KYSKA.

On the 25th we touched at the island of Kyska, and anchored in a fine harbor on the east side, near the center of the island, where we found one of the Alaska Commercial Company's agents located for the summer, with a party of natives from the island of Atkha, for the purpose of otter-hunting. They had been here since early in May, and had taken only ten sea-otter. The most of the hunters had gone to some of the adjacent islands, in hopes they would find the otter more plentiful. These people would return to Atkha (their home) in the fall. Kyska is a large island, but has no permanent population, and is only visited once in three or four years by parties of otter-hunters, principally from Atkha, as the Atkha people claim this island as a part of their hunting-ground.

A DANGEROUS REEF.

On leaving Kyska we located a dangerous reef, the position of which was heretofore considered doubtful. A full report of its position and extent will be sent to the Coast Survey.

ATKHA AND NAZAN.

We continued our course to the eastward with thick weather and no observations for positions until the 27th, when we arrived at the island of Atkha, anchoring in Nazan Bay, where is located the only settlement of people on the island. In Russian times the principal port was on the north side of the island at Korovinsky Bay, but a few years previous to the purchase of the territory by the United States a part of the people were moved around to Nazan Bay, where they all now reside, it being a much better harbor for vessels to anchor when landing supplies, and taking away the furs procured in this vicinity. Korovinsky is now entirely deserted. The population of Atkha consists of an agent of the Alaska Commercial Company, which has a store here, fourteen Creoles, and two hundred and nineteen Aleuts—a total of two hundred and thirty-four. These people depend entirely upon hunting for a living, the proceeds from their furs supplying them with clothing, tea, sugar, and other luxuries, while fish, sea-lion, and hair-seal, the necessaries of life, are abundant. The Atkha people are the finest looking of any among the Aleuts, and appear to be happy and contented. The furs procured at this place are sea-otter and a few blue foxes. The exact number of each procured yearly I have been unable to ascertain, but I am informed it is growing less every year. From Atkha we returned to Ounalaska for coal, which place we reached June 30.

CRUISE TO BEHRING SEA, ST. MICHAEL'S, AND THE YUKON RIVER.

On July 10, we again left Ounalaska for a cruise north, passing to the eastward of all the islands in Behring Sea except Nounivak, through Behring Straits, a short distance into the Arctic Ocean, and, returning, called in at St. Michael's, Norton Sound. St. Michael's redoubt is situated in a small cove on an island of that name, on the southeast side of Norton Sound. The island is divided from the main-land by a small canal, only passable for small boats. This post or port was built by the Russians in 1833, it being the nearest point to the Yukon river they could reach with their vessels. At the present time there is located

here an agent of the Alaska Commercial Company, which employs ten traders at different points on the Yukon River. There is also on the main-land, about three miles from St. Michael's, a trading-post established by the Western Fur and Trading Company, which employs about the same number of traders. There are no permanent inhabitants at either of these posts, excepting a sufficient number of laborers to handle the trade-goods brought here once a year by the vessels of the two companies. Near St. Michael's are two small Indian villages, containing about one hundred people; but Indians from the shores of Norton Sound, and the interior Indians from the Yukon, visit these posts every season, bringing their furs and skins to trade. The Alaska Commercial Company has a small stern-wheel steamer of about twenty tons, which makes a yearly trip up the Yukon River, leaving St. Michael's early in July, or as soon as the ice will permit the arrival of its yearly vessel with goods, visiting all the different trading-posts on the river, and going up as far as Fort Yukon and beyond, returning in the fall before the river closes, generally early in October. The Western Fur and Trading Company has also procured a small steamer for the river trade, brought up this summer on the deck of the schooner "Daisey Rowe," intending to compete with the Alaska Commercial Company for the river trade. The skins procured in this section are bear, deer, beaver, mink, marten, and land-otter, with a few red and cross foxes, muskrat, and squirrel; in fact, about all the other land animals found in Alaska. The Indians about this part of the coast, and those from the interior towards the Yukon, are, as a people, an inoffensive race. Like the rest of the human family, there are some among them inclined to do wrong, as in the case of the Indian Konegan, taken away from here by us in 1877, and now confined in the California penitentiary for the murder of Boyle, on the Kuskokwim River. Again, last winter, the only white woman in this region (a Mrs. Bean) was killed by two Indians on the Tannannar, a branch of the Yukon. Her husband, who was present at the time, saw the killing. I have been unable to find out the cause of her being killed, her husband not being very communicative on the subject. He was at St. Michael's during our stay there, but did not show himself or report any of the circumstances. This man Bean is the party who brought a liquor-still into this part of the country several years since. I understand it is now somewhere among the Indians of Unalaklik, near the head of Norton Sound, but out of use for the want of the raw material for making liquor, and by reason of the facilities the Indians have of getting liquor of the numerous traders who visit Kotzebue Sound every year.

THE LIQUOR TRAFFIC.

It is reported by reliable Indians of this section, that eleven vessels called at Kotzebue Sound last year and sold large quantities of liquor, breech-loading arms and ammunition. They also report that some vessels landed thirty barrels of liquor at Cape Rodney, the north cape of Norton Sound, some time last year. There seems to be no lack of opportunity for the northern Indians to get liquor. If our traders do not bring it to them, it is brought across the Straits from Cape East, on the Russian side, by the Cape Prince of Wales Indians, and distributed by them to other parts of the coast. Special Agent Otis, who visited St. Michael's this year in the steamer St. Paul, informed me that he had made inquiry into the matter. I would respectfully suggest that, in order to break up this trade in liquor, breech-loading arms, and am-

munition, now carried on by these Arctic traders, if a revenue vessel be sent to Alaska another year, she be fitted to encounter the ice, and go north at the proper season and visit the Indians of the coast as high as Kotzebue Sound at least. This trade might be broken up by vigorously looking after the people engaged in it. The "Rush" is no doubt the best vessel we have on this coast for so long a cruise, on account of her small consumption of fuel, but her stern should be strengthened by extending her keel, and a stern-post put in, she now having a counterpoise rudder, pivoting in a composition rest, fastened to the keel, easily disabled not only by the ice, but in swinging to an anchor. If she should touch her keel, the rudder would be carried away and the vessel disabled. A vessel of her peculiar construction aft is not fit to go into the Arctic ice. The past year was an open season, with very little ice, and on our course to St. Michael's and Norton Sound, in July last, when off St. Lawrence Island, having considerable coal in the bunkers and a fair wind, I went through Behring Straits, passed Cape Prince of Wales, and into the Arctic a short distance, to see if any of the traders were about, but they were no doubt all ahead of us, and far to the northward, as the ice had all disappeared. After determining the position of St. Michael's Redoubt, we left that place July 23, ran a line of soundings across the shoal water of the sound and mouths of the Yukon, south, as far as Nounivak Island, touched again at the Seal Islands, and returned to Ounalaska, where we arrived July 29.

SEIZURE OF PART OF CARGO OF BRIG "TIMANDRA."

On July 30, there arrived at Ounalaska a boat, with the mate, second mate, and two seaman of the American brig "Timandra," Thomas, master, from San Francisco *via* Honolulu, bound to the Arctic Ocean on a trading voyage. They reported their vessel wrecked at the island of Nounivak, on the 23d of May last, and requested a vessel to be sent after the captain and the rest of the crew, eight men in all, still on that island. After coaling ship, we started (August 4) for the island of Nounivak, distant about four hundred miles, and arrived there on the 7th. We found the brig sunk near the beach, and a total wreck. They had saved the principal portion of the cargo, which consisted of cutlery, hardware, clothing, tobacco, and other articles of trade, powder, shot, lead, a few guns, and muzzle-loading rifles, besides a quantity of breech-loading arms and ammunition, and one hundred barrels of rum, the latter articles taken on board at Honolulu, Sandwich Islands. The rum was destroyed at the time the vessel went ashore, but the most of the other articles were landed. The breech-loading arms and ammunition, being contraband, were seized by me, taken on board this vessel, and brought to Ounalaska, (which place we reached August 11, having called at the Seal Islands on the passage down), where they were stored until our return to San Francisco. The captain, W. Thomas, the supercargo, Mr. G. F. Barker, and four seamen, were taken on board and given passage to Ounalaska, two of the men being left on the island (through their own choice) to care for the remainder of the cargo until the owners or underwriters could send for it next year.

The "Timandra" was a brig of one hundred and nineteen (119) tons, hailing from San Francisco, and owned by J. C. Merrill & Co. This same vessel, with others fitted out by the same firm, has traded in these waters for several years, and invariably traded liquors, breech-loading arms, and ammunition, contrary to and in violation of law, but could not be caught in the act.

DISCOVERY OF A NEW HARBOR.

On the 20th of August we again left Ounalaska for a cruise to the eastward, visiting Oouga, Coal Harbor, Humboldt Harbor, Portage Bay, Belkovsky, and a small harbor in Belkovsky Bay. The latter harbor we carefully surveyed; a tracing from the chart made will be sent to the Coast Survey. We returned to Ounalaska September 3, when we gave the engines and boilers some much needed attention in cleaning and repairs. Our coal being short, having only sufficient for our cruise to the Seal Islands and return home, we remained at Ounalaska until September 27, when we again left for the Seal Islands. On the 29th we took on board Lieutenant Wyckoff and the two men left on Otter Island for duty during the season, and also Dr. White, who had been on the island of St. Paul since July 28, he having exchanged duties with Dr. Kelly, the surgeon of the islands. From the Seal Islands we returned to Ounalaska, took on board all the navy coal remaining in store there, and which filled our bunkers, procured two hundred and sixty rations, and some few necessary stores for the engineer's department, and left that port October 7, for San Francisco.

COMMERCE OF ALASKA AND ILLICIT TRADE.

Regarding the commerce of Alaska, particularly that portion visited by us, I would respectfully refer the department to the inclosed list of vessels boarded and examined during this cruise, and others known to have been in Alaskan waters during this season, with a few remarks regarding them. In the early part of this year there cleared from San Francisco several vessels whose legitimate business is whaling, their principal cruising-ground being the Arctic Ocean. There were several other vessels cleared at the same port for the same destination, purporting to be engaged in whaling, fishing, and trading, some of them having none of the gear for whaling or fishing, being simply traders. Several of the latter vessels touched at the Sandwich Islands and took on board breech-loading arms, ammunition, and liquor, more particularly the brig Timandra. A full report of her cruise and final loss has been transmitted to the department. The American schooner "Leo" also touched at the islands, and is reported to have taken on board twelve hundred and forty-seven (1,247) gallons of rum. The schooner Loleta, Dexter, master, received her entire outfit at the islands, consisting of sixteen hundred gallons of rum and a large quantity of arms and ammunition. The latter vessel was seized at the Seal Islands by the special agent, who has undoubtedly reported the full particulars to the department. There were also quite a number that sailed direct from San Francisco for the Arctic, having received their outfits at that port. It is conceded by all the whalers and legitimate traders that vessels trading in the Arctic, in order to make a successful voyage, must trade liquor, arms, and ammunition, thereby making those who do a legitimate business lose money on their ventures. It is natural that the latter should be incensed at the unlawful acts of the former, and desire this contraband trade stopped. In order to stop it, it is necessary to catch the parties in the act and get sufficient evidence to convict them; but it seems they have their business reduced to such a system that it is hard to do so. Some of them clear from the custom-house for a business they do not attempt to follow. It is unlawful for white men to hunt fur-bearing animals in Alaska, or for vessels to be engaged in that business with white men as hunters, yet vessels are

cleared at the custom-house for hunting, the customs authorities claiming that hunting is only prohibited in Alaska, and that they have no authority to prohibit it anywhere else. While this may be true, would it not be well to require those who clear for hunting, or a trade which their vessels are not fitted for, to give bonds not to hunt or engage in other trades whereby the laws appertaining to Alaska might be violated, not canceling these bonds for a year or more, or have a suitable time to elapse (in case the vessels were suspected), in order to enable the government to gather proof?

I am informed by credible authority that there were several vessels in the Arctic this year, direct from the Sandwich Islands, and under the Hawaiian flag; the schooners General Harney, U. M. Ward, and Giovanni Apiani, all with more or less liquor and contraband goods on board. It is not known that they trade on our side, but it is fair to presume they do. In 1877, the brig W. H. Allen, Gillie, master, from the Sandwich Islands, while trading off Cape Prince of Wales, in the Arctic Ocean, had some trouble with the natives, whereby his crew shot and killed fifteen of them (fourteen men and one woman). Some claim that the natives were to blame, and others the brig's crew. Since then the trading vessels do not anchor there, and only allow one native boat to come alongside at a time. If more approach, the vessels keep off. These natives will probably retaliate some day by taking advantage of some small vessel that may be becalmed there, and when it will be impossible to get away. These Indians are reported by the traders to be a bad set, fond of rum, having more or less of this article, which they get from Cape East, on the Russian side.

Our representative at the Sandwich Islands, John Morton, esq., for several years in Alaska Territory as agent for the government, and conversant with business in the Territory, could do something, no doubt, in connection with the Hawaiian government, towards breaking up this illicit traffic, or at least finding out what vessels take liquor from Hawaiian ports to Alaska. The Russian authorities, I understand, have the past year prohibited vessels trading liquor on their coast. I think that if the Russian Government would detail a vessel to cruise on their side in connection with one of our vessels from our side, the contraband trade in rum, breach-loading arms, and ammunition could be broken up. The schooner Alexander, owned and sailing from San Francisco, built and fitted expressly for otter-hunting, left San Francisco early last spring. It is surmised that during the first part of the summer she was hunting at the Kurile Islands, in the Japanese possessions, not having been seen in Alaskan waters until August, when she was seen and boarded by the Attou people on her return east from the Kuriles. She was again seen near the island of Sanaak about the first of September. While passing along the coast she no doubt took what sea otter she happened to fall in with. This is the only vessel heard from near any of the otter hunting grounds this year. I inclose herewith a full report of the case of the brig Timandra.

CONDITION AND HABITS OF THE ALEUTIANS.

Regarding the present condition of the Aleutian people, their habits, customs, &c., as well as the resources of Alaska generally, much has already been said and written, probably too much, more especially on the latter subject; as I consider some of the statements not altogether truthful—these people giving their manners and customs as they found them. As a matter of course, as they became more civilized, their customs and mode of life changed.

I first visited these people in 1868, the year after the purchase. Then many of the old rules and customs governing them were still adhered to; but, as soon as the different trading companies came among them, there was of course a competition for the trade. The price of furs went up to a ruinous figure for the traders, only the wealthiest ones being now left to continue the trade. The people consequently reaped the harvest. Money was plenty with them, and everything for sale in the way of life's luxuries was indulged in by them. This naturally introduced an entire change in their mode of living, the good times continuing sufficiently long to create certain wants never before known. They adopted the European style of dress, began to furnish their houses with articles never before considered necessary, thinking no doubt (if they ever thought at all) that the improvement in their condition would be permanent. In a few years a change came; the traders of small capital went to the wall; the prices paid for furs went down to a living figure for those that remained; the hunter's profits became correspondingly less, and, in order to keep up his income, he had to be more constantly employed. This constant hunting has reduced the number of animals in some localities, and to-day a large proportion of these people are very poor, particularly those of Attou, the most westerly of the islands, where the sea-otter has been over-hunted, killed off, and driven away. At all the different stations where furs are bought, the major portion of the hunters are more or less in debt to the company that employs them. After a hunting expedition, if they return successful, their skins are taken by the company fitting them out, paid for in coin at the prices regulated by the home office, and sometimes agreed upon between the two companies, which of course, there being a competition in the trade, is necessarily liberal. If the hunter has done well, a part of his debt is paid; he buys everything he takes a fancy to in the store, brews his quass (a beer made of sugar and flour), and gives himself up entirely to enjoyment. Finally, after remaining at home spending his coin, and getting more in debt, he is again fitted out on credit for another hunt. Beer-drinking I find to be universal amongst them; they all make it, spending their last dollar for the material of which it is made. I have been informed (and I have no reason to doubt the statement) that the Alaska Commercial Company has ordered its traders not to sell sugar to a native inclined to use it for that purpose; but where there are two traders located, if the native cannot purchase from one, he applies to the other, and he who sells is of course the most popular; so from a business point of view, no one party could prohibit the making of beer were he ever so much inclined to do so.

As a people, they are kind-hearted, good-natured, and of a more sociable disposition than some writers give them credit for. They are fond of music and dancing, numbers of the young women playing the accordion sufficiently well for a waltz, polka, or quadrille—American dance, they call the latter, having learned the principal figures from the Americans since the purchase. There is hardly a family that has not some musical instrument, either accordion, barrel-organ, or music-box, some of considerable value; and when no performer is found for the accordion, they simply wind up the music-box, or get a boy or an old man to turn the organ, and music of a kind satisfying to their rude tastes is obtained. So at the ending of a holiday or Sunday evening gathering, with quass sufficient to enliven the party, the dance commences, or some simple game is played and enjoyed as heartily as in a more civilized community.

The people are naturally improvident, but few of them looking for-

ward to and providing food even for the winter, apparently happy and contented with the plenty of summer, when fish and berries are abundant and easily obtained. In Russian times they were compelled by the agents of the company to provide fish, sea-lion, and whale-meat in the summer for their winter consumption, but since the purchase they have acquired such independence and ways of their own that they recognize the right of no one to compel them to labor, or exert themselves even for their own good, and pay but little attention to the traders now among them, even when advised to be more provident and look into the future; and hardly a winter passes that there is not more or less suffering from the want of food. Under the old regime, when they committed any excesses or petty crimes they were admonished, or, what was more to the purpose, punished according to the measure of their faults, yet sometimes probably too severely for the offense committed; but they were then, and are now, like a family of children, and should be dealt with as such. This spirit of independence and knowledge that no one has any right to correct them has certainly not made them any better, but is gradually making them worse and more careless in their behavior, and, when under the influence of quass, they quarrel among themselves, and at times beat their wives, sometimes severely. There is no doubt that the majority of them are enjoying more of the comforts of civilization, having better houses to live in and being better clothed than before the purchase of Alaska by the United States, but, being under no restraining influence or governing power, except the church, it may be questioned whether they are better off now than when under the Russian rule. It seems to me that a person with the authority of a magistrate, resident at Ounalaska (and perhaps such might with advantage be appointed for other localities), with power to punish for petty offenses, such as drunkenness and wife-beating; to regulate the attendance of children at school, and to inquire into anything of a more serious nature (hardly likely to occur), would be an excellent provision for governing these people. The only remedy I can see at present for the bad state of things that exists is, that the priests and teachers of the natives should be compelled to take more interest in their temporal as well as their spiritual affairs, as these teachers and priests all seem to lack energy and that interest in the people which should be taken by them. It is to be hoped that there will be an improvement in this regard, as I understand there has been a new bishop put in charge of church affairs on this coast, who has the reputation of being a man with a thorough knowledge of the ways of the world as well as church affairs, and when he visits Alaska will see the necessity of, and inaugurate a change for, the general good of the people. I have at times heard complaints of the traders misusing these people, and have reported a case in one instance to the department, but as a general thing, upon inquiring into the facts, have found them trumped-up charges, caused by petty jealousies in business matters, the party making the charges wishing to ingratiate himself into the favor of those whose cause he appeared to champion. As a general thing, I find them fairly and kindly treated by the trading companies, and it is policy for them to do so. Although these people are non resistant, they know who treats them kindly, and consequently he who treats them best will retain them as hunters.

MEDICAL RELIEF NECESSARY.

There is much sickness among the Aleuts from diseases peculiar to their intercourse with the outside world, its seeds no doubt brought

among them by the Russians, but kept within bounds during Russian times, from the fact that the services of a physician could then be procured as often as once a year. Since then, the only people who have had the benefits of a physician are the Seal Islanders, those who have lived near the military posts, and others who have been prescribed for by the different surgeons who have accompanied this vessel during the last three years. The trading companies keep their different stations supplied with considerable quantities of medicines, but the want of a knowledge how to dispense it is strongly felt.

At Ounalaska, through the advice of the Alaska Commercial Company's agent, Mr. A. Greenebaum, and the priest, Father Sheisnakoff, the people have started a fund (now amounting to fifteen hundred dollars) for the purpose of erecting a building suitable for a hospital, where the different diseases peculiar to these people may be treated. After erecting the building they purpose petitioning the government to supply them with the services of a physician. It would, no doubt, be a worthy charity on the part of the government to have a surgeon stationed here, say one from the Marine Hospital Service, who, besides giving his attention to the people, could also attend the sick seamen of the different vessels calling here during the summer, and who are by law entitled to hospital relief. Regarding the physical condition of the people, I would respectfully refer the department to the report of Dr. White, who accompanied this vessel during the cruise.

ALASKA INDUSTRIES.

I have seen but little of the Creole portion of the population, particularly about Sitka, of late years, but from my observations they seem to be very poor and growing more so every year, having lost all ambition, if they ever had any, to try and better their condition. It would naturally be expected that the finding of gold in that vicinity would be an incentive to exertion, but I was informed that it is almost impossible to get any of them to work as laborers at the mines lately opened near Sitka, or to fish for the salmon-canning establishments located there. The same may be said of the Kodiak Creoles, those who are not hunters. They, too, seem to be an indolent, idle people. A young man had purposed starting a fishery at Kodiak, and had gone there this spring from San Francisco with salt and fishing-gear for the purpose; had built him several boats to fish from the shore in, the same as our own people do at some of our New England coast villages, but the natives would not engage with him as fishermen, although he had offered a good price for all they would catch. They only catch fish when they are hungry, and, with what few potatoes they can raise, barely live from year to year, and seem content.

GOVERNMENT OF THE NATIVES.

I have but little personal knowledge of the present condition of the aboriginal inhabitants of the other parts of the Territory than those referred to in a former part of this report as having been visited during our cruise. Our stay was very short about Sitka and vicinity, merely passing through those waters and touching at the different anchorages on our passage west to the Aleutian Islands, our principal cruising grounds. In 1868, I had opportunities for seeing considerable of the Indians of the Sitka region, having been all through the inside passages and among the different islands of the Alexander Archipelago. My

impression then was that they were a savage, treacherous race, waiting only the opportunity to rob or murder any trader who might come among them, and that it was only through fear of punishment that they were controlled at all; those living near Sitka were only kept in subjection by a strong show of force, as they were a people who did not scare easily. I have had no reason to change my opinion regarding them from my observations since. The experiment now being made to Christianize them is undoubtedly a good one, and, so far as I am able to judge, the church people have done much good, particularly at Wrangel, for the short time they have been located there; but there will always be some who cannot be governed by religious influences, and who will require the strong arm of the government to keep them under control or punish them when they commit crime. What branch of the public service—Army, Navy, or revenue marine—is best able to prevent or punish crime and protect the Christian part of the community now there or who may come to that part of the Territory, is left for Congress to decide.

PEOPLE OF THE NORTHWESTERN MAINLAND OF ALASKA.

I have seen but little of the people of the mainland north of the Aleutians, our stay being very short at St. Michael's, the only trading-station on the coast to the northward which I have visited. From what little I saw there, they seem to be altogether a different people in their manners, customs, and dispositions, from those about Sitka, particularly those from the Yukon country, who come to St. Michael's to trade. They are well described by Dall, and seem a fine, healthy race, not having adopted the habits or customs of the whites, with the exception of some of their vices. They are probably like all other Indians, not thinking of the present and indifferent as to the future. Their numbers it is difficult to estimate, only a few of them having been Christianized by the Greek Church; probably they are not on the increase, as an occasional famine takes considerable numbers of them off, particularly about the coast.

A RUMOR OF WHOLESALE STARVATION.

Capt. J. J. Nye, of the schooner Pauline Collins, a trader from the Arctic Ocean, reported that he called at St. Lawrence Island in September of this year, on his way south, and found all the people dead at three of the settlements on the island. From information he received at another settlement, he learned that they had all died from starvation during the winter and early spring on account of their inability to get seal, walrus, and whale-meat, the ice having broken up early, and a continuance of southerly winds having kept it packed in such quantities against the island, and for so long a time that they were unable to get any food, and there being no land animals, except foxes and polar bear, they of consequence starved to death. In the summer these people live on fish and game, which are plentiful, but in winter they depend principally on seal and walrus, which are caught on the ice.

DEMORALIZING EFFECTS OF RUM.

In my opinion one of the principal causes of the improvidence of the north coast Indians, and their neglect to provide food for winter, is the demoralizing effects of rum sold by the Arctic traders. It is reported

that is sold in such large quantities as to keep whole villages drunk and quarreling the best part of the season—large quantities of it being landed at different places, principally at Kotzebue Sound, and from there distributed to the interior Indians. This is undoubtedly killing them off, or causing them to be careless in providing food for the winter, whereby many of them die of starvation. Elsewhere in this report I have taken the liberty to suggest measures to be taken in order to break up this traffic in liquor.

RESOURCES OF ALASKA.

Regarding the resources of Alaska, and it being able to give support to a large population, I have only to say that, so far as a sailor's opinion goes, it is folly to talk of such a thing in connection with Alaska north and west of Sitka. Instances have been cited where people have lived in part from the production of the soil in more northern latitudes. In some parts of this Territory, the southeastern, no doubt the hardy vegetables could be raised, but hardly in sufficient quantities to support a large population.

The people about Kodiak, Afognak, and Wooded Island, as hereinbefore mentioned, are able to raise potatoes and turnips for their own limited use, but have none for sale or export. Alaska has been claimed as a grazing country for sheep as well as cattle, but only by those who have seen the beautiful grass growing in summer, and without taking into the account that during the greater part of the year this beautiful grass is covered with snow. It is only in the neighborhood of Kodiak that grass can be cut and cured in sufficient quantity to keep what few cattle they have during the winter; indeed, hardly a winter goes by but some of these few die of starvation.

There are, no doubt, people who, satisfied with a mere existence and willing to live upon the productions of the water and beaches and what vegetables they could raise in this inhospitable clime, might eke out a more comfortable existence than they now do. Such might consider Alaska a paradise. But the representations of some persons who have described Alaska in glowing terms, I consider to be wrong, as they might induce the immigration of settlers who would not be satisfied after spending their all in getting here. The surplus population of our large cities can find better homes than can be found in Alaska in some of our Western States and Territories, where a milder and more fruitful climate is to be found. Until the latter are crowded with settlers, it is unwise and unjustifiable, in my opinion, to try and induce immigration to Alaska.

TIMBER PRODUCTS OF ALASKA.

Alaska's wealth in timber has been frequently descanted upon. Probably in some districts the product is valuable. From my observation (along the coast and through the inside passages of British Columbia only) the timber is found growing in abundance, but a large portion of it of such a quality as, sawed into lumber, would not be salable in a market like San Francisco. The whole coast—that is, the timber belt—stands on its edge, so to speak, being apparently thrown into this form by volcanic action. The mountains rise so abruptly from the sea that the trees could not get sufficient foothold to retain their perpendicular were it not for their being so close together. They are, consequently, not of a size or sufficiently clear of knots to make the cutting

of them into lumber a profitable business. But there is a large quantity of standing timber to be seen, and a person seeing it without examination would likely be led to believe the statements made regarding Alaska's immense wealth in timber to be in no way exaggerated. There are, no doubt, parts of the Territory where a saw-mill could be located with profit, should a demand be made for lumber in its immediate vicinity, but not until then, or when the almost inexhaustible supply of timber found in our other possessions on this coast—Washington Territory, Oregon, and California—gives out, will there be found profit in exporting the lumber to be obtained from the comparatively small and knotty growths which are produced upon the rugged steeps of Alaska.

The timber belt disappears just north of Sitka, about Mount St. Elias, on the coast, although there is considerable on Kodiak, a long distance to the westward. From this point westward the timber ceases to grow, the Aleutian and Chumagin Islands being without a vestige of anything approaching trees, as is also the case with the whole coast of the mainland, through Behring Straits to Cape Prince of Wales, as far as it has been examined by me.

ARE ALASKA'S COAL MINES VALUABLE?

There is, no doubt, plenty of coal in the Territory, but little has yet been mined; about one thousand tons in all, taken from the mine at Coal Harbor, in Ounga Island, referred to in a previous part of this report, and found of not sufficient value to warrant the expense of its transportation to market. The Russians expended large sums of money in opening a mine at English Bay, Cook's Inlet, but were unable to keep the shaft clear of water, and, I understand, were convinced that it would be cheaper to purchase coal elsewhere than to be at the expense of obtaining it in the Territory.

I have seen both the Cook's Inlet and Coal Harbor coals tried, the former under a boiler for steam, the latter for stove fuel. They both burn steadily and make good stove-fuel, but are entirely unfit for making steam, unless the steam were to be used near the mine, the coal consuming so rapidly that a steamer would require a large bunker capacity to carry fuel enough to steam for long distances.

I am therefore forced to the same conclusion as that of the Russians, that coal could be procured elsewhere and transported to Alaska, in case it were required, much cheaper than to mine the present inferior article. At the same time, it is only the surface coal that has been tried; and should the demand ever be created that will warrant the further development of the mines, it is to be hoped that coal of a better quality will be found.

GOLD AND OTHER PRECIOUS METALS.

As to Alaska's wealth in the precious metals, late indications would warrant the statements made by some that there are gold, silver, and copper in the Territory. Gold-bearing quartz has been found to exist near Sitka, and the reports received while there, respecting its value, were very encouraging. Considerable capital has been expended in placing a stamp-mill on the grounds, and the report was, that as soon as water could be obtained sufficient to run the mill the persons operating the mine would commence extracting the ore. It is to be hoped that they will find something that will pay to work, as it is only a large find

in gold or silver that can or should induce the settlement of a large part of this Territory.

FISH AND FURS.

Alaska is undoubtedly the most productive portion of our possessions on the Pacific coast in fish, the supply at present exceeding the demand. To such an extent is this the case that the prices paid for them are greatly reduced, and this industry has become almost unprofitable, particularly this year. In my opinion there is a sufficient supply for all time to come; and as the Pacific coast becomes more settled and population increases, the demand will of course be greater, and this industry become more remunerative than at present to those engaged in the business.

Alaska's principal wealth, as developed, is in its furs and fish, which will always be in demand; and the perpetuation of these industries is to the interest of every one outside of as well as those living in the Territory. Its wealth in other products is not yet developed, and it is exceedingly doubtful if it ever will be.

The foregoing remarks are my convictions, based upon my own observations, however they may differ from those of others who have had opportunities to make themselves familiar with this country, and who may be better able to give an opinion.

[NOTE.—The foregoing report had been prepared but had not been signed by Capt. GEO. W. BAILEY when he met with the unfortunate accident which ended his life.]

PAPER 1.

List of vessels boarded by the United States steamer Richard Rush, with others known to be cruising in the waters of Alaska, during the summer of 1879, including those known to be owned and hailing from Alaskan ports.

Nationality	Rig.	Name of vessel.	Hailing port.	Tonnage.	Name of master.	Nature of cargo.	Nature of business engaged in.
American..	River str.	Cassiar	Port Townsend				Transporting freight and passengers on Stickeen River from Wrangel to Glenora.
Do....	Steamer ..	Rose	Sitka.....	46.00			Repairing at Sitka.
Do....	Schooner.	Nellie Eades	do.....	27.00			Repairing at Sitka.
Do....	do.....	Gold-Hunter	do.....	6.00			Repairing at Sitka.
Do....	do.....	Nicholas.....	Kodiak.....	12.82	Rodgers.....		Owned by Alaska Commercial Company, and employed carrying trade-goods to the different stations about Kodiak.
Do....	do.....	Diamedes Herman.....	do.....	12.86	Gregerioff.....	Trade-goods.....	Trading about Kodiak Island.
Do....	do.....	St. Paul.....	do.....	14.09	Pablov.....	do.....	Trading along the coast from Kodiak to Belkovsky.
Do....	do.....	W. H. Woods	do.....	5.03	Pheney	do.....	Trading and hunting.
Do....	do.....	Annie.....	do.....	5.00		do.....	Trading and hunting.
Do....	do.....	O. S. Fowler	San Francisco.	34.85	Boyne.....	do.....	Owned by Western Fur and Trading Company. Employed distributing trade-goods to different stations about Kodiak. Wintered there last year.
Do....	do.....	Eudora.....	do.....	73.36	Lennan.....	do.....	Owned by Alaska Commercial Company. Employed distributing trade-goods about Kodiak and Cook's Inlet. Goes to San Francisco every fall.
Do....	do.....	Undaunted	do.....	68.00	Bedisin.....	Salt, &c.....	Brought cargo to Kodiak and fished during the summer about Ounga.
Do....	do.....	Gussie Klose.....	do.....	94.69	Roberts.....	General cargo.....	Brought cargo to Kodiak from San Francisco and returned.
Do....	do.....	Wanderer.....	Ounga.....	9.00	Gardner.....		Hunting (sea-otter principally) about Sanaak.
Do....	do.....	Nagay.....	San Francisco.	20.19	Anderson.....		Fishing about Ounga, remaining there during the winter.
Do....	do.....	Ounga.....	do.....	20.00	Callahan.....		Fishing about Ounga, remaining there during the winter.
Do....	do.....	H. L. Tierman.....	do.....	142.00	Driscoll.....		Fishing about Ounga, returning to San Francisco in the fall.
Do....	do.....	Wild Gazelle.....	do.....	114.00			Fishing about Ounga, returning to San Francisco in the fall.
Do....	do.....	Alaska.....	do.....		Geary.....		Fishing about Ounga, returning to San Francisco in the fall.
Do....	do.....	J. H. Roscoe.....	do.....	79.99	Kelley.....		Fishing about Ounga, returning to San Francisco in the fall.

List of vessels boarded by the United States steamer Richard Rush, with others, &c.—Continued.

Nationality.	Rig.	Name of vessel.	Hailing port.	Tonnage.	Name of master.	Nature of cargo.	Nature of business engaged in.
American..	Schooner..	Sarah.....	San Francisco...		Chipman.....		Fishing about Ounga, returning to San Francisco in the fall.
Do.....	do.....	General Miller.....	do.....	108.74	Morse.....		Fishing about Ounga, returning to San Francisco in the fall.
Do.....	do.....	Alfred Adams.....	do.....	68.75		General cargo, salt, &c..	Brings stores and salt to Ounga for the fisheries. Takes fish to San Francisco, having made three trips this fall.
Do.....	do.....	Pauline Collins.....	do.....	69.93	Nye.....	Trade-goods, &c.....	Arctic-Ocean trader. Trades on both American and Russian coasts.
Do.....	Steamer..	St. Paul.....	do.....	888.57	Erskine.....	General cargo.....	Owned by Alaska Commercial Company. Employed about Seal Islands. One trip this year.
Do.....	Schooner..	St. George.....	do.....	100.41	Hague.....	do.....	Owned by Alaska Commercial Company. Employed about Aleutian Islands and Bristol Bay, distributing goods to twenty-three stations.
Do.....	do.....	Bella.....	do.....	34.83	Petersen.....	do.....	Owned by Alaska Commercial Company. Employed about the Aleutian Islands and the whole coast, distributing trade-goods.
Do.....	do.....	Emma and Louisa.....	do.....	89.15	Knudsen.....	Assorted cargo.....	Brought cargo for Alaska Commercial Company to Ounalaska; returned to San Francisco in ballast.
Do.....	do.....	Daisey Rowe.....	do.....	122.76	Higgins.....	do.....	Brought cargo for Western Fur and Trading Company; returned to San Francisco with furs, &c.
Do.....	do.....	Ounalaska.....	do.....	54.42	Kennedy.....	do.....	Owned by Western Fur and Trading Company. Employed about Aleutian Islands. Brought two cargoes from San Francisco and returned with furs, &c.
Do.....	do.....	Loleta.....	do.....	119.78	Dexter.....	Assorted cargo, partly contraband.	Fitted for whaling. Intended to pursue whale-fishing and trade in the Arctic. Seized at the Seal Islands by Special Agent Otis.
Do.....	Brig.....	Timandra.....	do.....	119.00	Thomas.....	do.....	Wrecked at Nounivak Island May 23. Part of cargo seized by this vessel.
Do.....	Schooner..	Leo.....	do.....	173.38	Barker.....	Trade-goods.....	Arctic-Ocean trader. Known to have liquor on board.
Do.....	do.....	La Ninfa.....	do.....		Dollard.....		Arctic-Ocean trader. Known to have liquor on board.
Do.....	do.....	Alexander.....	do.....	52.12	Littlejohn.....		Sea-otter hunter. Reported at Attou in August. Seen about there in September.

PAPER 2.

TABLES SHOWING THE POPULATION OF VARIOUS PORTS AND SETTLEMENTS IN ALASKA, ACCOMPANYING REPORT OF CAPTAIN GEORGE W. BAILEY, OF OCTOBER, 1879.

Population of the Sitka District, Alaska, including only those Indians who reside permanently at the places named.

Island or other geographical division.	Settlement.	American.	Foreign.	Creole.	Aleut.	Indian.	Total.
Karta Bay.....	Chasintzeff.....					*250	250
Wrangel Island.....	Fort Wrangel.....	75				*250	325
Baranoff Island.....	Sitka.....	178		247		*1,000	1,325
Total.....		153		247		1,500	1,900

*Not Christianized.

†Forty-four naturalized.

Population of the Kodiak District, Alaska, taken from the Church-Records for 1879.

Island or other geographical division.	Settlement.	American.	Foreign.	Creole.	Aleut.	Indian.	Total.
Kodiak Island.....	St. Paul.....	13	2	287		*15	317
Do.....	Kagnak.....				225		225
Do.....	Karlook.....			25	232		307
Do.....	Ahiok.....				113		113
Do.....	Eagle Harbor.....			19	246		265
Do.....	Old Harbor.....			24	197		221
Afognac Island.....	A village.....			212	135		347
Wooded Island.....	do.....	1		62	104		167
Eloway Island.....	do.....				79		79
On the Main-land.....	Katmai.....			37	182		219
Total.....		14	2	666	1,563	15	2,260

*Of the Kolosh tribe and members of the Greek Church.

Population of the Belkovsky District, Alaska, taken from the Church-Records for 1879.

Island or other geographical division.	Settlement.	American.	Foreign.	Creole.	Aleut.	Indian.	Total.
Ounga Island.....	Delaroff and Coal Harbors.....	10	2	68	105		185
Krovinsky Island.....	A village.....			37			37
Voznesensky Island.....	do.....	1			21		22
On the Main-land.....	Belkovsky.....	3	1	82	180		266
Do.....	Nicholajevsky.....				43		43
Do.....	Merzovoy.....	1		20	82		103
Total.....		15	3	207	431		656
Church-workers.....							8
Total.....							664

Population of the Ounalaska District, Alaska, taken from the Church-Records for 1879.

Island or other geographical division.	Settlement.	American.	Foreign.	Creole	Aleut.	Indian.	Total.
Ounalaska Island.	Illoullook	8		118	222		348
Do	Makgoshin			30	33		63
Do	Koshega				73		73
Do	Chernovskoy	2			94		96
Borka Island.	Cedanok			6	131		137
Oumnak Island.	Nekliskoy	1		8	118		127
Akoun Island.	A village				54		54
Akoutan Island.	do.	1			56		57
Avatanok Island.	do.				19		19
Tegalda Island.	do.				7		7
Atkha Island.	Nazan Bay	1		14	219		234
Attou Island.	Tchitchagoff Harbor.			32	74		106
Total		13		208	1,100		1,321
Church-workers							16
Total							1,337

Population of the Pribilof Islands and Michaelovski, Alaska, taken from the Church-Records for 1879.

Island or other geographical division.	Settlement.	American.	Foreign.	Creole.	Aleut.	Indian.	Total.
St. Paul's Island.	A village	8			262		270
St. George's Island.	do.	4			88		92
On the Main-land.	St. Michael's	12	12			*100	124
Total		24	12		350	100	486

*Of the Mahlemute tribe, and not Christianized.

Population of the Nushagak District, Alaska, taken from the Church-Records (all of whom are members of the Greek Church).

Tribal name.	Name of settlement.	Location of settlement.	Creole.	Aleut.	Indian.	Total.
Creoles	Fort Alexander	Nushagak River	33			
Do	Ougashik	Ougashik River	20			
Do	Illamni	Illamni Lake	35			88
Aleuts	Ougashik	Ougashik River		247		
Do	Ikbogamute	Nanvagnihnguk Lake		129		376
Alegamutes	Fort Alexander	Nushagak River			12	
Do	Yakuk	do.			79	
Do	Packvik	Nacknik River			141	
Do	Igeagik	Igeagik River			117	349
Keyatenskys	Kaskanak	Quickagak River			107	
Do	Kakwok	Nushagak River			83	
Do	Ageagik	do.			28	218
Footnovskys	do.	do.			19	19
Kenaiskys	do.	do.			16	
Do	Illamni	Illamni Lake			22	
Do	Cheekak	do.			78	
Do	Keechick	Keechick River			208	324
Do	Molchayna	Molchayna River			76	
Kuskoquims	Fort Alexander	Nushagak River			28	
Do	Yakuk	do.			26	
Do	Packvik	Nacknik River			30	
Do	Kolvozanok	Nushagak River			51	
Do	Keenoganok	do.			98	
Do	Kanovlik	do.			84	
Do	Egwahik	Egwahik River				

Population of the Nushagak District, &c.—Continued.

Tribal name.	Name of settlement.	Location of settlement.	Creole.	Aleut.	Indian.	Total.
Kuskoquims.....	Togiak	Togiak River.....			110	.....
Do.....	Chagavangmute.....	Chagavan River.....			30	.....
Do.....	Vichtooligamute.....	Alloknagik River.....			34	.....
Do.....	Ahkoolichpunk.....	Ahkoolichpunk Lake.....			52	.....
Do.....	Kishogamute.....	Togiak River.....			66	.....
Do.....	Ecachlologamute.....	do.....			81	.....
Do.....	Augowanogamute.....	do.....			64	.....
Do.....	Tickchik	Tickchik River.....			31	861
Total.....			88	376	1,771	2,235
Births in 1878.....						181
Total.....						2,416

*Total Population of the Territory of Alaska, by Districts—1879.

Name of district.	American.	Foreign.	Creole.	Aleut.	Indian.	Not stated.
Sitka.....	153		247		1,500	.....
Kodiak.....	14	2	666	1,563	15	.....
Belkovsky.....	15	3	207	431		8
Ounalaska.....	13		208	1,100		16
Pribilof Islands, &c.....	24	12		350	100	.....
Nushagak.....			88	376	1,771	181
Total.....	219	17	1,416	3,820	3,386	205

RECAPITULATION.

American.....	919
Foreign.....	17
Creole.....	1,416
Aleut.....	3,820
Indian.....	3,386
Not stated.....	205
Total.....	9,063

*NOTE.—This enumeration does not include the savages who live in the interior of Alaska, and who are estimated to number about 5,000; nor the Eskimos, who inhabit the coast north of the Peninsula and bordering upon the Arctic Ocean, numbering about 5,000 more.

PAPER No. 3.

UNITED STATES REVENUE MARINE,
U. S. Revenue Steamer *Richard Rush*,
San Francisco, Cal., November 5, 1879.

Hon. JOHN SHERMAN,
Secretary of the Treasury, Washington, D. C.:

SIR: Agreeably to orders contained in department's letter of April 21, 1879, "E. W. C.," for me to take soundings, bearings, geographical and astronomical observations, notes on the tides and currents, and the positions of rocks, bars, &c., during my cruise in Alaska, and submit detailed reports of the same to the department, I have the honor to submit the following report:

From the time of entering the waters of Alaska, May 18, nothing

was definitely determined until after leaving Fort Wrangel, when in passing from Point St. Albens to Cape Decision, about half-way between the two points, and directly at the entrance of the Affleck's Canal, we located a small island of three-fourths of a mile in extent, with scattering timber upon it, and with three rocks, always above water, lying off its E. S. E. end, the outer one about half a mile from the island; a rock near its northern side, and several off its W. N. W. end—all above water.

According to our bearings by compass, and distance by patent log, its position is as follows, considering the positions of Point St. Albens and Cape Decision to be correct on sheet No. 2 of Coast-Survey chart, Northwest Coast of America:

From a position Point St. Albens bearing W. N. W., $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles, the center of the island bore S. W. A course was steered S. W. by S. $\frac{3}{4}$ S., $3\frac{1}{4}$ miles, when the center of the island bore W. N. W.; Cape Decision, S. W. $\frac{1}{2}$ S.; St. Albens, N., the outer rock off E. S. E. end of the island, distant three-fourths of a mile. Same course continued $4\frac{1}{4}$ miles, when Cape Decision bore W. N. W., and center of island, N. by E.; Cape Decision was passed about 1 mile distant.

From Sitka to Kodiak we found the current setting to the southward and eastward on an average of 18 miles per day; the nearer Kodiak the stronger the current, probably the influence of the outset from Prince William's Sound and Cook's Inlet. This same current has been experienced by us the last three years in making this passage—the strongest in 1878, when the passage was made in July. In 1877 and 1879, the passage was made in May.

From Kodiak to the Chumagin Islands, a line of soundings was run as far as our lead-line would reach bottom; their character and depth are shown on the chart.

We experienced no currents from Cape Greeville to the Trinity Islands, south end of Kodiak, but I am informed by the schooners that cruise about the islands that the tidal currents are felt both on the ebb and flow, the flood-tide setting to the northward.

Some few soundings were taken about the Chumagin Islands, the Seal Islands, and other places visited by us, but only in comparatively shoal water, we having only 125 fathoms of sounding-line, and a lack of time to make them.

I inclose herewith a tracing from Sandman's chart of the vicinity of the coast from Ounga to Cape Pankowco, showing about all there is known of this the most dangerous part of Alaska. Some of the corrections and soundings are by us, and the relative positions of rocks, reefs, islands, &c., are sufficiently correct for the purposes of navigation, the courses and distances being correct.

In June, we cruised west as far as Attou, and, returning, touched at the islands of Kyska and Atkha. After leaving Kyska we discovered a reef, supposed at the time to be the one laid down on the "Fenimore Cooper" charts, marked "position doubtful." It is quite extensive, and presents a body of kelp about three-fourths of a mile in extent, nearly circular, with two breakers one-eighth of a mile apart, in its center, bearing from one another N. W. and S. E. The following bearings of the land were taken:

The north end of Kyska Island, W. by N. $\frac{1}{2}$ N. Tanadahk (a small flat island near the east end of Little Kyska), S. by W. The island of Tchougoul—north end, E. $\frac{1}{2}$ N.; south end, E. by S. $\frac{1}{4}$ S.; and Rat Island, S. E. by S. (bearings magnetic). We sounded near the kelp when the center of the reef bore E., but found no bottom at 25 fathoms.

The islands of Tchougoul, Koostoff, and Davidoff are not placed right on the chart, but Little Sitchen seems in better position.

Taking Dall's position of Kyska Harbor to be right, we steered a N. E. by E. course from its entrance, which course projected would pass directly over the position of Tchougoul on the "Fenimore Cooper" chart. At the same time we found our course cleared that island all of a point, leaving it to the eastward; and again the distance from the north end of Kyska to the harbor entrance seems very short, and I therefore conclude the end of Kyska to be down on the chart all of three miles north of its true position, wherever it may be. Its relative bearing from the reef is as before stated, W. by N. $\frac{1}{2}$ N.

Since examining and locating the above reef, I am informed by Captain Hague, of the schooner St. George, that the reef laid down on the "Fenimore Cooper" chart does exist, and its true position should be $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles S. $\frac{1}{2}$ E., true, from where it is laid down on the chart. Both of these reefs were seen by Captain Hague in August of this year, in fine weather, so the land could be seen plainly and correct bearings taken. He confirms the position of the reef located by us, but describes the second one as much the larger.

The natives who hunt about Kyska report a great deal of broken ground, with breakers and kelp, in the vicinity of Tchougoul and the islands adjacent.

On our course north, in July, from Ounalaska, passing to the eastward of all the islands, except Nounivak, through Behring Straits and into the Arctic Ocean, to latitude $66^{\circ} 12' N.$, an occasional sounding was taken, and found to correspond with those given on the "American Chart of Behring Sea and Arctic Ocean," from surveys of the North Pacific Surveying Expedition in 1855.

On this cruise, we found the general set of the current to the westward growing stronger from Nounivak to St. Lawrence Islands, and turning more to the northward after passing the latter, and increasing in velocity to two knots per hour from King's Island to 29 miles north of the Diomedes.

We found on our return south, along the shores of the coast, about the same current, or, if anything, a little stronger. Probably its increased strength was caused by the fresh southerly winds that had been blowing for some time. Here, as well as in other parts of the Behring Sea (away from the influence of the rivers), the current is influenced a great deal by the direction and force of the wind.

We passed into Norton Sound, along its north shore, by Sledge Island and Cape Nome, and nearly up to Cape Darby, the east head of Golovin Bay, before crossing to St. Michael's.

From Cape Nome, the influence of the tidal currents was felt, but the flood setting into the sound, only slightly perceptible.

While at St. Michael's, we determined the position of the Redoubt to be in latitude $63^{\circ} 29' 50'' N.$, and, from the mean of 33 sights, in longitude $162^{\circ} 05' 45'' W.$ by chronometer, verified by the position of Ounalaska. The variation, $22^{\circ} 37'$ easterly.

It was high water on the 19th of July (new moon) at 7 h. 50 m. A. M. There is only one tide during the 24 hours—rise and fall; ordinary tides being about 4 feet.

The rise and fall of tides are greatly influenced by the winds—the northerly winds blowing the water out of the sound, causing a fathom or more of fall below the ordinary range, the southerly winds making a corresponding rise.

We left St. Michael's on July 23, and ran a line of soundings across

the shoal water of the sound and mouths of the Yukon, south, as far as Nounivak Island. This same ground has heretofore been sounded over by me (in 1877), and the same depth of water found, and I am satisfied that no less water will be found over the same track.

It is possible that we passed through a slough across the shoal, and there may be less water to the north of where we crossed. I would, therefore, recommend that vessels bound into Norton Sound give these shoals a berth by keeping well to the westward, and making the north shore of the sound (about Cape Nome) before hauling in to the eastward, as it is possible there may be sand-ridges with less water, and probably bowlders, deposited by the ice, of sufficient size to be dangerous, like those found in Cook's Inlet. The soundings are as carefully marked on Dall's chart as could be, owing to the scale on which it is projected.

We were at the island of Nounivak again in August, after the crew of the brig *Timandra*, wrecked there on the 20th of May, having struck on a shoal just north of the west end of the island.

We had a chance to get the position where the brig was finally beached, and consider the latitude of the west end of the island about right.

We had a sight of the moon for longitude, but of not sufficient correctness to state positively, but judge it to be about right in longitude also, as laid down on the hydrographic chart of Behring Sea and Arctic Ocean.

On our cruise to the eastward, in August, we were in Portage Bay, on the main land opposite Coal Harbor, Ounga Island, and took some soundings.

We have marked on Sandman's chart the depths, and how the bay looked to us, but had no time to examine it carefully. At the head of the bay is good holding-bottom in stiff mud, and seemingly a good harbor for all winds except southwest, which do not blow heavy in summer. The fishermen occasionally use it.

On our return west we made an accurate survey of a small but good harbor in the northeast arm of Belkovsky Bay, and transmit with other charts a tracing of it.

We make the position of Cape Pankowa, the southeast point of Ikatok's Island, to be in latitude $54^{\circ} 41' N.$, longitude $163^{\circ} 08' 30'' W.$ We are sure of the latitude, being off the cape at meridian, and having had good sights for longitude two hours before noon. The dead-reckoning from the position of the harbor surveyed by us in Belkovsky Bay, 61 miles in longitude to the eastward, brought forward to noon, agreeing exactly with the sights, we consider the longitude of Cape Pankowa as above stated.

I also inclose herewith what I consider a good view of Bogasloff, its bearing and distance, with its estimated height, as also its approximate position in latitude and longitude.

We have never had a sight of the sun when passing it, but have seen it often, and have always (by dead-reckoning course and distance from Cape Cheerful, on Ounalaska Island) located it in the same spot. Nothing has ever been seen by us between it and Umnak, as marked on some of the charts. Its approximate position is in latitude $53^{\circ} 51' 11'' N.$, longitude $167^{\circ} 56' 18'' W.$

The position of vessel and set of current are shown each day on the

charts herewith forwarded. I also forward an abstract of all the currents encountered during the cruise.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

Captain, R. M. S.

A synopsis of the log of the United States revenue-steamer Richard Rush, showing the ship's position each day, with the direction and force of currents encountered while cruising in the North-Pacific Ocean and Behring Sea, during the months of May, June, July, and August, 1879, under the command of Captain George W. Bailey, U. S. R. M.

FROM SITKA TO KODIAK.

Dates.	Latitudes.		Longitudes.		Currents.
	By Obs.	By D. R.	By Obs.	By D. R.	
	° ' "	° ' "	° ' "	° ' "	
May 23	57 08 00 N..	57 13 00 N..	140 02 00 W.	140 21 00 W.	17 h. 12m. S. E. $\frac{3}{4}$ E., true.
May 24	57 17 08 N..	57 27 00 N..	145 51 00 W.	146 00 00 W.	24 h. 11 m. S. S. E., true.
May 25	57 30 20 N..	57 52 21 N..	151 30 30 W.	151 44 00 W.	24 h. 23 m. S. by E. $\frac{1}{2}$ E., true.

FROM KODIAK TO OUNGA.

Dates.	Latitudes.		Longitudes.		Currents.
	By Obs.	By D. R.	By Obs.	By D. R.	
	° ' "	° ' "	° ' "	° ' "	
May 29	55 52 21 N..	55 46 20 N..	154 50 30 W.	155 00 00 W.	8 h. 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ m. N. E. $\frac{1}{2}$ N., true.
May 30	54 47 47 N..	54 55 51 N..	159 49 45 W.	160 00 30 W.	24 h. 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ m. S. E. by S. $\frac{1}{2}$ S., true.

NOTE.—May 28 to 4 A. M. May 29, from Cape Greeville to the Trinity Islands, found no perceptible current.

FROM OUNALASKA TO ATTOU VIA THE PRIBILOV ISLANDS, AND RETURN VIA KYSKA AND ATKAHA.

Dates.	Latitudes.		Longitudes.		Currents.
	By Obs.	By D. R.	By Obs.	By D. R.	
	° ' "	° ' "	° ' "	° ' "	
June 12....	54 24 46 N..	54 24 00 N..	167 03 15 W.	166 46 00 W.	
June 13-14.	At the Pribilov Islands.				
June 15....	56 15 57 N..	56 15 21 N..	174 35 35 W.	174 49 52 W.	20 h. 8 m. E., true.
June 16....	55 08 39 N..	55 30 21 N..	178 13 00 W.	178 20 35 W.	24 h. 22 m. S. by E., true.
June 17....	54 27 26 N..	54 32 15 N..	179 35 00 E..	179 14 00 E..	24 h. 13 m. S. E. by E. $\frac{1}{2}$ E., true.
June 18....	53 32 48 N..	53 42 26 N..	176 05 45 E..	176 00 00 E..	24 h. 11 m. S. by E. $\frac{1}{2}$ E., true.
June 19....	At 5 a. m. arrived at Attou.				16 h. 8 m. S. by E., true.
June 24....	52 58 30 N..	52 56 39 N..	174 26 30 E..	174 30 42 E..	7 h. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ m. N. W. $\frac{1}{2}$ W., true.
June 25....	At Kyska Island.				
June 26....		52 28 04 N..		178 30 00 W.	
June 27....	52 45 23 N..	52 27 18 N..	174 23 45 W.	173 52 00 W.	46 h. 26 $\frac{1}{2}$ m. N. W. $\frac{1}{2}$ W., true.
June 28....		52 17 30 N..		173 47 00 W.	
June 29....	53 38 05 N..	53 41 36 N..	169 04 30 W.	168 59 00 W.	24 h. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ m. S. W., true.

CONDITION OF AFFAIRS IN ALASKA.

FROM OUNALASKA TO THE ARCTIC OCEAN AND RETURN, VIA ST. MICHAEL'S AND THE PRIBILOV ISLANDS.

Dates.	Latitudes.		Longitudes.		Currents.
	By Obs.	By D. R.	By Obs.	By D. R.	
July 10	54 48 21 N..	54 44 36 N..	167 09 45 W.	166 47 00 W.	6 h. 13 m. N. W. by W. $\frac{1}{2}$ W., true. 24 h. 9 m. W. S. W., true.
July 11	57 56 02 N..	58 01 09 N..	167 52 15 W.	167 38 15 W.	
July 12	.....	60 44 20 N..	.....	168 08 15 W.	48 h. 15 $\frac{1}{2}$ m. S. W. by W., true.
July 13	63 18 30 N..	63 28 20 N..	168 06 30 W.	167 34 45 W.	
July 14	.....	63 51 57 N..	.....	167 29 30 W.	16 h. 30 m. N. $\frac{3}{4}$ W., true.
July 15	.....	65 51 45 N..	.....	168 17 30 W.	
July 16	65 04 58 N..	64 35 45 N..	167 22 30 W.	167 07 30 W.	23 h. 5 m. E., true. 24 h. 4 m. S., true. 24 h. 9 m. S. $\frac{1}{2}$ E., true.
July 17	.....	63 34 58 N..	.....	162 16 30 W.	
July 24	62 55 22 N..	62 55 38 N..	166 05 30 W.	166 18 45 W.	.....
July 25	60 17 51 N..	60 13 52 N..	168 00 15 W.	168 01 30 W.	
July 26	57 15 15 N..	57 24 51 N..	169 30 00 W.	169 39 30 W.	.....
July 27	At the Pribilov Islands.	.....	.....	.....
July 28	.....	56 54 30 N..	.....	170 08 00 W.	.....
July 29	.....	54 19 18 N..	.....	167 06 00 W.	

NOTE.—True position at meridian, 26°, worked back from St. Paul's Islands.

FROM OUNALASKA TO NOUNIVAK ISLANDS, VIA THE PRIBILOV ISLANDS.

Dates.	Latitudes.		Longitudes.		Currents.
	By Obs.	By D. R.	By Obs.	By D. R.	
Aug. 4	.....	54 00 00 N..	.....	166 29 00 W.	48 h. 11 m. W. S. W., true.
Aug. 5	.....	57 18 48 N..	.....	166 46 00 W.	
Aug. 6	59 20 11 N..	59 26 36 N..	167 17 15 W.	166 58 00 W.	.....
Aug. 7	59 59 42 N..	.....	167 17 45 W.	.....
Aug. 8	58 08 17 N..	57 57 12 N..	169 08 00 W.	169 12 45 W.	.....
Aug. 9	57 14 39 N..	.....	169 35 30 W.	.....
Aug. 10	.....	57 02 00 N..	.....	170 11 00 W.	.....
Aug. 11	.....	54 17 02 N..	.....	167 26 30 W.	

FROM OUNALASKA TO OUNGA AND RETURN, VIA BELKOVSKY.

Dates.	Latitudes.		Longitudes.		Currents.
	By Obs.	By D. R.	By Obs.	By D. R.	
Aug. 20	.....	54 13 00 N..	.....	165 54 30 W.	24 h. 3 m. W., true.
Aug. 21	54 42 46 N..	54 42 26 N..	161 23 30 W.	161 30 00 W.	
Sept. 2	54 40 29 N..	.....	163 15 15 W.	.....	.....

NOTES FROM THE CRUISE OF THE U. S. REVENUE-STEAMER RUSH IN ALASKAN WATERS.

[Extracted from the report of Assistant Surgeon Robert White, United States Marine Hospital Service.

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In addition to the discharge of the duties of medical officer of the vessel, with the concurrence of the commanding officer, professional assistance and medicines were furnished to the inhabitants of the various settlements at which the steamer touched during the cruise. These services were extensively required, as at most of the points in question the natives and whites alike are without medical attendance of any kind other than such as is furnished by the native Indian physicians or "shamans."

At Fort Simpson, B. C., the first point at which medical services were required on shore, there is an Indian village of nearly 1,000 inhabitants, of whom not more than five are white. Through the efforts of a missionary who has taken up his residence among them, the majority of these have, during the past three years, been brought under the influences of civilization, and a great improvement has taken place in their habits and mode of life, especially in their moral relations, with a corresponding improvement in the health of the community. Previous to the time mentioned, the women of the tribe were in the habit of going to Victoria, B. C., to Fort Wrangel, and to other points where the miners from various parts of British Columbia congregated during the winter season, and leading lives of indiscriminate prostitution, with the consent, and often under the escort, of their husbands, fathers, or other male relatives, until they had accumulated as much money as they desired, when they returned to their villages and resumed their ordinary domestic relations.

NOTE.—The U. S. revenue-steamer Rush sailed from San Francisco May 8, 1879, on a six months' cruise to the North Pacific, Behring's Sea, and Arctic Ocean, for the enforcement of the special regulations of the Treasury Department in the waters of Alaska, the protection of the fur-seal fisheries, and for the collection of information for the government as to the resources of the country and the condition of the people, the writer being detailed as medical officer of the expedition.

As many of their patrons at the mining towns suffered from various forms of venereal disease, the women necessarily became infected, and in turn communicated disease to all the individuals who under their loose domestic relations were exposed to it.

Although these practices have been to a great extent abandoned, their consequences are still manifested in the prevalence of various chronic venereal affections and their sequela, as well as by the development of a general syphilitic diathesis, which renders the people especially prone to the engrafting of strumous affections, and to succumb to attacks of acute disease. Chronic catarrhal affections of the lungs are common, and often terminate fatally in pneumonic forms of phthisis.

At various periods during the past fifty years epidemics of small-pox have prevailed at this and other points on the inland coast, and, extending to the Indians of the interior, have caused a great mortality

among the people, in some instances one-half of the population of the villages being destroyed. The last serious outbreak occurred in 1868. In each instance the infection seems to have been introduced from Victoria, B. C., which is the central trading point for Indians of the North Pacific coast, the disease prevailing there to some extent at nearly all times, frequent communication by canoes being maintained with most of the Indian villages on the coast. But a small proportion of the people have been protected by vaccination.

At Kazan Bay, the first settlement reached within the limits of Alaska Territory, there is an Indian village of some three hundred people, with no white residents. I found the chief of the village completely blind from long-continued granular ophthalmia, and several other members of the tribe suffering from various chronic syphilitic affections, especially rupia and syphilitic rheumatism. A few cases of phthisis were seen in an advanced stage. All of these were prescribed for and furnished with medicine, the pilot of the steamer acting as interpreter.

Fort Wrangel is the first settlement of importance in Alaska, having about seventy-five permanent white residents, whose numbers are greatly increased in the spring and autumn by the influx of miners on their way to and from the gold regions of Cassiar, B. C., to which Fort Wrangel furnishes the only point of access.

There are about three hundred Indians of the Stakhine tribe permanently resident, whose numbers are much increased at times by the adjoining tribes coming to the point for trade. Among the Indian population chronic venereal affections are very common, and as many of the migratory whites maintain illicit relations with the Indian women, the disease is constantly maintained in an active form. It is a common practice for Indian parents to sell their daughters, or husbands their wives, for a blanket or a few pounds of tobacco, to the white miners for the season, at the end of which the women return to their homes, to be disposed of in the same manner the following year. Many of the natives present extensive cicatrices of previous phagedenic ulcerations of scrotum, thighs, and adjacent parts. Phthisical affections and chronic catarrhal diseases of both the respiratory and digestive tracts are common, the former being due probably to the excessive moisture of the climate and the exposure attending the pursuits of hunting and fishing; the latter to the course and indigestible forms of food used during the winter in the shape of dried fish, oil, and seaweed. In summer an ample supply of fresh fish forms the staple article of food, and is supplemented by the occasional addition of bear meat or venison. The fish and meat are cooked with large quantities of seal and fish oils, especially that procured from the oolichan fish found in great multitudes in the adjoining Stakhine and Nass rivers. These small fish, of the smelt family, not unlike in size and shape the *osmerus vir* of the Atlantic coast, contain such large quantities of fat in their substance that, after slight drying, they may be readily ignited, and will burn with a smoky flame until consumed. They are designated by the Indians as "candle-fish," and the oil extracted from them is congealed into masses of a buttery consistence. In its numerous economic applications, as well as for purposes of trade and barter, the oolichan fat furnishes one of the most important products supplied by nature for the benefit of a people almost wholly dependent on direct natural products for their support. The oolichan fat is quite bland in taste, and in this cold climate remains free from rancidity for a long time. With dried fish and seaweed it forms the principal means of subsistence during the long winters when other

sources of supply are closed. Its free use was directed both as a diet, and by inunction of the whole body, in the numerous cases brought to my attention, giving evidence of tubercular or strumous disease, in the absence of the officinal oils generally employed for that purpose.

The free use of the *alaria esculenta*, and some other forms of edible marine algæ; was also enjoined, in a view of their being more or less charged with the salts of bromine and iodine. These algæ are collected during the summer, dried, and pressed into cakes of such hardness that when wanted for use a piece is chopped off with an axe. They are eaten raw, in which form they are not unpalatable, or boiled into a stew with fish and oil. Effort was made to inform the natives of the therapeutic properties of these substances in the absence of the ordinary remedies, and of the advantages to be derived, in many chronic affections, from free bathing and friction with the salt-water everywhere surrounding them, to which they seem to be quite oblivious.

The Indians of this vicinity have almost no knowledge of the substances usually employed as medicines, or even of the remedial properties possessed by some forms of the scanty vegetation of the country, as well as by some of the animal products—a knowledge popularly believed to be the special attribute of Indians, but in which these people, it is certain, are remarkably deficient. In sickness they either apathetically await the termination of the disease by death or recovery, or secure the services of a native "shaman," whose resources are almost wholly limited to the employment of sorcery and incantations for exorcising the evil spirits that are supposed to be the cause of all serious disease. Several of the Indians attended at Fort Wrangel, suffering from ordinary forms of disease, especially those accompanied by pain, as acute rheumatism, or visceral inflammations, or by demonstrative objective symptoms, as in epilepsy, earnestly declared themselves to be victims of witchcraft, and had employed the "shamans" for exorcising the evil spirits that tormented them.

A mixture of credulity and imposition characterizes the practices employed by the "shamans," who evidently believe themselves possessed; to some extent, of the supernatural powers attributed to them by the natives. They generally commence the process of treatment by demanding presents of skins, tobacco, or other valuables for appeasing the evil spirit. The repetition of these demands is regulated by the severity of the disease and the susceptibility of the patient, and is often continued until the piles of furs, dried fish, and skins that have made the owner the wealthy man of his village are exhausted.

If the incantations, dances, and rattling of charms, that are vigorously practiced, fail to bring relief to the patient, as a last resort the shaman generally indicates some individual as the source of the evil influences afflicting the patient. The individual selected is usually a woman or some defenseless person, and, if a member of the tribe, the unfortunate being is seized, bound in a constrained position, or beaten and dragged over the ground until a confession is extorted. If all the means employed fail to give relief, or death results, the evil spirits are declared to be too numerous or too powerful to be expelled. Sometimes the unsuccessful shaman himself becomes the object of suspicion on the part of the patients or their friends, and is subjected to the same cruel treatment that he has inflicted on many others.

The Indians of the entire coast of the lower mainland live in habitations of the same general type, these being large houses of hewn logs elevated on a wooden platform, close to the beach of the cove or bay generally selected for the site of the village. The houses are from forty to fifty

feet square, and are frequently occupied by all the members of a family, to the number of twenty, thirty, or more persons. The center of the floor is reserved as a fire-place, and in the roof above there is a large opening for the admission of light and the partial escape of the smoke.

The women and children spend much of their time around the smoky wood-fire, and in consequence suffer much from inflammatory diseases of the eyes. The prevalence of similar affections among the men is probably due in part to the continuous presence of snow during nearly eight months of the year.

On reaching the age of puberty the females are considered unclean, and are secluded until the menstrual function is fully established. The lower lip is then pierced with a metallic pin, from within outwards; this is held in place by a large head on the inner side, and the pin is enlarged with advancing years, till the termination of the period of child-bearing, and frequently attains the width of one or two inches, a thin encircling ring of flesh being the only vestige of the lower lip remaining.

The process of parturition among the Indian women is accomplished easily and rapidly, the pains of labor lasting but an hour or two. The women, however, are not permitted to be sick within the houses. On the approach of labor, a temporary structure of logs and branches is constructed outside the house, and here, even during the most inclement seasons, the women are compelled to bring forth their children, and to remain during the period of purification, lasting for several days, required by their customs.

The newly-born infant is rubbed freely with grease, and washed with urine, then closely wrapped in a blanket or skin padded with dried grass, which tightly confines its limbs, and from which it is released but once daily to permit of the change of the padding.

Dangerous delays in parturition but rarely occur, and deaths from parturient complications are almost unknown.

At Fort Wrangel, Rev. S. Hall Young, the missionary stationed there, and the most capable person in the place for the duty, was furnished with a small supply of medicines and directions for their employment in the most common affections from which the Indians of his district suffered.

On May 21 the Rush arrived at Sitka, but as the United States steamer Alaska was temporarily stationed there, and had two medical officers on board, my services were not required extensively by the inhabitants, who consist of eighty Americans, two hundred and seventy-five Russians and Creoles, and about one thousand Indians.

Opportunity was presented here, however, for acquiring extensive information in regard to the diseases prevalent, and the means used for their relief by the Indians, and for witnessing the process of cremation employed for the disposal of their dead. The corpse, wrapped in straw mats, is taken from the house through the opening in the roof, and laid on a pile of pine logs about six feet square, with an additional layer of logs over the body. The pile being ignited, the intense flame of the resinous wood rapidly consumes the body, so that in about two hours it is nearly reduced to ashes, but a few fragments of the larger bones retaining any semblance of the original form. The ashes are collected into a box and preserved in small houses erected by each family for the purpose.

Since the removal of the United States troops there has been no resident surgeon at Wrangel or Sitka, and the presence of a properly qualified physician at both these points is greatly desired by the white

residents. During the Russian occupation of the country, a hospital of considerable capacity was maintained at Sitka by the Russian Fur Company. Physicians were also sent, periodically, to visit the larger trading stations and to furnish such assistance as might be required.

On the Russian garrisons being replaced by United States troops, gratuitous medical attendance was continued by the American medical officers, and the people are inclined to consider that they have a claim on the United States Government to be furnished with medical attendance and medicines. At Sitka there are several hot mineral springs impregnated with iron and sulphur, formerly much resorted to for the treatment of skin diseases.

The use of bear's gall for arthritic and rheumatic affections is universal among the Indians, as well as by the Russians, Creoles, and Aleuts of the islands. The gall-bladder is cut from the liver of the bear, and, with the contents, is well rubbed up with pounded leaves of the different species of tanacetum that grow in great abundance, and freely rubbed to the inflamed joints. The testimony of the natives, and of the white traders, officers, and seamen of the government and of merchant vessels visiting the country, who have personally used the remedy, is so generally in favor of its palliative effects, in this class of affections, as to warrant further inquiry into its properties and observation of its effects. The remedy is held in such high repute on the northwest coast, and the supply is so limited, that the gall-bladders, with the dried contents, are readily sold for five dollars each in San Francisco.

Drunkenness is very prevalent, and is the cause of much of the sickness prevailing among the Indians, and of many of the injuries inflicted on each other during the drunken fights in which they frequently indulge. As the importation of liquors in any form into the Territory is prohibited by United States law, the natives resort to extemporaneous distillation for a supply, having learned the process from soldiers of both the Russian and American garrisons. An old coal-oil or other can of sufficient size furnishes a still, and a gun-barrel, or the long hollow arms of a species of kelp growing in great abundance on the coast, is used as a worm, while the sugar or molasses procured from the trader, or, in the absence of this, fermented flour or potatoes, with berries, supplies the material. The liquids thus prepared are known among the Indians as "hootchenoo," which in their language is equivalent to "happiness," and in the Aleutian Islands as "quass." They are very rank in taste and odor, and violently stimulant in their effects; their use is quickly followed by marked irritation of the urinary organs. After drinking, the natives may often be seen stupidly wallowing about on the ground and evidently suffering from stranguary.

The climate of Sitka is very moist and wet, rain or snow having fallen on nearly three hundred days of some years, and the annual rainfall having reached $2\frac{1}{2}$ meters (98 inches). Contrary to the general belief, excessive cold does not prevail, the temperature rarely falling below -12° Cent. (10° Fahr.), and the mean temperature of the winters being little below the freezing-point. Chronic pulmonary complaints and rheumatism are very prevalent, and the latter disease is an almost inevitable sequence of protracted residence here.

The mortality among the Russians and Creoles, whose death record is strictly kept by the Russian church officials, is not excessive, being at the annual rate of about three per one hundred of the population. Most of the deaths result from chronic pulmonary disease. Among the Indians the deaths from natural causes were considered by the resident officials to be in about the same ratio, but many additional deaths are

caused by the vicissitudes of their lives as hunters and from personal violence developed by their tendency to drunkenness.

Nearly seven hundred miles west of Sitka lies the large island of Kodiak, the seat of the Russian Government before its transfer to Sitka. On this and the adjacent islands there are settlements of Russian Creoles and Aleuts, numbering in the aggregate about twenty-three hundred. Saint Paul and Woody Island, two miles apart, are the principal villages, the former occupied by two fur-trading companies, with fifteen Americans and three hundred Creoles; the latter by the Russian-American Ice Company, where a single American exercises complete sovereignty over nearly two hundred Creoles and Aleuts.

The natives support themselves by fishing and trapping for furs, which they dispose of to the traders for clothing, tobacco, tea, and sugar. The streams of the island teem with salmon and trout in such numbers that they may be scooped out by the hand. Herring and cod are very plentiful off shore, and halibut of one hundred pounds weight are often taken. The abundance of fish, with the venison, bear, and seal meat, easily obtained, added to the hard bread, flour, tea, and sugar, procurable from the traders, furnishes a liberal supply of food for the people during the summer; but, being very improvident in their habits, they make little provision in advance for winter, and but for the supervision of the traders, who compel them to preserve more or less dried fish and meat, great suffering would ensue.

The climate of Kodiak is warmer and drier than any other portion of the Territory, being free from the frequent rains of Sitka, the mists of the western islands, and the extreme cold of the North, the snow-fall not being excessive, and the thermometer rarely falling below -18° Cent. (0 Fahr.). On the main-land, two hundred miles north of Kodiak, the temperature during a considerable part of the winter is forty to fifty degrees below zero, Cent. The mortality in the Kodiak district is about twenty-five annually per one thousand of the population, comparing favorably with that of Sitka, where the Christian population lead very inactive lives in trading or light labor, while those of Kodiak are active fishermen and hunters.

Fevers or other zymotic diseases rarely prevail among them; or when they do exist, appear in epidemic form, measles having carried off several hundred of the people some years ago, and traditions exist of previous very fatal epidemics of the same disease.

Venereal affections, scrofula, rheumatism, and chronic catarrhal and tubercular diseases of the lungs, developed by frequently recurring colds, and living in close, unventilated huts, are the prevalent affections.

On the one thousand, or more, miles of coast between Sitka and Kodiak there is hardly a vestige of civilization, and the country is very sparsely peopled, some seven hundred Indians and Creoles being distributed along the shores of Cook's Inlet, where a few trading-stations are maintained; and on the shores of Bristol Bay, north of the Alaskan Peninsula, some eighteen hundred Indians and four hundred and fifty Aleuts are similarly scattered. The only other settlements of importance, east of the Aleutian Islands, are the island of Unga, where a dozen Americans pursue cod-fishing, shipping nearly a million of fish annually to San Francisco, and two hundred Creoles subsist mainly by hunting the sea-otter, and Belkovski, near the extremity of the main-land, with a population of four Americans and two hundred and fifty Aleuts and Creoles.

This district is the center of the sea-otter hunting-grounds, and a

sufficient number of the valuable skins are taken by the hunters to provide them with comfortable means of subsistence.

They are, however, the most intemperate and turbulent portion of the Aleutian population, brewing quass in spite of all efforts to prevent them, engaging in drunken quarrels and broils, abusing their wives and children, and committing all the excesses that their limited opportunities will permit.

The marked prevalence of venereal diseases in all forms among the natives of Unga is attributed to the proportionally large number of whites engaged in the fisheries. Several cases of condylomata, mucous tubercle, ulcerations, and necrosis were seen that could hardly have been equalled in the venereal clinic of a Paris or Vienna hospital. Mothers and children were found in whom the disease had progressed unchecked and without treatment through its different stages until they had reached a condition horribly repugnant to civilized senses. The food of the people consists mainly of fish, found here in abundance, sea urchins (*echina esculenta*), hard bread, sugar, and tea.

The Aleutian Islands extend westward, from the Alaskan Peninsula, for nearly one thousand miles, towards the Asiatic coast, less than three hundred miles intervening between their western extremity and that continent, several of the islands lying in the Eastern hemisphere. The population of the entire chain numbers thirteen hundred Creoles and Aleuts, and less than a dozen Americans. Onalaska, the principal commercial point of the territory, being the port of refitting and supply for all the trading-vessels plying in Alaskan waters, has a population of three hundred and fifty, among whom there is a considerable amount of strumous and pulmonary affections, and of venereal disease in all its forms, the seamen on the large number of vessels calling during the summer season contributing to maintain and spread these affections. Fortunately, the people have better opportunities for medical assistance than at any other point in the Territory, except the Seal Islands, the frequent visits of the revenue-steamer, during the season, affording opportunities for medical aid at short intervals during four months of the year, and the station is provided with a large supply of medicines, which are intelligently dispensed by the trading-agents.

At the island of Atchka, some five hundred miles west of Onalaska, a single American has charge of a settlement of two hundred and thirty natives. These people were the most cleanly, healthy, and prepossessing seen in the country; their houses, though of more subterranean construction than on the other islands, were comparatively clean and free from offensive sights and smells, the earth walls and roofs being neatly lined with straw matting of their own manufacture, piles of which also composed their beds. A single case of primary syphilis was found here, and there was little demand for the services of the surgeon of the revenue-steamer. The condition of the habitations and the people, and the freedom from sickness, furnished as striking an illustration of the advantages of living under as good sanitary conditions, as the circumstances will permit, as could be desired. The people of Atchka, during the otter-hunting season, were generally transferred to other islands affording better hunting-grounds, where, in the temporary underground houses, over whose roofs one walked in passing through the camp, they lived in the same comparative cleanliness as in the home village.

At the island of Attoo, the most western point of our possessions, the condition of the natives, who number a little more than a hundred, is less favorable than on any of the other islands. The otter having dis-

appeared from this vicinity, the people have to subsist mainly on fish, which fortunately are abundant in the season, may be dried for winter use, and are supplemented by wild geese in considerable numbers, with an occasional seal, sea-lion, and very rarely a whale. They are very deficient in clothing, the principal garment being a "parki," or long gown of bird-skins, sewn together with the feathers on; and the officers of the revenue-steamer annually carry them a considerable supply, which prevents much suffering in the continuously wet and cold weather prevailing. At the time of our visit, late in June, the hills were covered with snow almost to the water's edge. On account of the extreme scarcity of fuel on the western islands, the people eat much of their food raw, and through forced exercise of the habit seem to have acquired a taste for it in that state.

Two children were found here with marked development of congenital syphilis, and many of the people suffered from chronic skin affections. Their habits of life contrasted very unfavorably with those of the Atchkan people, their houses and persons being very filthy, and both swarming with vermin.

All the stations west of Ounalaska were found quite unprovided with medicines of any kind, and at each point a small supply of safe and harmless remedies, which could do little injury if improperly administered, was furnished to the trader or chief, with directions for their use.

The Aleuts differ essentially in their habits, mode of life, and means of support from the Indians of the mainland. Originally an entirely different race from the Indians of the coast and interior, the distinctive features have been increased by their constant association with the Russians, whose principal stations outside of Sitka were on the islands.

This association was a most intimate one, the people performing all the duties required by the trading company under the direct supervision of its agents, all of them becoming adherents of the Greek church, adopting the customs, language, and habits of the Russians, and in many cases intermarrying or establishing such a connection with them that at the time of the transfer of the country the number of Russian Creoles in whom the infusion of Russian blood had almost obliterated the native characteristics was nearly equal to that of the people retaining the original physical traits of the Aleuts. As a consequence of this admixture, the Aleuts do not present the distinct ethnological traits that might be expected from their isolated position, but their general physical characteristics point to an Eastern origin. They are short of stature, stooped, often bow-legged from sitting in their boats, have complexions ranging through all the shades of brown and yellow, high cheek-bones, dark oval eyes, flat noses, and long, straight, black hair. Since the Russian occupation of the country, the Aleuts have diminished from nearly twenty thousand to less than four thousand, furnishing another illustration of the natural law which compels an inferior race to yield to a superior one. They are hardy hunters and capable of great physical endurance, going out to sea in their low, frail, skin boats, where they are continually drenched by the waves, on long hunting expeditions, with scanty supplies of food and water, landing on barren beaches or rocks, where they remain for days and weeks, almost devoid of shelter or covering, and often without fire even for cooking, to avoid alarming the wary sea-otter, upon whose capture their subsistence to a great extent depends. They hunt or work, however, only when compelled to do so, and are very listless and apathetic. Their knowledge of domestic remedies and of means of relieving sickness is very limited. Bleeding with a rough lancet, which every Aleut formerly carried, was,

and is still to some extent, resorted to in every real or fancied disturbance of the health. Deep punctures were made over the supposed seat of any disorder, and on the bodies of the older Aleuts such scars may be seen by the score or the hundred. They have faith in a modified form of witchcraft, or "shamanism," and in personal power to cure disease, which the oldest women of each community are supposed to develop. The women have easy delivery in childbed, labor rarely lasting an hour. Native midwives or "babooskis" perform the offices, and the services of a male physician, when available, is positively refused unless complications threatening death arise.

Many of the native midwives are proficient in diagnosing the position of the child *in utero* through the abdominal walls, and correct malpositions by external manipulation and version. The children are generally nursed for two or three years; but, in addition, are often fed on seal meat, fish, or coarse food. The mothers pay little attention to the diet or cleanliness of the child, are ignorant of the most simple principles of health, are irregular and filthy in their own habits, and while nursing frequently engage in excessive feasts that too often end in beastly intoxication. The births are in much larger ratio among the Aleuts than in civilized communities; but the death-rate is excessive. Soon after birth the child is tightly swathed in bands from head to foot, and sometimes strapped to a board, on which they were formerly rocked to sleep by tilting it first on one corner, then on the other. Scrofulous manifestations, in the form of eruptions, swellings, and scars, are very common, and a cause of much disfigurement in the old and young.

In sickness the Aleuts submit to treatment apathetically, make no complaint, and are resigned to get well or die, "as God wills." They have little fear of death, meeting it with the same apathy and resignation that they would any necessary event of their daily life. They rarely shed tears over the approach of death themselves, or over a deceased relative or friend; and, regarding death as a temporary state, speak of their dead as being "asleep."

Despite the hardships and vicissitudes of their life, the death-rate among adult Aleuts is not excessive, the Greek-church records showing an annual ratio of about thirty per one thousand of the population.

At the Seal Islands, where, on account of the special privileges secured to the natives born there and the profitable results of the seal fisheries, the people have many more comforts than in any other part of the Territory; but the death-rate is excessively high. Since an accurate record was commenced in 1872, the annual ratio has been from five to eight per one hundred of the population, the proportional death-rate being three or four times as great as in the large cities of the United States. This, too, in spite of the fact that these people are better provided with the necessaries and many of the comforts of life than any laboring community in the world, the Alaska Commercial Company having liberally constructed frame houses for the people, to replace the underground earthen structures in which they formerly resided.

Although stationed two months at the Seal Islands, in constant attendance on the people, I was unable to assign any reason for the excessive mortality, other than that for nine months of the year the people lead an almost wholly inactive life, living most of the time in their excessively hot, badly ventilated houses. Pneumonic forms of phthisis and bronchitis cause a large proportion of the deaths; but many gradually sink in an æsthenic condition, for which it is difficult to assign a distinct cause. Among the children, diarrhœa is very prevalent on account of the fat seal meat, which forms the principal diet of

the mothers, and is often fed to the infants at an early age. Milk is never seen at the islands, except the condensed preparations used on the tables of the officers, save at Kodiak and Ounalaska, where a few cows are kept, with great advantage to the sick and to children.

The Aleuts generally live in houses peculiar to these islands, built partly below the ground, with sides and roof built up of sods, supported on light poles, lighted by a small window of glass or translucent seal-gut, with a narrow exit for smoke at the end of the nearly flat roof. Entrance is obtained through a low sunken door into a porch, where, in a rough fire-place, a few sticks of drift-wood are lighted once or twice daily for the necessary cooking. From this porch a door opens into the general living-room of the occupants, where they eat and sleep promiscuously. There is no opportunity for ventilation but by the occasional opening of the door, and, as fish, furs, and meat are often hanging about, the rooms are often filthy and reek with bad odors. Some of the "barrabakas," as these houses are known in the vernacular, have larger capacity, and are better fitted, and at some points the best hunters have been provided with small frame houses by the trading companies.

Formerly the people of the western islands lived in large half-subterranean barrabakas, built of earth, with a hole in the sod roof, from which a notched post descended, serving as door and for the exit of smoke. These houses were fifty to seventy-five meters long, and fifteen to thirty meters wide. There the people lived together in communities of from fifty to one hundred, or more, mainly with the view of securing warmth with a small expenditure of fuel, which is very scarce, hardly a tree growing on any of the islands west of Kodiak. The people have to depend almost wholly on the drift-wood washed upon the beaches, and on the low willow shrubs that grow plentifully on most of the islands. At the Seal Islands the blubber of the seal furnishes an important but exceedingly disagreeable article of fuel.

The climate of all portions of the Aleutian Islands is very cold and wet; snow not disappearing from the low hillsides until late in June, and at the height of one thousand feet it lies all summer. Fine, drizzling rains fall almost daily, and fogs are very frequent. This is specially true of the Seal Islands, lying two hundred miles north of the Aleutians, where not more than one bright day for each week in the year is experienced, and where the constant prevalence of fog and mist seems essential for making these islands the chosen resorts of the millions of fur-seals that come to them year after year. At no point on the islands is the snow-fall or cold excessive, the thermometer rarely falling below the freezing-point. The freedom from excessive cold in these high latitudes is undoubtedly due to the influence of the warm current setting over from the Japan shore, which, striking the western extremity of the islands, is deflected north and south of them, the former preventing the Arctic ice from floating southward to them, the latter essentially modifying the climate of the whole Pacific coast.

REPORT OF SPECIAL AGENT H. G. OTIS UPON THE ILLICIT TRAFFIC IN RUM AND FIRE-ARMS IN ALASKA.

OFFICE SPECIAL AGENT TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
Saint Paul's Island, Bering Sea, Alaska, July 28, 1879.

SIR: I have the honor to represent that the unlawful traffic in spirituous liquors, fire-arms, and ammunition which is extensively carried on by predatory American traders in vessels plying between Honolulu and the shores of the Arctic Ocean, constitutes, in my judgment, a grave and dangerous evil, calling for action on the part of the government. The knowledge of the existence of this evil is not new, however.

I have taken pains here and at Fort Saint Michaels in Norton's Sound, and elsewhere, to inform myself fully of the character and extent of this traffic, and now lay before you the facts so gathered.

The course usually pursued by these predatory traders, who, in open defiance not only of specific law (sec. 1955 Rev. Stats. U. S.), but of the internal-revenue laws as well, supply rum and breech-loading fire-arms to the natives of our northern coasts, is substantially as here described.

Fitting out in part at San Francisco they proceed to Honolulu to complete their cargoes, having in view at the same time the additional and especial object of making a plausible showing of departing on a foreign voyage. When equipped the vessels clear early in the season (some of them with irregular papers, as I have had opportunity to know) on what the masters represent to be "a whaling and trading voyage in the Arctic Ocean." Whaling is generally of secondary importance, however; trading is the prime object, trading with the Indians on both shores of the Arctic.

Proceeding on their voyages these vessels enter Bering Sea by the passes of the Aleutians and follow up the floating ice closely, each striving to be the first to enter Bering Strait.

The cargoes embrace breech-loading fire-arms, ammunition, cheap rum of Sandwich Island or European manufacture, and American whisky and rum shipped in bond from San Francisco to Honolulu "for the Siberian trade," as represented by the shippers, and thence reshipped to be sold on American territory.

The "Siberian trade" pretext is a blind. The contraband goods are notoriously destined in nearly every case for traffic on both the Siberian and American shores and are doubtless got out of the port of Honolulu under a like bond not to be sold in the Hawaiian Islands.

By the course pursued in procuring and handling the liquor it escapes payment of the revenue tax and so can be sold very cheap, and being usually adulterated one-half and then sold for three or four times its original cost enormous profits are made in the traffic. As an example of this inflation of the rum currency of the Arctic region I cite the case of the schooner *Loleta*, seized by me at this island on the 28th of May last for intended violation of law and fully reported to you at the time. Her invoice-book showed that the cost price of the common rum she carried was seventy-five cents the gallon, and the selling price was marked at two dollars and fifty cents (\$2.50) the gallon. The liquor had yet to be adulterated one-half. This done, the profit would be swelled to some 600 per cent. Such practices enable the illegal traders to pay fabulous prices for bone and ivory and so cripple the business of legitimate traders, who must do business without defrauding the revenue.

The usual track followed by these predatory traders is from Honolulu direct to St. Lawrence or Plover Bays, on the Siberian coast, carefully avoiding all ports of entry; thence along that coast and through Behr-

ing Strait to Cape East, trading at the various Indian villages on the shore; finally crossing the strait to the American side at Port Clarence or Cape Prince of Wales; thence working their way along shore to Kotzebue Sound, and so on northward to Points Belcher, Smith, and Barrow, the latter the extreme northerly point of Alaska Territory, situated above the seventy-first parallel. (The course indicated can readily be followed on the map.)

The principal centers of this nefarious traffic are Plover Bay and Cape East on the Siberian side and Kotzebue Sound on the American side. At the former points the traders are met by the Chuckchee Indians, the great trafficking tribe of Eastern Siberia, who exchange sable and other fine furs, whalebone and ivory, for the cheap rum brought by American traders with the duty thereon unpaid, and in turn traffic with the interior natives of Siberia, and even cross the strait and make long trading voyages in their skin-boats along the Alaskan shore.

The scene of this illegal liquor traffic on American territory reaches all the way from Unalaklit, an Indian village on the shore of Norton Sound, about sixty miles north of Fort Saint Michaels, to Kotzebue Sound, and thence for perhaps five hundred miles farther northward and eastward along the Arctic shore, and also to some extent into the interior, Kotzebue Sound being, as already stated, the great center. At this general rendezvous the traders are met by both coast and interior natives, who come in large numbers and traffic for liquor at wholesale and retail. It is no uncommon thing for a rich Indian to possess himself of several barrels of rum, carry them to his village, and there sell out the liquor "by the small." Then hell is speedily let loose among the Indians; frequent disturbances, bloodshed, and much misery ensue.

I was informed at Saint Michaels that thirty barrels of liquor, bought by Indians in trade, were discovered in a single village near Grantley Harbor.

The extent of this traffic and the magnitude of the evil will be better understood when I recite these further facts:

Information was brought to Saint Michaels, during my visit to that place in June, by white traders from the Upper Yukon River, who derived their information from Indians who had made the portage from Kotzebue Sound, that thirteen trading vessels entered the sound in 1878. Six of the thirteen vessels arrived in a single day, and one of them carried fifty barrels of liquor, which was quickly sold, when her crew proceeded to manufacture a fresh supply, having brought a still for that purpose. Seeing the still, some of the natives demanded of the trader to bring more "kettles" (stills) on his next trip, as they wanted to manufacture liquor for themselves.

It is shown by a memorandum found among the papers of the seized schooner *Loleta*, and other information which has come into my possession, that no less than five other vessels loaded in large part with liquor and arms, and each "bound on a whaling and trading voyage in the Arctic Ocean," left Honolulu the present season. These ships carried over eleven thousand gallons of liquor. Following are their names and the amounts reported in each:

	Gals. rum.
Schooner <i>C. M. Ward</i>	1,013
Schooner <i>Leo</i> —24 cases	1,247
Schooner <i>Gen. Harney</i> , about	3,000
Bark <i>Gov. Apia</i> , about	3,000
Brig <i>Timandra</i> —97 cases	2,910

As many more vessels, having on board suspected contraband cargoes, cleared from San Francisco for the Arctic the present season. The list which has been furnished me by Captain Bailey, commanding the United States revenue cutter Richard Rush, is inclosed, marked A— (suspected vessels marked S).

I have learned that there is a copper still in use among the Indians of Norton Sound, said to have been secretly brought to the country, concealed on a trading vessel from San Francisco, as far back as 1868, and first used by a white man. It ultimately fell into the hands of a Mahlemut chief of bad repute, who manufactured liquor with it, kept drunk, threatened to kill various whites and Indians, quarreled, and made trouble generally.

This Indian, by name Argnapieck, deliberately murdered another Indian of his tribe in September, 1878, because the latter refused to permit his squaw to leave home and follow the chief to Saint Michaels. The offending Indian was sick at the time. In the December following, Argnapieck was himself killed by his own brother-in-law, who chopped the obnoxious chief's head clean off with an axe while in a *barrabora*, or hut, occupied by the men in common. The slayer killed one of the chief's sons immediately afterwards. The killing seems to have been done as a sort of measure of public safety, and is represented to have been generally satisfactory to Indians and whites alike, who had long feared trouble from the vicious chief and his followers. After his death some of his people broke open and destroyed two barrels of rum found in his hut, and also seized a lot of cartridges for breech-loading guns. They freely admitted that liquor was the cause of the trouble which culminated in the murders. Some half-dozen barrels of rum were reported in this village. Rum is sometimes freely dispensed by traders from their vessels preparatory to commencing traffic with the Indians. When half-drunk, traffic begins; it not infrequently ends in a general fight, in which blows are struck, wounds received, blood spilled. Such a conflict occurred in 1877 on the deck of the Honolulu brig Wilson, at anchor off Cape Prince of Wales.

Fifteen natives, including one woman, are known to have been killed in the affair, and it is alleged that several *bidarras* were run down by the brig.

These Prince of Wales Indians have the name of being the worst Indians on these shores; but I am not convinced that they were wholly to blame for bringing on the conflict above related. It is asserted very generally, however, that they show an ugly disposition towards vessels touching there to trade, unless things go to suit them in the traffic, and that they have attempted to take possession of several schooners.

The schooner *Bella*, in the Alaska Commercial Company's service, penetrated as far as Cape Prince of Wales early in the present month, when four or five *bidarras*, carrying forty or fifty Indians, came off to meet her, and offered to trade if she would come to anchor and exchange rum for their ivory, &c., for which they demanded 45 cents the pound. The San Francisco price, I learn, is now but 12 to 20 cents the pound. The Indians exhibiting signs of insolence, the schooner having no rum to trade, and her commander fearing treachery, she refused to come to anchor.

At Saint Michaels I talked with a Russian trader, located on the Koyukuk, a tributary of the river Yukon, who was visited last winter by an armed party of Mahlemuts from near the coast at Kotzebue Sound, and driven away from his station. These Indians threatened that their tribe would next fall make an attack in force on the trading post at Nulato

and avenge the deaths caused by the Honolulu brig's crew in 1877. This party brought whisky for traffic.

The sale of fire-arms, ammunition, and distilled spirits in the Territory of Alaska is prohibited by law, yet, notwithstanding this prohibition, it is a notorious fact that the Indians generally all along the northern shores of Behring Sea and the Arctic Ocean are armed with breech-loading rifles. The traffic in arms and ammunition between the Indians themselves has become so common that these articles have reached tribes far up the Yukon, having been carried across country by portages between Kotzebue Sound and that river and its tributaries. Cases were reported to me in which ammunition for breech-loaders had actually been offered for sale to white men by Indians, and bought by the former in the absence of any other source of supply!

It seems to me that the government should not permit this extraordinary condition of things, wherein the vastly outnumbering Indian populations of a remote, exposed, unprotected frontier region are, through the efforts of unscrupulous and illicit traders, suffered to supply themselves with improved fire-arms, at the same time that the few whites among them are denied by law the privilege of purchasing such arms.

The state of affairs which I have described must inevitably lead to serious troubles, sooner or later, if allowed to continue, possibly to open outbreaks. Indian wars have been provoked by similar causes in other times and places. Armed with improved deadly weapons and crazed by drink, Indians who would otherwise be peaceful enough are converted into fighting men, prepared to make war between themselves or upon the whites.

The result of an attack upon the weak and widely scattered trading posts and settlements in this Territory could not be doubtful; the whites would go under unless aided by the military, and in the present state of the country there are no troops for the defense of Alaska; none would be needed in this part of the Territory, certainly, if the government would suppress the dangerous liquor traffic, and not only prohibit, but wholly prevent, the sale or introduction of breech-loading firearms unlawfully. Such a policy would be the best possible safeguard for the peace of this country.

The list of prohibited merchandise ought, in my opinion, to be extended by the addition of pistols of all sorts, implements to refill cartridge-shells, coarse brown sugar, molasses, and poison.

Pistols are of no practical use in hunting and only dangerous to human life in the hands of quarrelsome Indians or white men; the admission of tools to refill cartridge-shells is equivalent to introducing breech-loading ammunition. Sugar and molasses are used by natives to brew a villainous and intoxicating beer, and the use of poison in hunting game is bad and dangerous, needlessly destructive to animal life, and, in the hands of Indians, unsafe for human life. The use of poison in taking game by a trader, on the Yukon River, a half-breed and a priest in the Greek church, was made the subject of complaint by Indians, who reported the case to Capt. Geo. W. Bailey, commanding the United States revenue-cutter Richard Rush. The native's idea was that the priest came into the country to practice and teach religion, not to take game, and they objected to his poaching upon their rightful domain.

The duty and the interest of the government in the premises seem to me very plain: It is to suppress the illicit traffic.

One or more swift, powerful, well-armed revenue-cutters, dispatched every season to the Arctic in pursuit of these predatory traders, would

soon completely break up their wicked and unlawful traffic, perhaps in a single season.

Had Captain Bailey been permitted to go into the Arctic the present season as far as Kotzebue Sound with his vessel he would, in my belief, have reaped a rich harvest for the government, broken up the illicit trade, and by his seizures paid all expenses of his ship's voyage. He entered the Strait, and on July 15th was in latitude 66° 12' north, but saw no vessels, boats, or natives.

The principal nests of the whisky smugglers are farther to the northward.

Any vessel dispatched on this business ought to be strong and powerful enough to follow the predatory trading schooners into the ice, where they retreat when pursued, and should be able to carry coal sufficient to enable her to stay with them through the season if need be.

She should set out from San Francisco early enough in the season to be up with the traders, the foremost of whom sometimes reach the vicinity of the strait by the middle of May, and there wait to push through into the Arctic as quick as the ice will permit of a passage.

In compliance with what I believe to be my official duty, I have thus laid before you facts which I think the government ought to be possessed of, notwithstanding the matter is not strictly within the purview of my duties at the Seal Islands.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

HARRISON G. OTIS,
Special Agent Treasury Department.

The Hon. JOHN SHERMAN,
Secretary of the Treasury, Washington, D. C.

OUNALASKA, August 4, 1879.

SIR: I have the honor to report, additionally to my letter of July 28, 1879, that upon my arrival here on the 31st ultimo information was obtained of the loss, on the 20th of May, at Nunevak Island, of the American brig Timandra, Thomas, master. This vessel, as already reported, cleared from the port of Honolulu April 9, 1879, on a trading voyage in the Arctic. She was to have met by appointment the schooner Ellen J. McKinnon and supplied her with a cargo of rum for trading purposes.

The McKinnon cleared from San Francisco March 19, but was lost a few days out with all on board, save one man.

The Timandra carried 44 cases powder, 6 cases breech-loading arms, about 50,000 cartridges, and some single and double shot-guns, besides the 97 packages of rum already reported. This was American white rum, shipped in bond from San Francisco to Honolulu, and then reshipped for the Arctic trade. She was to have turned half of it over to the McKinnon, and the work of mixing—"two for one"—was to have been done on the way up from Nunevak Island. The brig went upon a reef, and it being found impossible to save her after three days' efforts at the pumps, she was abandoned. The first and second officers and two men left the island July 26th in an open boat and reached Ounalaska on the 30th, reporting the facts.

This vessel has been engaged in this illicit trade for several years; last year she secured a cargo of 12,000 pounds of bone, which brought \$3.30 the pound, besides a quantity of ivory, &c., making a profitable voyage by defrauding the government.

The Richard Rush has to-day sailed for the scene of the disaster to bring off the captain and remainder of the crew and look after the lost vessel's cargo, which, with the exception of the rum, was saved. The rum was destroyed to keep it out of the hands of the Indians.

Captain Bailey will, of course, report the case more fully.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

HARRISON G. OTIS,
Special Agent Treasury Department.

The Hon. JOHN SHERMAN,
Secretary of the Treasury, Washington, D. C.

L E T T E R

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,

REFERRING

To former letter of March 30, 1880, with which reports of Capt. George W. Bailey, of the revenue marine service, et als., relating to number, location, occupation, and condition of the people of Alaska, were submitted, and correcting reference as to Senate bill; the bill intended to be referred to being Senate bill 1391 instead of 1426.

MAY 3, 1880.—Ordered to be printed.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, *May 1, 1880.*

SIR: Referring to the letter of this department dated March 30, 1880 submitting, in response to a resolution of the Senate, the reports of Capt. George W. Bailey, of the revenue marine service, and others, upon the numbers, location, occupation, and condition of the people of Alaska, &c., and in which reference was made to Senate bill 1426 as one which had been prepared by the department providing for the government of that Territory, I have the honor to state that the bill intended to be referred to is Senate bill 1391.

Very respectfully,

JOHN SHERMAN, *Secretary.*

Hon. WILLIAM A. WHEELER,

Vice-President of the United States, U. S. Senate.

