

Alaska Herald.

AND

The Free Press

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vol. 5

1872-1873

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ALASKA



HERALD.

VOL. V.

SAN FRANCISCO, MARCH 1, 1872.

No. 100.

THE ALASKA HERALD:

ACAPIUS HONCHARENKO, Publisher,

ISSUED SEMI-MONTHLY.

OFFICE: 611 CLAY STREET, (Room 8,) SAN FRANCISCO.

THE ALASKA HERALD

IS WIDELY CIRCULATED IN SIBERIA, JAPAN, CHINA, THE
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Reach the Eastern and European markets so much quicker when shipped by rail, that merchants economize time, which is of great import, and thus realize quick sales and a ready percentage for the capital invested.

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Are never damaged by heat as frequently happens when transported by Panama. Conveyed by rail, this very important article of trade, reaches the New York, London and European markets in due season, and is not subject to the delays and uncertainties of the tropical route.

CHAS W. SMITH,

General Freight Agent,

SAN FRANCISCO AND SACRAMENTO, CAL.

IN the transportation of furs from San Francisco, via New York to the European market, the shippers have had heretofore, agents at New York, who examined the bales, and if any furs happened to be damaged by the long voyage or heat of the Panama route, as often happened, said agents repacked them, charging a large percentage for their labors. All this is now avoided by the Central Pacific Railroad Company, who offer facilities to Alaskan and Siberian merchants by which their furs, ivory, etc., will be immediately transmitted upon their arrival in New York by the best and quickest lines connecting with the London and European markets.

THE "POLAR OBSERVER."

SAN FRANCISCO, February 27, 1872.

PUBLISHER ALASKA HERALD:—How is it that in your paper of the 1st of January you publish that Hutchinson, Kohl & Co. (Alaska Commercial Company), received from Alaska last year 65,067 salted fur seal skins and from Siberia 11,000. The same firm sold in London, on November 16th last year 55,000, and on January 17th this year 38,000. This makes a total of 93,000 skins. According to Custom House receipts the total from Alaska and Siberia amount to only 70,067, which leaves 17,000 skins unaccounted for and on which with special reference to the Alaska supply, the United States government has received no tax. Probably the nice amount thus pilfered has been used in soothing the "independent press" or as "hush money" generously donated to revenue officers. It looks to me like a swindle.

P. F. E.

We have worked out a charming reformation in the heart of Mr. L. Boscovich, a founder and one of the members of the Alaska Commercial Company (Hutchinson, Kohl & Co.). He is one of the gentlemen whom we have had the pleasure of scalping—a divine joy to us is this scalping business—but since Mr. Boscovich has become a convert to the immaculate doctrines of the ALASKA HERALD, we put on sack-cloth and ashes (a \$75 suit), and take back to our embraces that prince of good fellows, L. Boscovich. The Redeemer of mankind, or some of his virtuous disciples, once said that there was more joy in Heaven over the redemption of one lost soul than over the millions who had been saved through perfect rectitude. Imagine, then, O multitude of sanctified readers of the ALASKA HERALD, our joy upon learning that one immortal soul, L. Boscovich—is redeemed through our saintly and teachings.

In the European market Alaskan furs have lately been in great demand and brought immense prices. This is owing to the scarcity of the articles demanded, produced by the decline of the fur commercial interests of Alaska. The monopolists, Miller & Co. control Alaska in such a way that they never overstock the market with furs and thus always get their own prices.

SEVERAL merchants in this city are fitting out vessels to engage in the Alaska trade the present season, principally for fishing and trading purposes. It would be a good speculation for some parties to fit out an expedition for Icy Cape to secure the wrecks there. There were 32 vessels abandoned and each vessel has on board an average of 20,000lbs of whalebone, 10,000lbs of ivory and great quantities of whale oil. These trophies, with anchors, chains, whaling articles, etc., will certainly be recovered.

THE monopolists who enslave the Aleuts on St. Paul and St. George Islands, say that if the Aleuts do not like their slavery, that they (the monopolists) will give them their liberty. This fine philanthropy is on a par with the general system of Yankee philanthropy. The Aleuts can not get away even if they desire. The islands are their homes, and their only revenue and food the fur seal. To leave the place of their birth is to wander homeless and perish for want of food. Hutchinson, Kohl & Co. appear to be brutal task-masters.

MONOPOLY IN ALASKA.

[Examiner, Feb. 21, 1872.]

The Territory of Alaska cost us about one-half of what we paid for the vast region embraced in the Louisiana purchase. Compared with the latter, it was a dear acquisition at one-fifth the price we paid. It was a useless appendage to Russia, that cost her more than it was worth. Circumstances enabled her to get rid of a burden at a price that caused astonishment in the diplomatic world. We were purchasers at such exorbitant figures that other nations wished to sell us territory.

The secret was that our Government wished to compliment Russia, and we gave her a sum in gold that enabled her to extend her conquests in Eastern Asia. We helped to place her on the direct route to India, and that by an almost air line connection by railroad.

But for whom did we purchase the Territory? Was it for the people, or for the purpose of creating a gigantic monopoly?

Our attention has been called to this matter by an article in the ALASKA HERALD, which states that a memorial is being circulated asking the intervention of Congress to redress their grievances. The country is distant and isolated, with a sparse population. It is to our people almost a sealed book; and up to this time its commerce with us is so trifling that its acquisition has been regarded as a huge job, next only in importance to what was proposed in reference to San Domingo. The fur seal fishery has been placed under control of the Alaska Commercial Company for twenty years. At the time, argument was brought forward to show that unless some restrictions were imposed on catching this animal, in a few years the species would become extinct. It now pays a revenue to the Government for each skin taken. The grievance is, that under this privilege the Company practically governs the whole Territory; and that our vessels are excluded from the bartering trade, and are crippled and restricted in the codfish and salmon fisheries. The memorial is written with great vigor, and the war-cry of the day is well understood. It is addressed to the Legislature, and prays that body by joint resolution to bring the matter to the notice of Congress. We give the following extract:

The people of the United States have shed their best blood and hampered themselves with debt, to give freedom to four millions of slaves. Now by a strange coincidence they find that they have paid over \$7,000,000 for Alaska, one direct result of which has been the enslavement of a portion of its inhabitants. Such a gross insult to the American spirit of liberty deserves to be blotted from the records of our national life which it has disgraced. In this age when the watchword is the Universal Brotherhood of Man, when the Africans, the Chinese and other nations long held in servitude, are feeling the glorious impulses of freedom as known to the citizens of the American Republic, is it not a shame and a crime that the foul spot of serfdom and slavery curse Alaska? Surely the action of Congress in legislating away the lives and liberty of the Alaskans to a soulless monopoly must arouse in the hearts of the American people a public sentiment which will immediately annul such a piece of barbarous legislation.

RUSSIA AND THE UNITED STATES.

[From the Pall Mall Gazette, Dec. 30, 1871.]

The elaborate interchange of courtesies between the United States and Russia began long before the War of Secession, and is now of old date. It has long been seen that this strange friendship derived a great deal of its savor from common dislike or distrust of British power and policy. Those who have merely regarded the alliance from the political point of view have not unnaturally regarded it as profoundly immoral. What could the Emperor Nicholas, to whom the shoot of a newspaper was a red rag to a bull, see honestly to admire in a community governed by newspapers? What could the Americans, who received Poles and Hungarians with great explosions of popular sympathy, find to respect in the despot who had crushed Hungary and had Poland under his heel? The Czar was in the habit of saying that he hated Constitutional Monarchy (which he assuredly did with his whole heart) because it was "hypocritical," whereas he considered that a republic was "frank" and "honest" form of government, like his own absolutism. The Americans, on the other hand, were frank

and honest enough in their admission that they showed tenderness to Russia because the British distrusted her policy and detested her institutions. But there have always been, no doubt, some deeper reasons for the mutual attraction which Russia and the United States have exercised for one another. Their political differences have in some ways been weaker than their social resemblances and their common national aims. Russia before the Crimean war was a great slave-holding empire, with an unscrupulous greed for new territory. It is vain to deny (though Americans in their present mood do occasionally deny it) that this is also an accurate description of the United States during at least a quarter of a century. In all that was open to the observation of a foreigner. Their foreign policy was wholly under the control of the Democratic and Southern party, and the secret of this policy was its watchfulness over slavery. Not only was all American diplomacy guided, but the otherwise valuable American treaties on International Law were all colored, by tenderness for the "peculiar institution." Side by side with law books intended to show the monstrous illegality of the right of search when applied to slave traders, there grew up a series of novel doctrines intended to prove the right of the American people to appropriate as much territory from their neighbors as it suited their purposes to take. Thus the Russian despotism and the American Republic exhibited many strong general resemblances to the world down to the outbreaks of wars which respectively revolutionized the history of both States. The Crimean war and the War of Secession ended with very different military results for Russians and North Americans, but the social consequences were identical in the two communities. In the great entertainments given to the Grand Duke Alexis a large picture of the Emperor Alexander emancipating the serfs appears always to face a large picture of President Lincoln enfranchising the negroes. The two Powers, once alike in their patronage of slavery, are now more than ever alike in their enthusiasm for freedom of labor; and yet another very remarkable item of resemblance has been added by the conquest of the South. The Government of the Russians in Poland, and to some extent in the Baltic provinces, has a very close counterpart in the government of the Southern States by the North Americans. In both cases military power is in alliance with ignorance, corruption, and poverty to keep down whatever intelligence and public spirit the conquered provinces contain.

THE INDUSTRIAL MONTHLY.—This excellent journal for February is at hand. As usual, it contains a large amount of valuable information on a variety of subjects especially interesting to Mechanics, Manufacturers, Builders, Inventors, Engineers, Architects, and, in fact, to all who feel an interest in any of the branches of handicraft. A prominent feature of this periodical is, that it is copiously and beautifully illustrated, and altogether gotten up in a most perfect and attractive manner. Among the contents of the present number we find articles on Circular Shears for Sheet Metals, Hint to Inventors, Floor-warming, How to Make Good Mortar, Cheap Homes for the People, Railway Notes, Practical Notes, and a good deal of other interesting matter. The subscription price is put at the merely nominal figure of \$1.50 per year; clubs of three and under five, \$1.25 per year. In order that this journal may become extensively known, the publishers will send it to any one for three months, as a trial-trip, for Twenty-five Cents. The INDUSTRIAL MONTHLY can be obtained of newsdealers generally, for fifteen cents, or by addressing The Industrial Publication Company, 170 Broadway, New York.

AN enthusiastic admirer of ours at Sitka writes as follows: "You richly deserve hanging, you old villain. If I was publisher of such a paper as yours I'd cut my throat. Any man that will write as you do about our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ ought to be shot." We will furnish this meek Christian with a rope, a razor, and a blunderbuss. If he fails to dispatch us with these triple death dealers we humbly pray that he will delicately toast us at the stake,—a Christian recreation his Catholic ancestors practiced with great success.

"HARD CASH" is not appreciated at Nushahak, Alaska. A good marten skin is valued at \$15 in Europe, but the belles of Nushahak sell one for a dozen of buttons of the United States naval article. The fair ladies of Nushahak must have as high an appreciation of "brass" as has our dear and highly esteemed friend "General" Miller.

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The Alaska Herald,

AGAPUS HONCHARENKO, - - - - - PUBLISHER,

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA.

Annual Subscription, \$3 00; Single Copies, 15 cents.

"Who thinks it wonderful that the islands of the Pacific, and the nearer shores of Asia, desire and demand peaceful commerce, free immigration, and material, moral and social connection with the United States?"—*Parrell Address of W. H. Seward, August 31, 1870.*

TO ADVERTISERS.

The trade with Alaska and Siberia is becoming larger every day. These countries have immense and rich resources, and all supplies for them must be drawn from this city. Merchants desiring to secure business with the Russian speaking population on the American Pacific Coast and the Asiatic Pacific Coast, should advertise in this paper, so that their houses may be known throughout Siberia, the Aleutian Islands and Alaska.

TERMS FOR ADVERTISING.

One Square, One Month.....	\$2 50
" " Three Months.....	6 00
" " Six Months.....	10 00

VOL. V. MARCH 1, 1872. No. 100.

THE JUST AND THE UNJUST.

It is seldom that the ALASKA HERALD turns aside from religious contemplation to engage in a war with this wicked world. There is something so tender and consoling in the study and practice of the Christian religion that our days, yea even our nights, pass away under those divine exaltations of the soul which can only be enjoyed by blameless and saintly men like ourselves. But there are exceptions to all rules and here is one of them: We have in our mind's eye one "General" Miller, whose name, so dear and precious to us, is aromatic with the incense of the milk of human kindness. Our esteemed friend is President of the Alaska Commercial Company and, like us, a good Christian. The "General" fought for his country, and on bloody battle fields, proved his invincible valor. We indulged in the same heroic pleasure. The "General" got a Brigadier General's pay and after the cruel unpleasantness was over was installed as Collector of the port. The public is not interested in knowing whether we received the pay of a high private and afterwards yanked melodious music from a double-barrelled hand organ. All these things are mere matters of Chance, Fate or Destiny, just as your fertile brain may imagine. We admire a man who gets good pay and a lucrative position when he fights for his country. Patriotism is one of the best money making dodges in the world. And yet we never knew a Christian patriot who did not have in his composition a fair and legitimate amount of meanness. We gladly own up to the soft impeachment. "General" Miller can do likewise and do no violence to his conscience. The application we make of this meanness is in the very opposite directions, however. Miller by his stubbornness and mercenary love of gold enslaves and brutalizes the people of Alaska; we are stubborn to the bitter end in warring for their welfare and freedom. The Alaska Commercial Company, as represented by "General" Miller, is a soulless monopoly jeering at the sufferings of the Alaskans; we, as a man, feeling sympathy with the oppressed, go out in our heart of hearts to console them in their sufferings. We would sacrifice our life for their liberty; Miller would not sacrifice a dog for their comfort. And after all this we are sometimes denounced as an infidel, an anti-christ; while the "General" has a pew in a fashionable church and is recognized as a christian gentleman. Great God, whether you be a He, Shu It, or O, judge justly between us here and hereafter. If there is no hereafter then the crawling reptiles of the earth will grow as merry over our lean body as over Miller's bloated carcass.

A Constitutional Iniquity—The Alaskan monopoly of Hutchinson, Kohl & Co.

IS ALASKA A PAYING INVESTMENT?

This purely American style of question is the caption of a statistical article in *Harper's Magazine*—and the answer is to the affirmative. The writer, W. H. Dall, has studied the capabilities of the new territory with attention, and shows us that it pays the nation 8 per cent. net per annum. This vindicates Mr. Seward, and will be a consolation to the American people.

Here are some of Mr. Dall's reasons for his belief:

The annual receipts are definitely known to amount to the following sums from the respective sources indicated. The estimates are all for gold values:

DIRECT TAXES.

Annual rental of seal fisheries.....	\$55,000
Tax on 50,000 skins, allowed to be taken by present regulations.....	100,000
Bonus (62½ cents per gallon), of which the yield is estimated at one gallon for each seal killed.....	27,500
Supplies and schools to be furnished to natives of seal islands.....	2,000

PRODUCTIONS.

Value of seal skins above taxes.....	318,750
Furs from Yukon district, annually.....	75,000
Other continental furs.....	10,000
Furs and Fish of Sitkan district, according to Tidball's report.....	51,000
Annual yield of sea-otter trade, estimated at one-half the average annual yield of the last twenty years.....	65,000
Walrus, ivory and oil (1868).....	7,500
Salt codfish (10,612,000 pounds in 1870).....	754,810
Codfish oil (10,000 gallons, (1866).....	10,000
Whale oil and bone from Alaskan waters estimated at one-third the whole Behring Sea catch annually, viz. 406,656 pounds of bone and 1,179,000 gallons of oil.....	860,400
Ice trade.....	28,000
Spars and timber.....	2,000

Total annual product..... \$2,407,380

Mr. Dall says: The product of the seal fishery is fixed by law, and the regulations of the Secretary of the Treasury. The amount of oil actually saved is not made public, but it is well known that the seals afford, when they first arrive, about two gallons each, which is reduced to one gallon toward the end of the season. I have estimated it at one gallon per seal.

The average annual yield of sea otter for the last twenty years has been 1,300 skins; in 1868, over 2,000 were obtained. I have estimated the annual yield at 650 skins, which is certainly below the mark. The skins and tails are sold separately; good skins of both are worth \$125, but I have estimated at \$100. The supply of codfish taken has nearly doubled since 1866, but I have estimated the supply of codfish at the old figures, though it must have largely increased. The codfish is estimated at its market price, wholesale, at the close of the season of 1870. While the greater part of the oil and whalebone taken in the North Pacific is from Alaskan waters, I have considered only one-third of it as being the product of Alaska, and computed its value at the price fixed at the Sandwich Islands, as is the custom of the trade. The ice trade is given at the old figures, although it is on the increase, as is the trade in spars. The cod-fisheries have increased since the purchase at the rate of fourteen per cent. per annum, and will doubtless continue to increase.

The Alaskan cedar is the only timber in the world which defies alike the rot and the ship-worm. One-fifth of the wharves of San Francisco annually succumb to the ravages of the toredo, though built of the best Oregon pine; and it is not credible, with an effectual remedy within three or four weeks' sail of them, that San Francisco merchants will continue to neglect it. A trade of greater or less extent is bound to spring up in this timber.

The general results are as follows: Florida pays us annually 5 per cent.; Texas pays us annually 23 per cent.; New Mexico and Arizona about 1 per cent.; Alaska pays us annually 14 per cent.

Roughly estimating the annual expenses, Florida pays us 4 per cent. net; Texas pays us 20 per cent. net; New Mexico and Arizona pay us nothing, or worse; Alaska pays us 8 per cent. net.—*San Francisco Bulletin.*

CORRECTIONS BY THE ALASKA HERALD.

The statements and estimates in the above article are in many respects false, and some of them gross exaggerations.

First, the author shows himself to be ignorant of the regulations governing the fur seal rookeries. Instead of 50,000 as the number of seals allowed to be killed, the number is 100,000.

Second, Mr. Dall says that a bonus of 62½ cents is paid on oil per gallon. This is sheer ignorance. The 62½ cents is the bonus given by the ~~leases~~ on each fur seal skin.

Third, the tax on oil is 45 cents per gallon, but the national treasury has never received a cent from this source, as Hutchinson, Kohl & Co. (the Alaska Commercial Company) destroys the oil, because the market price will not pay for freighting it to San Francisco. Yet the accurate and learned statistician, Mr. Dall, figures up that the Government receives (in gold) \$27,500 from this source alone.

Fourth, He says that furs from the Yukon district reach annually \$75,000. The truth is, the furs from this district amount to only \$35,000 per year.

So much for Dall's figures. With regard to the "supplies and schools" to be furnished to the natives of the seal islands, we know positively that the only school supplies furnished has been a small Russo-American primer, published by a firm in this city. This work cost just \$150. So much again for Mr. Dall's figures. When Mr. Dall writes another article for *Harper's Magazine*, we trust the editor of that respectable and popular monthly will purge its columns from such ignorance as Mr. Dall exhibits in making up the 8 per cent. which Alaska pays the Government annually.

THE Memorial which was published in our last issue has received the signatures of a large number of the most active and leading merchants of this city. The statements and principles embodied in the Memorial received the cordial assent and endorsement of the signers. This vigorous document will go before Congress and another death blow dealt out to the curse of Alaska—the monopoly of Hutchinson, Kohl & Co.

Perhaps "General" Miller will pretend that the names signed to the memorial are the names of dead persons. In order to foil him in his pretensions we append the names of parties who have signed that all may judge whether they are the names of living or dead men:

A. Crawford & Co. Johnson, Nickerson & Vasey. Lynde & Hough. Morgan & Co. Thomas J. Foster. John H. Carmany & Co. Sherwood, Bulkley & Co. Thomas Burden. J. Shurlevant. J. Marks. S. Folpe. Thomas W. McCallum. A. C. Nichols & Co. H. Horst. Starr & Little. James R. Finlayson. D. Beadle. Charles Hare. S. M. Holderness. David Shipper. Sam. P. Holden. M. J. Kelly. Charles J. Janson. Royal Fisk. And. Welch. A. C. Rand. Jacob Schreiber. W. A. Hughes. Wm. H. Rouse. J. M. Hixson. A. W. White & Co. Hill, Slop & Co. A. Pailles. J. H. Harn. James Cormack Jr. W. J. Loury. C. F. Bassett. Adam Booth & Co. S. Levy & Co. J. Green. John Laws. Duff & Co. Lowry & Wightman. Wm. Kibbe Benjamin. S. M. Henry & Co. P. B. Smith. H. F. Baker. Heywood & Hendley. Dakin & Libbey. Brous & Perkins. Littlefield, Webb & Co. H. K. Cummings. A. A. Haseltine. J. W. Wolf. Geo. E. Cole. J. Scott. James Rope. D. B. Stewart. C. McCann. R. D. Thilpoll. L. E. Noonan. R. E. Haseltine. C. R. Jones. G. S. Rogers. John Bills. Wm. Chipman. Wm. Fullard. T. J. Parker. W. Robbins. Geo. E. P. Hunt. Francis P. Devine. B. H. Madison. Geo. W. Boyd. Wm. DeWitt. John C. Gunn. Henry Dreyer. Henry Anderson. L. S. Allen. George Charles Lester. H. Helue. John McPherson. R. D. Rhafon. G. D. Plato. John H. Druhe. O. J. Preston. Jas. McLoughlin. H. Applebee. Peter Muhelson. Thomas Bewick, and 300 others.

FATHER NICHOLAS KOVRIGIN, a Russian priest of this city, will soon sail for Alaska, for the purpose of administering the religious rites of the Russo-Greek Church to the natives. Consecrated whale oil will be used for anointing purposes. Father McCarty, a Roman Catholic priest, will soon depart from this city for the purpose of kissing the Pope's big toe. If we had a dog that would commit such crouching antics he should be offered as a sacrifice on the altar of some sausage manufacturer.

THE POLAR WORLD.—In the ALASKA HERALD of January 1st, 1871, we had an article on "The Creation of the World," and in reference to the yet unexplored countries beyond the Kingdom of Ice was this prophetic sentence: "Who can tell that some daring genius will not discover new and beautiful continents beyond the North Pole?" This was penned over fourteen months ago and to day San Francisco is honored by the advent of the daring genius who is confident of making the discovery—Octavo Pavy. If successful, and we invoke the gods that he will be, his discoveries will revolutionize and overthrow the whole domain of science as it exists and relates to the wonderful physical worlds comprising the vast universe about us—a universe at once inexplicable, marvellous and awe-inspiring to the human mind.

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W. C. RALSTON, Cashier.

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The largest assortment of Russian and English-Russian literature in Europe.

Прошло уже четыре года, какъ мы печатаемъ русскую стра- ницу подъ именемъ СВОБОДА, при Англійскихъ *Alaska Herald*. Отъ русскихъ, понимающихъ наше дѣло, мы получали много отзывовъ со всѣхъ концовъ міра ; и за братское сочувствіе благодаря ихъ,—съ одушевленіемъ входимъ въ пятый годъ нашего свободнаго слова.

Руссо-Американцевъ служащихъ Гутчинсонской Компаніи въ Аласкѣ, мы предостерегаемъ, брать мѣсячное жалованье отъ компаніи неоткладно. Ничего нѣтъ надежнаго отдавать деньги на содержание этой компаніи.

КЪ ВЕЛИКОМУ КНЯЗЮ АЛЕКСѢЮ АЛЕКСАНДРОВИЧУ.

Мои сограждане желаютъ вамъ усмотрѣть для пользы Россіи образъ республиканскаго правленія. Да, развѣ русскій Новгородъ и Псковъ, не были сильны и славны своимъ республиканскимъ управленіемъ ; а геройская Украина управляемая казацкими радами !? Есть много добраго и въ Россіи. Вся Европа разрѣшаетъ автономію между личностію и государствомъ,—а Русскій человѣкъ не находитъ этого рѣшенія.

Въ нашихъ Соединенныхъ Штатахъ, въ бывшей Русской Америкѣ есть тысячи народа говорящаго по-русски,—правомъ и жизнію приверженные къ русскому царскому правленію,—и эти люди желаютъ выхъ изъ нашей Республики въ Россію или Сибирь. Имъ не по нутру, наше правленіе, они умираютъ свободно съ голоду, наслаждаясь народнымъ управленіемъ.

Также туземцы острововъ Берингова и Мѣднаго, просили меня заявить вамъ,—что вашъ отецъ императоръ Александръ Николаевичъ, подписавшій свободу крестьянъ въ Россіи, отдалъ въ аренду жидамъ, отъ вѣка свободныхъ Куриловъ,—обитателей Берингова и Мѣднаго.

Они пишутъ мнѣ : “лучше бы батюшка царь, насъ живыхъ закопалъ въ могилу со всѣмъ нашимъ семействомъ, какъ онъ продалъ насъ въ рабство жидамъ.”

Не желаю вамъ до отвращенія наслаждаться нашими ребячески-наглými сюрпризами.

Гражданинъ С. Ш. Америки А. Гончаренко.

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Мы имѣемъ для продажи полную библіотеку публикацій нашихъ братьевъ въ Лондонѣ,—по цѣнамъ по какимъ эти книги продаются въ Лондонѣ,—ничего не считая за пересылку.

ГРАЖДАНЕ ОСТРОВОВЪ СВ. ПАВЛА И СВ. ГЕОРГІЯ !

Всякій изъ васъ настолько свободенъ, что имѣетъ право быть Президентомъ этой Республики. Если какой либо обманщикъ, дерзнетъ обманывать васъ, что вы отдали въ рабство жидамъ ; тогда, вы, той самой дубиной, которой убиваете котовъ—разможите ему голову ; тѣмъ самымъ ножомъ, которымъ здираете кожи съ морскихъ котовъ, дерите кожу съ живыхъ прикащиковъ тиранской компаніи,—они варвары, они ваши грабители и обманщики. Въ этой Республикѣ,—всякій гражданинъ имѣетъ свободныя права, никѣмъ неотъемлемыя,—если вы будете драться, ваша война будетъ за БЛАГОСЛОВЕННУЮ СВОБОДУ.

Вы имѣете право торговать съ кѣмъ вы желаете, вы совершенно свободны,—народъ Конституціонный въ этой Республикѣ,—всегда оправдаетъ васъ.

Рабства въ этой Республикѣ нѣтъ, и морскіе коты вамъ принадлежать, а не проклятой жидовской компаніи.

ПЕРВАЯ РУССКАЯ ТИПОГРАФІЯ

основанная 6 Ноября, 1867 г., въ Санъ Франциско,
АГАШЕМЪ ГОНЧАРЕНКО.

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ИТХОВАЯ ТОРГОВЛЯ

ВЪ САН-ФРАНСИСКО.

LIST OF PRICES FOR FURS,

IN SAN FRANCISCO.

Bear, black, prime, fine	.....	1/2 skin, from \$ 3 00 @ \$5 00
Черный Медведь самый пушистый, — отъ	до	до
do do do heavy	.....	2 00 do 3 00
жесткий	.....	do
do seconds	.....	1 00 do 1 50
второго сорта	.....	do
do do cubs	.....	0 50 do 1 00
медвежонокъ	.....	do
do brown and grizzly, about 25 1/2 c. less than black	.....	do
черный съ просьбою	.....	дешевле чѣмъ черный
Badger	.....	1/2 skin, from \$ 0 50 do 1 00
Барсукъ	.....	do
Fisher, prime, dark	.....	2 00 do 5 50
Фишеръ первого сорта, черный	.....	do
do do pale	.....	1 00 do 1 50
блѣдный	.....	do
do seconds	.....	1 00 do 1 50
второго сорта	.....	do
Fox, Silver	.....	4 00 do 5 00
Серебристая Лисица	.....	do
do Cross	.....	2 00 do 2 50
Пятнепая	.....	do
do Red	.....	0 50 do 1 00
Красная	.....	do
do Kitt	.....	0 40 do 0 50
Маленькая	.....	do
do White	.....	0 75 do 1 00
Бѣлая	.....	do
do Gray	.....	0 40 do 0 50
Сѣрая	.....	do
Lynx	.....	1 00 do 1 10
Рысь	.....	do
Marten, prime, dark	.....	2 00 do 9 00
Соболь, черпый	.....	do
do do pale	.....	1 00 do 1 25
блѣдный	.....	do
do seconds	.....	0 50 do 1 00
второго сорта	.....	do
do thirds	.....	0 25 do 0 50
третьяго сорта	.....	do
Mink, dark, northern, prime	.....	0 40 do 5 75
Порка черная, сѣверная, первого сорта	.....	do
do pale, southern	.....	0 50 do 0 75
Блѣдная, южная	.....	do
do seconds	.....	0 40 do 0 55
второго сорта	.....	do
do thirds	.....	0 20 do 0 25
третьяго сорта	.....	do
Muskrate	.....	\$0 05 @ 0 10
Выхоль	.....	do
Otter Sea, prime, dark silvery	.....	15 00 do 75 00
Боберъ Морской, первого сорта,	.....	do
do do do	.....	5 00 do 10 00
второго сорта	.....	do
do do do brown	.....	5 00 do 10 00
черпый	.....	do
do do do pups	.....	0 50 do 1 00
блѣднаго цвѣта	.....	do

Otter, Land, prime, dark, northern	.....	do	1 50 do 5 50
Выдра земноводная, первого сорта, черная сѣверная	.....	do	1 00 do 1 25
do do do southern	.....	do	do
Южная	.....	do	0 50 do 1 00
do seconds	.....	do	do
второго сорта	.....	do	0 25 do 0 75
do thirds	.....	do	do
третьяго сорта	.....	do	0 15 do 0 25
Raccoon	.....	do	do
Барсукъ	.....	do	1 00 do 2 00
Wolf, large	.....	do	do
Большой Волкъ	.....	do	1 00 do 1 25
" small	.....	do	do
малый	.....	do	0 50 do 0 75
" seconds	.....	do	do
второго сорта	.....	do	2 00 do 3 00
Wolverine, firsts	.....	do	do
Росомаха, первого сорта	.....	do	1 00 do 1 50
do seconds	.....	do	do
второго сорта	.....	do	0 30 do 0 35
Wild Cat, firsts	.....	do	do
Дикій Котъ, первого сорта	.....	do	0 20 do 0 25
do seconds	.....	do	do
второго сорта	.....	do	0 10 do 0 15
Skunks	.....	do	do
Американскій Хорекъ	.....	do	do
Seal, fur	.....	do	do
Котъ морской	.....	do	0 10 do 0 30
do hair	.....	do	do
Тюлень	.....	do	1/2 lb from 0 75 do 1 00
Beaver, northern	.....	do	do
Сѣверный Боберъ	.....	do	0 50 do 0 90
do southern	.....	do	do
Южный Боберъ	.....	do	do
Indian dressed Deer Skins, smoked preferred	.....	do	0 85 do 0 90
Индѣйскія олени кожи копченныя	.....	do	0 10 do 0 15
Deer Skins, raw, summer and fall	.....	do	do
Сырыя Олени кожи, лѣтнія и осеннія	.....	do	0 05 do 0 10
do do winter	.....	do	do
зимнія	.....	do	do

N. B.—An allowance must be made on all damaged and summer skins. Fur seals are more in demand than for some years past; but great care is necessary in buying.

FUR SEALS, salted and well secured—Large Bulls, 9.00 to 6.25; Large Prime, 2.00 to 2.50; Middling, 1.75 to 2.00; Small, 1.00 to 1.25; Large Pups, 1.50 to 2.00; Middling Pups, 1.00 to 1.25; Small Pups, 0.50 to 0.75; Small Black Pups, 4 to 5 cents.

FUR PACKING

is one of our specialities, having had some 17 years experience in this branch, and we are prepared to REPACK FURS in water proof bales or cases for shipment to any part of the world and refer to any fur-dealer in this city as to our ability to give entire satisfaction. PRICES TO SUIT THE TIMES.

E. T. ANTHONY & CO.

321 & 323 SACRAMENTO STREET,..... SAN FRANCISCO.

Если кто желаетъ посмать пушные промысла для продажи въ Европу, обратитесь къ Гг. Антонию и Ко., они улагаютъ мѣха сохранно для продолжительнаго пути.

RE-PACKERS of every class of merchandise with promptness and dispatch.

THE SUPPRESSED PETITION.

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

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

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

PETITION.

ST. GEORGE ISLAND, Alaska, August 5, 1871.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Even merchants and traders are excluded from our shores by these lessees, and competition is thus cut off, and we are dependent only on the mercies of our masters. The employees of the company (lessees of our Island,) often beat and violently assault us, threatening to drive every Aleut from the Island, and that they have that power, through this lease obtained by them from Government, at a cost of many thousand dollars. These employees are careless and indifferent about the fur seal,—our only resource and support, for ourselves and families. The lessees are permitted to kill 25,000 per annum. When we bring them skins, they select only the first class skin, and order us to take the

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

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

PETER REZANTZOW,
ANDRONIC REZANTZOW,
NICIPHOR VECULOW,
PETER RUTTI,
ALEXIS SHIVETCOW,
EGOR KOLECHOW,
IVAN PHILEMONOW,
SABBA KOLECHOW,
JOB PHILEMONOW,
ZACHAR USTUGOW,
PLATON VECULOW,
CIPRIAN MERCURIOW,
PETER CHLEBOW,
USTIN SHIVETCOW,
SEMEN PHILEMONOW,
ALEXIS GALAMIN,
GABRIEL GALAMIN,
BORIS GALAMIN,
ALEXIS USTUGOW,
BARPHOLOMEUS MALOVANSKI,
IVAN SHEIN,
IVAN POPOFF,
ALEXANDER USTUGOW,
SEBASTIAN MERCURIOW,
NEOPHIT SHIVETCOW,
JOSEPH SHIVETCOW,
NICHOLAS USTUGOW,
PHOCA SHEIN,
IVAN AKUPSKI.

RUSSIAN REPUBLICAN

BENEVOLENT SOCIETY,

DECEMBRIST.

РУССКОЕ РЕСПУБЛИКАНСКОЕ

Благотворительное Общество—въ Сан-Франциско.

Основанное 14 Декабря, 1867 года.

Во Имя Декабристовъ.

AGAPUS HONCHARENKO, Secretary and Founder of the Society.

This society is strictly a secret organization, and is intended for the propagation of Republican principles among Russians here, and in the Russian Empire. It excludes all who favor autocracy or servilely bend to the edicts of the church. Its benevolence is confined exclusively to political refugees. It does not in any way interfere with American politics or the enlightened systems of religion prevailing in this country.

ALASKA



HERALD.

VOL. V.

SAN FRANCISCO, MARCH 19, 1872.

No. 101.

THE ALASKA HERALD:

ACAPIUS HONCHARENKO, Publisher,

ISSUED SEMI-MONTHLY.

OFFICE: 611 CLAY STREET, (Room 8.) SAN FRANCISCO.

THE ALASKA HERALD

IS WIDELY CIRCULATED IN SIBERIA, JAPAN, CHINA, THE
SANDWICH ISLANDS, AND ALASKA TERRITORY.**CENTRAL PACIFIC RAILROAD.**

THE CENTRAL PACIFIC RAILROAD COMPANY, take pleasure in notifying all merchants, traders and captains doing business in Alaska and Siberia that it offers much more beneficial and easier facilities for transporting their goods by rail than can be had in shipping by the Panama and Cape Horn routes. In the following specialties the inducements for shipments by rail are of great importance:

Salmon and Codfish,

Shipped by the trans-continental route reach their destination in a short time, and passing through a temperate climate are not in danger of being damaged as would be the case in shipment by Panama and the Equator.

Whalebone and Ivory,

Reach the Eastern and European markets so much quicker when shipped by rail, that merchants economize time, which is of great import, and thus realize quick sales and a ready percentage for the capital invested.

Furs Shipped by Railroad,

Are never damaged by heat as frequently happens when transported by Panama. Conveyed by rail, this very important article of trade, reaches the New York, London and European markets in due season, and is not subject to the delays and uncertainties of the tropical route.

CHA'S W. SMITH,

General Freight Agent,

SAN FRANCISCO AND SACRAMENTO, CAL.

IN the transportation of furs from San Francisco, via New York to the European market, the shippers have had heretofore, agents at New York, who examined the bales, and if any furs happened to be damaged by the long voyage or heat of the Panama route, as often happened, said agents repacked them, charging a large percentage for their labors. All this is now avoided by the Central Pacific Railroad Company, who offer facilities to Alaskan and Siberian merchants by which their furs, ivory, etc., will be immediately transmitted upon their arrival in New York by the best and quickest lines connecting with the London and European markets.

THE "POLAR OBSERVER."

THE *Bulletin* of the 9th instant has the following in regard to the Memorial sent by the merchants of San Francisco to the Legislature:

"Mr. Perkins in the Senate this morning presented by request a memorial signed by a large number of citizens and merchants of San Francisco relating to the Alaska Commercial Company. The memorial recites the circumstances connected with the purchase of Alaska and the granting of the franchise to the Alaska Commercial Company. The memorial charges that the United States Government has abdicated in favor of said Company, and its executive branch through its officers and agents have supported an illegal monopoly in the exercise of unconstitutional privileges. It has permitted Federal officers to act as agents of the Company, and to become stockholders in said monopoly. A long list of abuses is narrated in the memorial. The Legislature is therefore asked to pass a concurrent resolution asking Congress, in the name of justice and honesty, to amend the contract with the Company. The memorial was referred to the Committee on Federal Relations."

It seems strange that the *Alta*, *Chronicle* or *Call* has not a word on the subject. Why the Sacramento correspondents of these journals should overlook a matter of the greatest public importance is not for us to inquire into. The memorial, however, will work out its mission by overthrowing the most unjust and tyrannical monopoly in America.

LAST year M. Alphonse Pinart sailed for Alaska to make studies throughout that Territory in the ethnological and philological department of science. He will closely study the manners, customs, habits and traditions of the races inhabiting Alaska and the Arctic region. The past winter was spent on the Alaskan peninsula and in travelling through the interior, as at such a season of the year the rivers are frozen and with dogs and reindeer an adventurous man can reach any point in the almost unknown central and Arctic portions of the country. Through the intelligence and great enterprise of M. Pinart we believe his explorations will be more interesting than those of any other traveller in those regions. Another young Frenchman of characteristic pluck and daring—M. Octave Pavy, is now in this city fitting out an expedition for the discovery of the North Pole and explorations in the Arctic world. France, the mother of great men, may well be proud of her Pinarts and Pavys.

WE are acquainted with an honest and intelligent business man who asked for employment in Alaska from a merchant in this city doing business there. Upon being asked what business he would like to engage in, he said he thought the best way to secure the sympathies of the natives and advance their interests would be to establish schools among them. The merchant replied that he thought the way to make most money out of the natives was to establish distilleries throughout Alaska. Our honest friend not believing in making the natives drunk and then robbing them, the negotiation terminated abruptly on his part. The merchant is a church member in high standing; the party of the other part has no church and no God but the happiness and well-being of his fellow creatures.

THE ABORIGINES AT HOME.

[Sitka Correspondence of the Philadelphia Press.]

The village contains forty or fifty houses. The population consists of 1,000 Indians and 2,000 dogs. Of the dogs, all but one are of the same sharp-eared, wolfish type seen among the Indians of the plains. The exception was a bandy-legged, lop-eared cur of civilized breed, the only one among the two thousand that showed a lack of civility by barking at our heels. The houses much more resemble the semi-subterranean abodes of the Laplanders and Esquimaux than the wigwams of American Indians. Like the oak described by the American poet, they extended as far into the earth as above it. Some of them are from twenty to thirty feet square, and built of very wide cedar planks, many of them more than four feet across, worked out by these rude people.

We entered several. Creeping through apertures, both square and round, not more than three feet in diameter, we descended flights of steps into the large single room. In the centre of each a fire was built on the ground, and in the centre of each roof a hole, out of which passed a small portion of the smoke, the most of it remaining for the benefit of the salmon hanging over our heads, and to make sore eyes for the inmates. The whole inside is floored except the fireplace in the middle. On both sides are the sleeping places, covered with skins and blankets, and in some instances separated by low partitions. In the rear, and on shelves below the dormitories, were stored potatoes and dried salmon in large bales covered with matting. Their largest potatoes are the size of a hulled walnut.

The women were either cooking or working small baskets and other utensils of dried grass, in the manufacture of which they are surpassingly skillful. The men were building canoes outside, or carving odd images of wood or walrus ivory, for sale to curious voyagers, one of whom is your correspondent. This was indicated by his many purchases of queer pipes, little skin boats, bows and barbed arrows for the slaughter of fur seals, and other articles of *novelty* but of no especial utility. As time is of no value to these people, they bestow great labor for small rewards. A grass mat or basket, or an ivory carving that has occupied several days in its construction, can be bought for two or three bits, and a dressed deer skin, tanned as only they can do it, over which some hours of many days have been spent, may be purchased for a trifle.

Their canoe-building is worthy of note. Out of a huge spruce or cedar tree they work a vessel of perfect symmetry that will carry from five to ten tons. After roughly hewing it in the forest, they tow and drag it to their homes, which is always near the shore, to be finished at their leisure. An Indian does not like to be hurried, and especially by such men as Sheridan and Crook. I saw many of these canoes in process of construction. The most curious operation is that of stretching them apart, when reduced to the proper thickness of an inch or more. Before stretching they may be four feet deep and only two feet wide at the top. After it these proportions will be reversed, making the width four feet. To accomplish this, the hollow is filled with water, which is raised to the boiling point with heated stones. It is then covered with mats until thoroughly steamed, when the stretching begins. The sides are kept apart by cross pieces, which serve afterwards as seats for the paddlers. But few of them have yet learned the labor-saving capacity of oars. They use no nails, but fasten their woods with roots and wythes.

They make spoons and other useful articles from the horns of the argali and the tusks of the walrus. They burn the dead, and deposit the ashes in little out-door structures that look like a cross between an old-fashioned bee hive and a small hen-coop. They build a square, hollow, pile of logs, and, after getting them well ablaze, thrust the body in head foremost, whereby the mourning relatives are consoled with the savory odor of roast Indian.

The ladies beautify their complexions with soot and red paint, and still further enhance their charms by wearing a bone through the under lip, the size of which is increased from year to year until, in

some of the old ones, it attains a width of two inches. An Indian lady thus adorned, with her coarse, black, uncombed locks hanging in matted profusion around her beautiful pig eyes and lop ears, is only repulsive to those whose affections are preoccupied. The delight of courtship must be doubled by the pleasant aroma of salmon which pervades the premises and, as I have heard, their persons.

Among them the crow and the raven are held sacred and flit around their lodges undisturbed. They live mainly on fish and have a monopoly of the trapping. There is but one white trapper in the country, and he is at Cook's Inlet, six hundred miles W. N. W.

THE MOUNTAINS OF ALASKA.

The high mountains of Alaska all lie south of lat. 65°. The Coast or St. Elias Range contains the highest peaks and most of the volcanoes. It extends along the whole northwest coast from California to the peninsula of Alaska. The general trend is northwest. About lon. 142° W. it loses in a measure the distinctive characters of a mountain chain, and merges with the ranges which join it from the north and east, forming the Alaskan Range. That portion of this range immediately northwest of Cook's Inlet has been termed on some maps the Chignik Mountains, from what cause I have not been able to discover. Back of the Coast range in the British territory, to the east, are many parallel ranges of hills and mountains, as yet slightly explored. The Rocky Mountain chain extends east of the basin of the Yukon, between it and the Mackenzie, as far north as lat. 64°. Here it bends westward, and, becoming broken, it passes to the west and south, combining with the coast ranges to form the Alaskan Range. To the north the country, though broken, elevated, and containing many ranges of hills, yet bears nothing (except the Romanzoff Range) worthy of the name of mountains; that is to say, nothing which reaches the height of five thousand feet. The mountains which border on the Mackenzie, as described by Richardson, are rather the edges of a high and broken table-land than mountains; at all events, in the light of new discoveries, they must be regarded as a small and insignificant spur, instead of the prolongation of the range. By the discovery of this fact, the orographic law, that the coasts and principal ranges of continents have a general parallelism in their trend, is vindicated.

The old maps present the Rocky Mountain range as reaching the Arctic Ocean in a line nearly parallel with the Mackenzie river. The trend of the mountains, as thus laid down, formed the only noteworthy exception to the general law above mentioned, acknowledged by all orographers. Many reasons induced a doubt of the correctness of these maps, and led to an investigation of the facts, which are as follows: The accounts of the Russians who had been in the region of the Nushergak and Cook's Inlet united in confirming the existence of a great range, continuous with that which forms the backbone of the peninsula of Alaska. The watershed, or distribution of the rivers of the region to the north of this range, added confirmation. Two years' exploration in the valley of the Yukon showed that all the ranges of hills and low mountains had the same general trend with the great range to the south. Ketchum's explorations showed that the Yukon cut its way, nearly at right angles, through a great chain of mountains, which extended to the westward and eastward, and that, proceeding northward to a point a hundred and fifty miles southeast of Fort Yukon, the character of the country changed, becoming comparatively level and entirely free from high mountains. The furs from Fort Selkirk were taken down the Yukon, up the Porcupine, across to Peel's river, and up the Mackenzie, to the usual points, rather than one quart of the distance across the Rocky Mountains to the Mackenzie. The Hudson Bay men at Fort Yukon agreed in representing the country between that point and the Mackenzie as comparatively even, though broken and hilly to the eastward. The character of the Porcupine river, surrounded by lakes and only obstructed by sandbars without rapids, forbids the idea that it intersects a great range of mountains.

The smaller ranges worthy of mention are the Bald Mountains, on either side of which the Yukon takes its rise; the Shaktolik and Uluksuk hills, near Norton Sound; the Nulato Hills, between the Yukon and Norton Bay; the Kaiyuh and Nowikat mountains (1,500 feet), east of the Yukon; the Yukon Mountains, a low range northwest of the Yukon; and the Romanzoff Mountains, north of Fort Yukon.

The number of known volcanic peaks in Alaska, according to Gröningk, is about sixty-one, of which only ten show any symptoms of activity. It is probable, remarks Prof. Dall (in his eminently valuable work, "Alaska and its Resources," from which these facts are gleaned), that the active volcanoes of Alaska and their allies are of later elevation than the more inland portions of the Alaskan Range. The latter, while parallel in lines of elevation, and almost inextricably interlaced with the former, are probably of Triassic age.

ALEUTIAN CHARACTER AND CUSTOMS.

Father Innocentius Veniaminoff, for many years a faithful missionary among the Aleuts, gives a description of their habits and characteristic traits, from which we make the following extracts:

"It is the custom of the Aleutians for the successful hunter or fisher, particularly in times of scarcity, to share his prize with all, not only taking no larger share, but often less than the others; and if he has forgotten any one in the distribution, or any one arrives too late, he shares the remainder with him. All those in need of assistance hasten to meet the returning hunter at the landing, and sit down silently by the shore. This is a sign that they ask for aid; only the infirm or orphans send persons to represent them, and the hunter divides his prize without expecting thanks or restitution. He rarely receives other thanks than the expressive *ach!* of the recipient. If any of those on shore obtain berries or roots (which are never divided), such persons do not go to the landing, that they may not be counted among the needy. This generosity evidently comes from the heart.

"During my ten years' stay in Unalashka not a single case of murder has happened among the Aleutians. Not an attempt to kill, no fight, nor even a considerable dispute, although I often saw them drunk.

"It is a remarkable thing, almost unparalleled, that among fifteen hundred people (the minimum) in forty years (equal to sixty thousand in one year) there has not occurred a single capital crime! This is the case with the Aleutians since the introduction of Christianity.

"If any one is injured or offended, he never uses force to defend himself, and rarely complains, but leaves the offender in silence. His only revenge is to fix on his persecutor some apt nickname, but he never will reproach him. Even when the children get into dispute among themselves (a rare occurrence) they do not fight or scold each other, but reproach each other with the shortcomings of their parents.

"One reason may be that they have no oaths or seriously opprobrious epithets in the language. Nothing offends an Aleut so much as an undeserved epithet, especially when in Russian. It is regarded as an extreme disgrace.

"The most obvious trait in the Aleut is his patience—a patience bordering on insensibility. Hardly any oppression or hardship will move him to complain. In famine it is nothing to him to be without food three or four days. Even then he manifests neither by word nor sign that he suffers. When interrogated, no word crosses his lips; at the utmost he smiles! If the famine continue, he thinks more of his small children than himself; everything he can find is for them. Even the children show at such times a most modest patience. One would think that an Aleut, after several days' fasting, would fall upon food with the greatest greediness. On the contrary, after having finished what he has to do, he puts the first morsel into his mouth, as one who, after a comfortable breakfast, sits down quietly to his dinner.

"When sick, even the most vehement pain does not produce a com-

plaint. Sometimes when hunting he will himself be caught in some hidden trap. In such a case the barbs can never be withdrawn. The stick to which they are attached must be removed, and the barb pushed through the flesh. To this he submits without a murmur, or even, if alone, performs the operation himself without flinching. Such wounds generally heal readily under a treatment of perfect quietness and abstinence from food for several days, which is their invariable remedy.

"On long journeys afoot, or on the sea, the Aleut is slow and deliberate, but, on the other hand, he keeps in motion all day, or even till he sinks from fatigue. In some cases they will travel from seventeen to nineteen hours, or even over twenty-four hours by sea, without rest. Before they start on such a journey they eat nothing in the morning; as they say, that they may not be thirsty or short-winded. Formerly the Aleutians, like the Koloshes, were in the habit of bathing their children in the sea, to lure them to exposure, even in winter; but since 1795 this custom has gradually disappeared."

ONE of the pioneer preachers of Methodism, desiring to introduce that system of worship into some section of New England, was met, at an appointment at a schoolhouse, by one of the ministers of the place, who proposed to confound the poor Methodist by demonstrating his ignorance in the presence of the congregation. Having awaited the conclusion of the earnest sermon, the learned Reverend walked boldly up to the desk and addressed the preacher in Latin. To the disappointment of the scholar, the Methodist stood up to it bravely, giving him the most polite attention; and, when he had ceased, immediately replied, in an easy manner, as if nothing could have been more intelligible to him than Latin: "*Wie viele Kinder hat ihre Mutter?*" (How many children has your mother?) The great scholar, with an utterly puzzled look, having vainly endeavored to scratch the meaning from out his head, replied, with a bow, "You will please excuse me, sir. I am rusty in *Hebrew*." As an additional point, it must be stated that the Methodist, who had ventured his entire stock of German in the encounter, was stared at by the entire congregation as a Hercules in literature.

SYSTEM OF NATIONAL TIME.—The Rev. Charles F. Dowd, of Saratoga Springs, has constructed a system of national time, for the convenience of railways, as well as of the traveling public, perfectly simple in its elementary principle, yet evincive of much study and research in its details. He proposes to make Washington time the national time standard, and then to divide the country longitudinally into four sections, the extremes of which, being fifteen degrees apart, differ from each other just one hour in time. These hour sections of fifteen degrees are subdivided by the various railway stations which they contain; and by a system of indexes at each station, the traveler, having the local time of the station, can readily determine its relation to the national time standard at any point between the Atlantic and the Pacific. It strikes us (says the Independent) that Mr. Dowd has hit upon a good idea, and that, if railway superintendents were to concur in putting it into practice, it would greatly serve the convenience of the public. The New England Railway Association, having submitted the system to a committee for consideration, has unanimously adopted the report of the committee approving it and recommending it to all the railroad companies in the United States.

MR. GREELEY writes to a confectioner in Boston that in making calves'-foot jelly the Durham bread should always be selected. Take a live calf, place the hind feet in a corn-mill, and then commence to turn, and the jelly will flow out in its crude state. Collect this in a pan, and throw away the calf.

A KIND old father-in-law wanted to know why the Fijians were called cannibals, to which Barnum replied: "Because they live off other people." "Then," replied he, unhappily, "my four sons-in-law must be cannibals—they live off of me!"

THE ALASKA HERALD.

A. A. STICKNEY PUBLISHER AND PROPRIETOR.

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IN assuming the publication of the HERALD, I have only to say that I shall endeavor to make the paper a reliable exponent of the resources, progress and needs of Alaska Territory. The condition of our far northern possessions and people is a subject of general interest. The trade and industries of the Territory, yet in their infancy, are destined to have a large growth, and to become of importance to the whole country. The HERALD occupies a field of needed journalism; it asks no support save that which it can earn by devoting its energies to the promotion of the highest interests of Alaska. With the assistance of competent writers, familiar with the topics coming within the scope of this publication, and with the determination that the columns of the HERALD shall be occupied in the interest, alone, of justice to all concerned in Alaskan commerce and trade, I hope to issue a journal worthy the respect, at least, of the public.

A. A. STICKNEY.

THE popular impression is that in the cession of Alaska, Russia got much the best of the bargain, the \$7,000,000 of American gold paid her being much more than an equivalent for all the practical advantages we are likely to derive from the purchase. But though Alaska has hardly paid us yet, that we will be richly remunerated in the future there can be no doubt. Until that grand turn-over which is to make the poles the equator comes, some thousands of years from now, the greater part of this vast country can be of no use for agricultural purposes; but its fisheries, its furs, and the large forests which fringe its southern shores, must be constantly increasing in value, year by year. For, as the population of the world increases, so will the demand for these increase, while the supply constantly diminishes. By the close of the century, the vast forests of the United States will have been all but exhausted, while the demand for lumber will be almost double what it is now; butchers' meat will have reached a price which will make it an article of luxury to vast bodies of our population, and while the fur-bearing animals will have been exterminated over vast areas where they are now found, the increase of population and wealth, both in Europe and America, will have enormously increased their price.

EVERYTHING promises well for San Francisco this year—the large crops that are now certain, the largely remunerative rates at which the wool crop is being disposed of, the enormous developments of treasure in the Comstock mines, and the stimulus which is being given to mining enterprises of all kinds on both sides of the Sierra. Even the railroad scare, it now seems, is to be productive of good for her, and will hasten the laying of another trans-continental track. There can be no doubt of the great future of San Francisco. There may be another city to the north, on the Sound, and one perhaps to the south, at San Diego; but San Francisco, with all the advantages of position, and all the advantages of the start, must be the one great metropolis of the Pacific coast—the commercial capital and financial center of the whole vast country from Bering Straits to Cape St. Lucas, with all its vast wealth and natural capabilities. And from the other shores of the Pacific ought to come an enormous commerce which will pour wealth into the lap of the Queen City. The Asiatic trade is capable of almost indefinite expansion. It needs but a little foresight and a little energy to make it tributary to San Francisco. The rich islands of the Southern Sea, the teeming millions of China, the vast Russian possessions, whose resources and commercial importance are but imperfectly appreciated, offer a field for enterprise such as is presented to the merchants of no other American city.]

THE best thing which the American Government can do for Alaska is to enforce most strictly the prohibition against the manufacture and sale of liquors. Rum is everywhere the deadly foe of the uncivilized man; but to the native inhabitants of the northern zones it is peculiarly dangerous, as it possesses for them peculiar attractions. A northern Indian or an Aleut will give anything he possesses for a bottle of rum, and if the supply holds out will literally drink himself to death. Free trade in liquors in the Territory of Alaska would depopulate it in a few years, would set the tribes warring against each other, would cause the men to neglect to provide winter provisions, and the women to leave their offspring to perish of hunger and cold. The chiefs and head men of the natives know this well enough, and are extremely anxious that the liquor traffic should be prevented; yet even they are utterly unable to resist the temptation presented by a bottle of rum, and when they once see it will do anything or give anything to obtain it. This craving of the natives for spirituous liquors offers a great temptation to the traders who are looking only for present profit; but if carried on to any extent it would soon destroy all trade, by exterminating the natives.

Every dictate of policy, humanity and conscience calls on our Government to prevent the traffic in the diabolical agent which has slain its thousands of the aboriginal inhabitants of America for every one who has fallen before the rifle of the settler. The Indian tribes have flourished and increased in the domains of the Hudson Bay Company, and under the Russian Government, simply because this traffic was absolutely prevented. They will also flourish and increase under our Government if we likewise prevent the cupidity of our traders from tendering them rum. If we do not, the fate which has swept the Indians of the United States from their broad hunting fields will also overtake them. But in this case the schoolhouse and the church of the white settler will not take the place of the Indian wigwam. Alaska, depopulated by rum, will have for inhabitants but the bear and the wolf.

THE Arctic expedition of Octave Pavey, the most daring and the most promising of all Arctic expeditions, will start from San Francisco during the coming fortnight. M. Pavey takes with him Dr. Chessmore, of the army, who has passed some six years in the high northern latitudes of Alaska, Capt. Micks, the daring seaman who crossed the Atlantic on the raft Nonpareil, and Watkins, a celebrated Rocky Mountain hunter, reputed the best shot in all the wide region around Laurumie. He will be provided with a rubber raft built like the Nonpareil, which can be transported with ease on the land, and is yet capable of carrying a large weight on the water. From San Francisco a small schooner will take the expedition to Petropolaski, where dogs and fur clothing will be procured, and afterwards to some point on Wrangel's Island, whence on sledges the bold discoverers will pass on to the open Polar Sea, of whose existence M. Pavey is firmly convinced. Launching the raft here, and casting the dogs adrift to shift for themselves, their intention is to make the best of their way to the coast of Greenland. We have a strong impression that this expedition will be successful, and that to M. Pavey and his associates will belong the honor of solving this problem of centuries and of accomplishing what so many gallant men have attempted, only to fail.

THE campaign is coming on—the four years' hurley-burley, in which the country is always threatened with destruction, and out of which it always emerges saved. It will be a hot one—certainly three candidates in the field, and possibly four. "Things will be hot"—very hot; but there is a cool corner of the United States, where temper may be saved, brass hands will be unheard, and speeches may be escaped. "Know you the land?" etc. It is Alaska.

THE Senate Appropriation Committee has withdrawn the proposition to substitute the words "some portion of the United States on the Pacific Coast" for the words "San Francisco," in the China mail subsidy section of the postal appropriation.

LETTER FROM SITKA.

AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES OF THE TERRITORY—FRIENDLY
RELATIONS EXISTING—FREEDOM FROM CRIME, Etc.

[CORRESPONDENCE OF THE ALASKA HERALD.]

The general public seems to have strange impressions in regard to Alaska. This Territory is looked upon as a vast iceberg, where the howling wolf and white bear roam undisputed masters of the situation. Eastern journals have endured not a little agony because our new possessions will not produce strawberries all the year round, and orange groves flourish not at Icy Cape. Although the soft and perfumed zephyrs of the tropics are unknown in Alaska, this country is by no means the wild and desert waste pictured in the popular imagination. All along the North Pacific—from Sitka, the capital, to Unalaska, fronting on Bering Sea—the climate is much more equable than in the same latitudes on the Atlantic side. Where on the Atlantic vegetation is unknown and the rigor of the climate is such that animal life cannot exist, on the Pacific, in the same degree, vegetable life is dense and vigorous, and animal life finds abundant support. In Sitka it seldom snows, although it rains nearly every day in the year. While Russia was in possession of the country, some attempts were made to raise crops of various kinds, and with considerable success. On the Kenai Peninsula, excellent potatoes were grown, and every variety of garden vegetables produced in great abundance. On Kodiak Island and on the Aleutian Peninsula, the most prolific and nutritious grasses grow, capable of feeding herds of cattle, horses and sheep. And no doubt ere many years Alaska will become a stock country. Last year one of the merchants here raised the very finest qualities of cabbage, lettuce, radishes and other vegetables. Potatoes were planted and produced a fair yield, and even gooseberries and currants grew to great perfection. So little has been done to test Alaska in agriculture or stock raising, that we have nothing but the smallest experiments from which to argue its capacity in these respects. The principal objects of merchants and capitalists have been to procure the furs of the country, and beyond this the development of its other resources has been very slight. We need not speak of its immense resources in fisheries and its forests of the finest shipbuilding material. These are admitted facts. As population tends northward, the agricultural resources of the Territory will be discovered, and it will be found that oats, barley, potatoes, apples, gooseberries and currants, and all kinds of vegetables, will be produced in quantities to support a dense population. The people of Alaska, especially those inhabiting the Aleutian peninsula, are well skilled in agriculture, many of them being exiles from Russia Proper. No better move could be made than that these people should be encouraged to produce their own food.

More friendly and pleasant relations exist between the United States authorities in this Territory and the natives and merchants doing business here than at any former time. The chaos in which the country was found after the cession of the country could not have order produced from it in a day. The laws and special regulations governing commerce had to be amended, and changes were constantly taking place. All this tended to produce an unsettled condition of things. Now, however, matters move more smoothly. The Indians are peaceful and hold fraternal relations with the whites, the bitterness and jealousies of rival traders have disappeared, and the inhabitants of all classes are disposed to live in peace.

The amended and improved regulations of the Treasury Department for this port have done a great deal of good. Many of the traders here were formerly compelled to send their furs to Victoria, Vancouver Island, and Honolulu, and in return procure their supplies from those points. The present Collector of Customs, Mr. Edes, is doing everything in his power to produce harmony, and has made many changes by which our commerce is greatly increased. San Francisco now receives nearly all the furs from Sitka, and is the chief market from which supplies are forwarded to the Alaskan Capital. This is as it should be.

It is interesting to know that there is less crime in Alaska, according to the population, than in other portion of the civilized or uncivilized world. Since the famous "Alaska Duels"—the true and racy history of which has not yet been embalmed—blood-letting has been almost unknown in Alaska.

THE HISTORY OF THE FUR-SEAL TRADE.

The trade in skins of the fur seal has been carried on for about one hundred years, the prices obtained for them varying during this time according to the scarcity, demand and quality, from three dollars to ten dollars each in their natural state.

In the olden time the English pursued this fishery with great avidity: following in the track of Cook and other navigators along the islands of the Southern hemisphere, they reaped rich harvests of these inhabitants of the deep. Subsequently the Russians occupied and held some islands in the North Pacific Ocean where these animals were found, and Americans made short and successful voyages at the islands south and east of Cape Horn.

In the earlier stages of this trade, China was the principal market, where seal skins were readily sold at good prices in exchange for tea and silks, both cargoes returning much profit to the adventurous merchants and seamen employed. Later, the Russians and English were large purchasers of these skins.

As showing the progress of this trade in fur-seal skins and the abuses of its prosecution, resulting in almost total annihilation of the animals in some localities, it is stated on good authority that from about 1770 to 1800, Kerguelen's Land, on the Indian Ocean, yielded to the English traders over 1,000,000 skins, but open competition swept off the herds that resorted there, and since the latter year hardly one hundred per annum could be obtained on all its long coasts. Afterward Massafuero Island, near Juan Fernandez, was visited, and 50,000 a year were obtained; but as every one who desired was free to go and kill, the usual result followed, and the seals were exterminated at that island, and also at the Gallapagos group, near by.

Falkland and Shetland Islands, and South American coasts near Cape Horn, came next in order. Here the seals were very abundant, and it is stated that at the Shetlands alone 100,000 per annum might have been obtained, and the rookeries left good, if taken under proper restrictions, but the rapacity of man killed old and young, male and female; little pups a few days old, deprived of their mothers, died by thousands on the benches, carcasses and bones strewed the shores, and this productive fishery was wholly destroyed. It is estimated that in the years 1821 and 1822 no less than 320,000 of these animals were killed at the Shetlands alone.

An American captain describing, in after years, his success there, says: "We went the first year with one vessel and got 1,200 skins; the second year with two vessels, and obtained 30,000; the third year with six vessels, getting only 1,700, all there was left."

Later still, the seal men visited the islands of South Georgia, and from its coasts in a few seasons obtained about 1,200,000 skins, leaving, in a short time, the region wholly depopulated of the heretofore teeming thousands.

This nearly completed the destruction of these valuable animals in the Southern hemisphere, and at all the places named scarcely 3,000 per annum can now be obtained. A few still remain in inaccessible places, but the vast herds of the past, which, if properly dealt with, would have continued to propagate themselves, are now gone, never to return.

A small rookery is still preserved at the Lobos Islands, off the river La Platte. This being carefully guarded, under strict regulations of the Government of Buenos Ayres, and rented to proper parties, yields about 5,000 skins per annum.

As late as the year 1854 a small island, hardly a mile across, was discovered by Americans in the Japan Sea, where about 50,000 seals resorted annually. Traders visited it, and in three years the club and knife had cleaned them all off; not one hundred a season can now be found there.

In the meantime these seals found in the North Pacific Ocean had established themselves upon some portions of Copper and Bering Islands, in Bering Sea, where they seemed to thrive; they, however, soon colonized eastward, to the islands of St. Paul and St. George, in the same waters, and found these latter most admirably fitted by loca-

tion, natural configuration, climate and fishing grounds, for their habits of life and rapid propagation. Fortunately for the fur seal and its preservation, these regions were under Russian rule. The Home Government gave to an organized commercial fur company an exclusive control over these islands and their trade, receiving no revenue therefor, and the self-interests of the company led them to protect and preserve the seal. Being nearly exterminated elsewhere, the Russian Company, by strict regulations as to killing, fostered the increase of these animals so that they multiplied each year instead of diminishing. Our own Government has continued the Russian policy, and has restricted the number killed to 100,000 per annum, for the privilege of taking which it receives \$317,000 per annum. The number of seals which visit these islands is still increasing, and it is probable that at the expiration of the present lease the limitation of the number to be killed may be extended and the revenue therefrom increased.

"He digged a pit, he digged it deep,
He digged it for his brother."

—And then he fell into it himself. That, or something like that, is the substance of an old hymn which the Sharon-Jones Yellow Jacket matter forcibly suggests. Sharon, it seems, has been striving, with the aid of a detective, to work up a case which would prove that Jones set fire to the Yellow Jacket mine in 1867, destroying an immense amount of property, and burning some 38 men to death. Sharon's gun has been fired, but, judging from the feeling in San Francisco, the discharge will prove more dangerous to the gunner than to the intended victim. Nobody believes the charge, so far as we know. It is deemed "a put-up job," and the malefactions visited upon Sharon's head are even deeper than they are loud, for he is the man who has broken the stock market and strewn California street with financial corpses. Instead of killing Jones' chances for the Nevada Senatorship, this thing will probably give him Nye's seat with one-half the trouble he otherwise would have had, while it will make Sharon even more unpopular than ever, which is saying a great deal.

We have before us several copies of the Boston *Globe*, a new daily journal which has thoroughly revolutionized the press of our American Athens. The *Globe* is the same size and form as the great morning families of New York. In its typographical appearance and make up it is the handsomest daily paper we have ever seen. It is edited with marked ability and is in every sense a progressive, solid journal. Unlike its metropolitan rivals it is not so much Bostonian as American in spirit, combining as it does the salient features of Eastern, Western and Southern journalism. The *Globe* is said to have been a remarkable success from the start, and is quoted from more largely than any of its contemporaries. M. M. Ballou, the editor-in-chief, is one of the most successful business literary men in the United States.

THE boundaries of Alaska, as laid down in the treaty of cession, are as follows:

"Commencing from the southernmost point of the island known as Prince of Wales' Island, which point lies in the parallel of 54 degrees 10 minutes north latitude, and between the 131st and the 133rd degree of west longitude (meridian of Greenwich), the said line shall ascend to the north along the channel called Portland Channel, as far as the point of the continent where it strikes the 56th degree of north latitude; from this last mentioned point the line of demarcation shall follow the summit of the mountains situated parallel to the coast as far as the point of intersection of the 141st degree of west longitude of the same meridian; and finally, from the said point of intersection of the 141st degree, in its prolongation as far as the Frozen Ocean."

PHILIPS goes out as Collector of the Port of San Francisco, and Tom-named Shannon, comes in. For the information of such of our Alaskan subscribers as have never heard of him, we may say that Shannon is in the main a pretty good fellow, believes in subsidies, and is slightly baldheaded.

A TRAVELER in Peru, sent home this laconic description of an earth quake: "Real estate is lively here."

ШЕХОВАЯ ТОРГОВЛЯ

ВЪ САН-ФРАНЦИСКО.

LIST OF PRICES FOR FURS,

IN SAN FRANCISCO.

Bear, black, prime, fine	.....	.....	skin, from \$ 3 00 @ \$5 00
Черный Медведь самый пушистый,—отъ	до	до	до
do do do heavy	.....	.....	2 00 do 3 00
жесткий	.....	.....	.....
do do seconds	.....	.....	1 00 do 1 50
второго сорта	.....	.....	.....
do do cube	.....	.....	0 50 do 1 00
медвежонокъ	.....	.....	.....
do brown and grizzly, about 25 p c. less than black	.....	.....	.....
черный съ просвѣдомъ	.....	.....	дешевле чѣмъ черныи
Badger	.....	.....	skin, from \$ 0 50 do 1 00
Барсукъ	.....	.....	.....
Fox, prime, dark	.....	.....	2 00 do 5 50
Фишеръ перваго сорта, черныи	.....	.....	.....
do do pale	.....	.....	1 00 do 1 50
блѣдный	.....	.....	.....
do seconds	.....	.....	1 00 do 1 50
второго сорта	.....	.....	.....
Fox, Silver	.....	.....	4 00 do 50 00
Серебристая Лисица	.....	.....	.....
do Cross	.....	.....	2 00 do 2 50
Пятниная	.....	.....	.....
do Red	.....	.....	0 50 do 1 00
Красная	.....	.....	.....
do Kitt	.....	.....	0 40 do 0 50
Маленькая	.....	.....	.....
do White	.....	.....	0 75 do 1 00
Бѣлая	.....	.....	.....
do Gray	.....	.....	0 40 do 0 50
Сѣрая	.....	.....	.....
Lynx	.....	.....	1 00 do 1 10
Рысь	.....	.....	.....
Marten, prime, dark	.....	.....	2 00 do 9 00
Соболь, черныи	.....	.....	.....
do do pale	.....	.....	1 00 do 1 25
блѣдный	.....	.....	.....
do seconds	.....	.....	0 50 do 1 00
второго сорта	.....	.....	.....
do thirds	.....	.....	0 25 do 0 50
третьяго сорта	.....	.....	.....
Mink, dark, northern, prime	.....	.....	0 40 do 5 75
Норка черная, сѣверная, перваго сорта	.....	.....	.....
do pale, southern	.....	.....	0 50 do 0 75
Блѣдная, южная	.....	.....	.....
do seconds	.....	.....	0 40 do 0 55
второго сорта	.....	.....	.....
do thirds	.....	.....	0 20 do 0 25
третьяго сорта	.....	.....	.....
Muskrat	.....	.....	\$0 05 @ 0 10
Вухухоль	.....	.....	.....
Otter Sea, prime, dark silvery	.....	.....	15 00 do 75 00
Бобръ Морской, перваго сорта,	.....	.....	.....
do do do	.....	.....	5 00 do 10 00
второго сорта	.....	.....	.....
do do do brown	.....	.....	5 00 do 10 00
черныи	.....	.....	.....
do do do pups	0 50 do 1 00
блѣднаго цвѣта
Otter, Land, prime, dark, northern	1 50 do 5 50

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ALASKA



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VOL. V.

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No. 105.

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M. PAVY has not yet started for the far north, but waits the arrival from Alaska of M. Alphonse Pinard, with whom he wishes to confer. Everything, however, is in readiness for his expedition, and during the past fortnight the little raft which, we trust, is destined to float on the bosom of the only sea as yet unexplored by man, has made several trips around the bay. She works admirably. M. Pavy will receive every assistance from the Russian Government. By special orders from the Czar, the authorities of all Russian settlements and posts, and the commanders of all Russian vessels, are required to afford him every facility, and to transport him and his party wherever he may desire to go. The Bohemian Club will give M. Pavy a dinner before his departure.

Русские, собравшись въ Нью-Йоркъ, основали "РУССКІЙ КРУЖОКЪ," какъ съ цѣлю объединенія Русскихъ, живущихъ въ Нью-Йоркъ и другихъ мѣстахъ Соединенныхъ Штатовъ, такъ и съ цѣлю взаимной помощи. Двери зашланий "Русскаго Кружка" открыты для всѣхъ, желающихъ посѣтить Собраніе. Въ пренія и дѣла "Кружка" велутся на русскомъ языкѣ. Дѣйствительнымъ членомъ "Русскаго Кружка" можетъ быть только Русскій. Въ почетные члены принимается всякій, безъ различія національностей. Цисьма и корреспонденціи, присылаемая на имя "Кружка," адресуются такъ:

Post-Office Box 404, Greenpoint, Kings County, New York.

DURING the year 1871 the total number of vessels sailing from this port for points in Alaska and Siberia was 45. The chief port in Siberia is Petropavlovsk; in Alaska, Sitka, the capital. Several of the vessels touched or traded at Kodiak Island, one of the principal of the Aleutian group. Of late years, Umlaska, at the end of the chain of islands, has assumed considerable commercial importance. As a whaling rendezvous it is quite popular. Provisions, clothing, wood, etc., can be obtained there.

"THE fur seal not only yields a valuable skin, but an oil of heavy body and a number of desirable qualities, which would make it an article of commerce of considerable importance. But our Government, misled as to its money value, has put such a heavy premium upon it that none is brought to this market. This ought to be amended.

THE brig T. W. Lucas, Captain Tuttle, arrived on the 20th inst., thirty-five days from Sitka, with furs, etc., to C. L. Taylor & Co. We understand Capt. Anderson, a passenger, brought a number of specimens of Alaska gold-quartz, from recent discoveries, for the purpose of having them assayed.

CONGRESS has made liberal provision for those who desire to acquire title to lands containing the precious metals; and now there is a prospect that the same principle will be extended to coal-mining enterprise. The Senate has passed a bill authorizing the pre-emption of coal lands at nominal figures.

THE Koloshian Indians about Sitka, a century ago, burned their dead and sacrificed live victims over the grave of the departed. They now follow the more prosaic but less troublesome custom of their white neighbors.

AT Karluk Bay, Kodiak Island, cod-fishing is said to be very promising.

THE PRAYER OF KAHONAH.

A TRADITION OF THE NORTHWESTERN COAST.

BY HENRY GEORGE.

A long, long time ago, ere our people had become few and weak; generations on generations before a pale-face had been seen on the land or a fire- canoe on the great water; when the streams were filled with fish and the valleys were alive with game, there lived a mighty chief, whose power and knowledge have never been equaled.

His life had been spent in meditation and the study of the mysteries. He had learned all things that man can learn—no plant hid from him its virtues; with each animal he could talk in its own tongue; he understood what the birds said, and the comings and goings of the fishes of the sea; he knew the signs and seasons of the stars of the night, and read their warnings of things to come.

Though too old to go forth to battle, yet his counsel was better than the strength of all his warriors. Under his wise rule the tribe had increased and flourished. No war party that he sent forth returned without glory; no hunting expedition that he planned came back empty-handed. His people loved and revered him; the farthest tribes owned his power and sought his friendship. From the huts of the little men of the North to the walled cities of the South; along the shores of the salt sea, and far over the great mountains, spread the fame of his wisdom—the little people of the North brought him furs, and the kings of the South sent him gold and rich vestures.

He was an old man; of the gray-haired elders none could remember his boyhood, none had seen his youth. The years of his strength had been spent seeking wisdom in solitude and fasting. When from the silence of the mountains he had come to the lodges of men, the marks of age were already on him; yet since then many moons had gone by, though without bringing him weakness. If not as strong of arm or fleet of foot as the young men, yet the decay of age was not on him, and his wisdom grew not less, but more.

But when he knew all that can be known—when his fame had spread far and wide—in a blazing star that stretched across the mid-night heavens he read that he must shortly go to the spirit land. And returning to the lodges of his people, from the solitudes of the mountains where none dared follow him, his heart was solemn and his step slow. For he was loath to leave the people whom he loved; to leave his fame and his power—to have men say, "He was wise; he was great—he is dead!" He saw the maiden and her lover; the young men telling of their deeds; the joyous games of the children; the mother singing to her babe—and he yearned for their joy, and was sad to think his days had almost gone by—that that which was not done must forever be undone; that the delights he had missed he could never attain.

So he came to the place of council and called the elders together. "I am old," said he; "my years are more than those of your oldest; yet my will is not weak, nor do I feel the decay of age. But the sign which I know has told me that I must soon pass to the spirit land. With glory have I led you; with wisdom have I guided you; who is there who will take my place?"

But his people, answering not, cast down their faces in sorrow. They knew there was no one, nor could there be, who would guide them as he had done—for he knew all that man can know.

Then an old medicine-man, the oldest and wisest, spoke: "Must it be so? Will not the Master of Life, who has lengthened your days and given you wisdom, be entreated to leave you a little longer with your people?—for there is none who can take your place."

And all kept solemn silence till Kahonah answered: "I know not; such thing has never been; yet while there is time will I ask the Lord of Life. Who will go with me on the journey I must make—to the end of the world; past the fountain of the North Wind?"

Up sprang the warriors; but the medicine-men sat still: "To the end of the world we will go with thee; be it through water or through fire!"

"Not so" said the old man; "your courage I know; that for aught mortal ye would not turn back; yet where I go your hearts would fail you and your strength become as weakness. Those who go with me must be wise as well as brave—men skilled in the mysteries, who have been purified by fasts and watchings."

Then said the wise men, solemnly: "We know whither thou goest, and through what thou must pass; yet that thou mayest be spared to thy people will we go with thee."

So of the wise men took he seven of the wisest, and at the first of the moon, while the whole tribe kept a solemn fast and prayed with their faces to the ground, he and the seven entered the sacred canoe.

Slowly, with measured strokes, they left the land behind, going northward till over their heads they saw the great white bird; then they sat still and began their mystic chant. In the bow sat Kahonah, wrapped in his medicine mantle, and clasped round his head the golden fillet—the golden serpent with eyes of diamond and scales of ruby, which the priests of the South had sent him. In the bow he sat, with his face to the North, and the seven sat in their places; they neither set sail nor paddled, but chanted their mystic chant, and swifter than if urged by sail or paddle glided their canoe.

In its strength the fierce north wind swept across the sea, seeking the warmth of the south. On either hand it curled the waves, but left unrippled a smooth way before the singers of the mighty song. Softly the water opened for their prow; silently it closed up behind, and all things living fled away from the mighty song they might not hear—the song of mysteries—the chant of life and death; of the secret of life and the meaning of death—of awful words, potent even in the realms of death. But over them the great white bird that knows the icy sea sailed motionless, as if upborne by the mystic song, and in the sky at night blazed the fiery star, pointing to the North, red with the dancing lights.

Many days they sailed along, and behind them, at noon, the sun was lower and lower; many nights they sailed along, and before them the red lights flashed brighter and flashed higher. Swiftly and silently, with no sound save the sound of the mighty song, they sped towards the end of the world. They passed the lands where the little people dwell; they passed great mountains and fields of ice, which silently opened before them; and they entered the silent sea. Around them rose a great white mist—a thick white mist through which the red lights hardly shone.

They had passed the cave which is the fountain of the North Wind, they came to the shore which is the end of the world. Then the seven ceased their chant, and with shut eyes and downcast heads were motionless. And Kahonah, casting off his magic mantle and unclasping from his head the golden serpent, left them by the shore which is the end of the world, and went into the mist. And with his hand above his head, he fell prostrate on the ground, and prayed to the Master of Life.

And through the mist a voice came to Kahonah, though the seven heard it not, for their eyes were closed in a trance:

"What seekest thou?"

And prostrate on the ground, Kahonah answered: "I have come to entreat thee to lengthen my days yet a little. Though my years are many, yet the decay of age is not on me. My people need me yet; have yet much to do ere I can come in peace. Thou knowest that my strength has been spent in fasting and prayer; I have not known the love of woman, nor have I looked into the eyes of my child. The lifetime of man is short; I am yet young in wisdom; leave me, pray thee, longer with my people!"

Through the mist the voice again spoke: "I know that thou hast sought wisdom, and from thee I have kept the decay of age; much of men's pleasure thou hast not tasted, yet thou hast learned all that man can learn. Art thou willing to again become a child; to grow again as thou hast grown; to gather again thy wisdom?"

But his power and wisdom were sweet to Kahonah, and he answered reverently: "No, O Master, for by fastings and long watchings, through pain and weariness, with toil and denial, have I gained my

wisdom. Give me, then, I pray thee, time to use it. Grant me the life and strength of my youth, and let me keep my knowledge."

"What thou askest cannot be, nor could it give thee joy;" and as he spoke, the mist lifted for a moment, and beyond the shore which is the end of the world, Kahonah beheld the bright waters of the spirit land, and across the happy sea saw balmy tree-tops tossing in the sweet breeze, while waves of silver fell on sands of gold—"What thou askest cannot be; yet, O man to whom much has been given, though thy time has come, and beyond those waters they wait for thee—for thy instruction and for the instruction of thy people, retain knowledge and life. Youth with wisdom thou cannot have; but my messenger shall not call thee and the weakness of age shall not fall on thee. Return again to thy people, and when the peace which is beyond seems sweeter even than thy power, come of thyself."

And out of the thick mist, into the boat, unto the sleeping seven, came Kahonah; and his face was as the face of the dead, for he had stood on the shore which is the end of the world and had seen the waters no mortal eye before had looked upon.

Swiftly they drifted back from the shore which is the end of the world; past the cave whence comes the North Wind; through the fields and hills of ice; and they came again to the land of their people, who watched for them, for the blazing star had disappeared.

And with joy and gladness, but in silence—with reverent joy and thankfulness, the wise men of the tribe bore the seven to the great medicine lodge. And Kahonah walked before, yet spoke to no one, and his face was as the face of the dead.

After seven days had passed, Kahonah and the seven again came forth and mingled with the people, yet they spoke not of what they had seen, and none of them dared ask them. And Kahonah ruled as he had ruled before: with greater wisdom he could not; and his fame still spread, and his people continued to flourish. Yet his face was grave and his heart was sad. The children of those who had known him as an old man became themselves decrepid old men, but Kahonah still lived. When he sent forth a war party, he knew it would return in triumph; when he planned a hunting expedition he knew it would come back laden; more he could not learn, for he knew all that man can know—yet his power, through long use, lost its charm, and there seemed nothing new to him under the sun. His people revered him; his slightest gesture was law; but he was alone—when he came they were silent; when he held his peace, none spoke, for to his knowledge their wisdom was foolishness. The maidens bent their heads and the children hushed their games as he passed by; only the infants smiled on him, for they looked through his eyes and saw the good soul within. And his heart went back to the days of his childhood, for he had beheld the sea whose waters blend the future and the past. And from the lost freshness of his childhood faces looked upon his soul and voices lingered in the air, for his eyes had seen the tree-tops of the happy island, and he had heard the waves of silver falling on sands of gold.

And he sought the spot where his mother had sung him to rest, where his father had stroked his hair, and his sister and his brother had played their plays of glee. The flowers bloomed around him—he knew now their names and uses, but they had lost their charm. The birds sang above—he knew what they said, but their joy found now no echo in his heart. The squirrels peeped upon him from the tree—he could now speak to them, but saw them with no shout of glee. The little stream murmured as before—but he had heard the music of the boundless sea, and the little stream sung to him only mournful songs of the time that was gone and the love that he missed.

And his soul was sated with wisdom and power, and he longed for the peace which is beyond the grave, and for the love of those who had loved him in his childhood.

The flowers were happy in the sun; though the winter must come, they knew they would bloom again. The winds sang words of joy, for they trusted to the giver of their life; the old squirrel watched the gambols of his young, nor dreaded to be gathered to his fathers. The brook ran away to the sea, nor feared it would lose its way. All things were content, and in Kahonah's heart his wisdom seemed foolishness and his power was weariness.

And again he called the tribe together, in a solemn council, round the great medicine lodge, and said to them:

"I sought the Master of Life, and entreated him that my days might be lengthened. And for my instruction, and for the instruction of my people, he bade his messenger call me not. Yet now I perceive that my desire was vain, and my wisdom was foolishness. The com-

panions of my youth have long since passed away, and my heart longs to join them. Choose, therefore, from among you a chief, for I will again seek the Master of Life and beseech him to recall his gift and let me depart."

And at the new moon, in the twilight he again set forth, while his people stood in silence on the shore. And, with one foot in the sacred canoe, he turned and blessed them, and said:

"The Master of Life, who is greater than we, is also far wiser than we. He who knows all things knows what is best; where he has set bounds, let none try to pass; but when his messenger comes, go tranquilly and with hope."

And blessing them again, he wrapped himself in his mantle and laid down in the canoe as one who, wearied, peacefully seeks rest, and into the gathering darkness it glided away, till his people, who prayed with tears by the shore, could see it no more.

RUSSIAN LOVE SONGS.

Among the songs translated from the Russian by Mr. Halston (whose work is elsewhere noticed) are the following, which are sung to the Khorovod, or choral dance, also called "Kolo" among many of the Slavonians, a spring festival among the peasantry. In the first a youth bewails the loss of his love, decoyed away from him by a richer rival:

"Why, O Dove, art thou so joyless!"

"How can I, poor Dove, be joyous?

Late last night my mate was with me,
My mate was with me, on one wing she slept;
Slept on one wing, embraced me with the other,
With the other embraced me, calling me her dear one.

'Dear beloved one! Dovelet blue!

Sleep, yet do not sleep, my dovelet,
Only do not, sleeping, lose me darling.'

The dove awoke, his mate was gone!

Hither, thither, he flung himself, dashed himself,

Hither, thither, in homes of Nobles,

Homes of Nobles, Princes, Merchants.

In a Merchant's garden did I find my Dove,

In a Merchant's garden, underneath an apple tree;

Underneath an apple tree, wounded sore with shot!

The Merchant's son had wounded my Dove,

Wounded her with a weapon of gold."

The sorrow of a maiden for her faithless lover has a still deeper pathos:

Misty is the sunlight, misty;

None the sun can see.

Mournful is the maiden, mournful;

None her grief can tell.

Not her father, nor her mother dear,

Nor her sister dear, dovelet white.

Mournful is the maiden, mournful.

"Canst not thou find solace for thy woe?

Canst not thou thy dear friend forget?

Neither by day, nor yet by night,

Neither by dawn nor by the evening glow?"

Thus did the maiden in her grief reply:

"Thou only my dear love will I forget

When my swift feet shall under me give way

And to my side my hands fall helplessly;

What time my eyes are filled with dust,

And coffin boards my bosom white conceal."

At the thought of being forced by unsympathetic parents to give up "her hope, her heart's beloved," the maiden's horror and despair find vent in the following exclamation:

Forth I will go

To the meadows green,

With outcry loud

On Harm will I call:

"Come hither, come father,

Ye beasts of prey!

Here is luscious food—

Come, tear me to shreds!

Only leave untouched

My beating heart,

And bear it away

To the hands of my dear one.

Ah, there let him see

How fondly I loved him."

THE ALASKA HERALD.

A. A. STICKNEY PUBLISHER AND PROPRIETOR.

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THE Aleuts of Alaska are evidently of somewhat different stock from the Indians of the mainland, and seem to resemble more the Japanese than any of the Asiatic peoples. They possess considerable adaptability, and up to a certain point are readily taught. The old Russian Company maintained several schools in which Aleut children were taught to read and write the Russian language; and at the present time the Alaska Commercial Company supports schools on the fur-seal islands where, during eight months in the year, the Aleut children are given the rudiments of a good English education. The quality which most distinguishes the civilized from the uncivilized man is that of providence. "Sufficient for the day is the evil thereof" is emphatically the motto of the savage; and it is only as some considerable degree of civilization has been secured that the desire of saving for the needs of the future begins to operate. Judged by this standard, some of the Aleuts are making great advances. A considerable sum of money has been saved by those engaged in the fur-seal fishery, and at least one of them has quite a large deposit to his credit in a San Francisco savings bank. This is another evidence, too, of the influence of high wages in creating a disposition to save. Under the Russian rule the Aleuts engaged in killing seals received but ten cents a head, and saved nothing. From the American Company they receive forty cents per head, and the disposition to save is growing perceptibly. Some part of the improvement is also owing, no doubt, to the better accommodations which they now have, for the habitation makes the man almost as much as the man makes the habitation. Until a very short time ago those engaged in the seal fishery lived, as all the Aleuts lived, in underground huts, or rather caves, which it was impossible to keep clean or free from smoke; but the American company has now provided for them comfortable board houses above ground, in which they are learning to live much more like rational beings.

JUDGING from the occasional comments of some of the Eastern newspapers, it is evident that they imagine that the trade of the entire Territory of Alaska is in the hands of a single company. Nothing could be wider of the mark. With the exception of the fur-seal fisheries, trade and industry in Alaska are as free as in any other part of the United States, the only general prohibition being against the traffic in liquor. The only special privilege enjoyed in Alaska is confined to the two small islets of St. Paul and St. George. The seal fishing on these islands—which, from its very nature must be made a monopoly, in order that those engaged in killing the seals may be interested in not frightening and exterminating them—has been leased for a term of twenty years to a single company; but with this exception the whole of our vast northern possessions is open to all American citizens on equal terms. And that there is here a vast field for the profitable exercise of enterprise and industry, no one who has paid any attention to the natural resources of the Territory can doubt.

If Octave Pavy shall fail to reach the North Pole with dogsledges and raft, but one mode of doing so will remain, and we shall have to remain in ignorance of this *terra incognita* until human ingenuity shall perfect some mode of navigating the air. We still look with hope to Marriott's Avitor, but whether it accomplishes the purpose or not, the great end is pretty sure to be compassed before the next generation shall have passed away.

THE battery of artillery now at Sitka will shortly be relieved by the battery under the command of Capt. Olmstead, now stationed at the Presidio.

MR. W. R. S. RALSTON, of the British Museum, has recently published a work on Slavonian Mythology, etc., in which we find an explanation of one of the features of Russian life which has been often remarked, viz., picture worship. Referring to this, an English critic says "the shop and the eating house, the nobleman's hall and the foul, grimy hovel of the moujik, are alike sanctified to the purposes of a temple by the sacred picture, the 'icou,' which hangs high and honored on the wall, with its faintly gleaming lamp before it, to receive the salutation and the muttered prayer of each who enters," but Mr. Ralston points out, in this custom, the traces of ancient pre-Christian faith. Throughout the present religion of Russia, the figures of the old gods still lurk everywhere behind the consecrated pictures of the new. Volos, the ancient god of cattle, has scarcely even changed his name to become identified with the Holy Vlas (the English St. Blaise), who still receives the offerings of pats of butter set before his picture, and still has the flocks and herds driven to church on his day to receive his protection for the ensuing year. Thus, too, "in pagan times the gods were supposed to walk the earth at Springtide, and so the Russian peasants now believe that from Easter Sunday to Ascension Day Christ and his Apostles wander about the world, dressed in rags and asking alms." As the Christianization of Russia only took place under Saint Vladimir, at the end of the tenth century, it is not surprising that many relics of ancient heathenism should still be recognizable. In fact, no form of civilization or Christianity, however early its date, can be said to have entirely divested itself of influences which had their birth in the days of pagan rites and customs. Mr. Ralston gives the following version of the ancient religion of the Eastern Slavonians:

It appears to have been founded, like that of all the other Aryan races, upon the reverence paid, on the one hand, to the forces of Nature, and on the other to the spirits of the dead. They seem to have worshipped the sun, the moon, the stars, the elements, and the spirits of those whom they connected with the phenomena of the storm, personifying the powers of Nature under various forms, and thus creating a certain number of deities, among whom the supremacy was, sooner or later, attributed to the Thunder-God, Perun.

These Eastern Slavonians seem to have built no regular temples—and—in striking contrast with the Lithuanians, not to speak of some of the Western Slavonians—they appear not to have acknowledged any regular class of priests. Their sacrifices were offered up under a tree—generally an oak—or beside running water, and the sacred rites were performed by the elders, or heads of family communities.

In spite of the prohibition of the Treasury Department, it is certain that a large amount of liquor is surreptitiously introduced into the Territory and retailed to the natives by small traders; and it is even said that stills have been erected and are in constant operation, turning out war, pestilence and famine—for liquor presented to the natives is a curse which includes all these. It is a disgrace to our Government that this nefarious traffic should be permitted to go on. Alaska is a large country, it is true, yet the trading points are well known and easily visited, and the Treasury officials, assisted by one or two active revenue cutters, ought to be able, if not to absolutely destroy the trade, at least to prevent it assuming any large dimensions. The Government is called upon to do this, not only by the duty which it owes to natives of Alaska, whom the cession of the Territory has placed under its guardianship, but by reasons which appeal to the pocket no less than to the feelings of every citizen. By retaining in some important features the wise policy of the Russian Government, we have so far succeeded in maintaining the amicable relations which the Russians preserved with the natives, and our military expenses in the Territory have consisted in the maintenance of several companies of troops, who might, perhaps, as well be up there as anywhere else. But if we permit a few selfish traders, who have no interest in the permanence of the trade with the natives, to introduce into Alaska the great curse of all the aboriginal peoples, we will surely find that in the purchase of Alaska we have only bought another Arizona, where the lives of brave men will be wasted and hundreds of millions sunk in futile wars from which we can expect neither glory nor profit.

Since the above was in type we learn from our Sitka correspondent that Lieut. Taylor and other Government officials are actively engaged in suppressing the whisky traffic; also that the cutter *Reliance* is cruising along the Aleutian coast, with the view of bringing to punishment the smugglers who exchange liquor for ivory and furs. We trust that effort in this direction will not be relaxed, and that the traffic may be made as unprofitable as it is inhuman.

LETTER FROM SITKA.

[CORRESPONDENCE OF THE ALASKA HERALD.]

Although far away from civilization, we cling with tenacity to the idea that we are a civilized community. The great world outside Sitka may take but little interest in us; yet this spot, away in the far North, is very dear to us. Association and use make any thing or place look natural; so we feel as happy and contented here as any equal number of Uncle Sam's children elsewhere. When strangers first arrive here they are not much attracted by the location, and to one coming from California the weather is not always of the most agreeable nature; still during the past winter the weather has been so mild as to elicit wondering comment from all our residents. And we are not without our attractions, of a social nature. There is such an absence of style and etiquette, such freedom from the restraints of polished civilization—every person being just as good as his neighbor—that after a while the dweller here rather likes it. Nevertheless, we are in danger of having all this tranquility upset if the reports from Indian river of rich gold and silver quartz discoveries prove well-founded. Specimens of the ores will very soon go to your city for assay.

There are observable certain ear-marks which tell that we are not entirely divested of the follies and vanities of civilization. The few white women here are not averse to displaying latest novelties in the millinery line and the fine goods necessary to equip a toilette. "Chignons and switches" are seen now and then; but the "Dolly Varden," a sensation brought to us by the last mail, has not yet ornamented our aristocratic belles. Some of the Indian maidens have patched and colored blankets enclosing their vigorous frames which, I should say, do not look unlike the "Dolly." The white gentlemen here sport Sunday-go-to-meeting clothes and paper collars. Polished boots and kid gloves are rarely seen.

In our epicurean tastes we are somewhat modest. We know little or nothing about "Claret," "Chambertin" or "Old Burgundy," but if we can get a little "Old Bourbon" are content. Our French cooks have not yet arrived, but we expect them when we get a Territorial Government. Those who feed at the crib of our venerable Uncle Samuel are usually plerotic with hard cash, and you only find French cooks where this article is abundant. The new market-place built by the Government is well patronized, and a glance at its well furnished stalls gives an assurance of those substantial and delicacies which serve to place the inner man on terms of respect for the outer one.

We are doing a little in the way of education; we have one school in which the young idea is taught to shoot as rapidly as the climate and other conditions will permit. In six or seven generations from this time we may develop a Homer, Dante, Milton or Byron, but at present the outlook is very dubious. If ever we have an immortal poet, he will be Byronic or Swinburnian, as the mingling of American and Russian blood seems conducive to warmth and impetuosity. Those older children here, educated under the peculiar patriarchal system, with priests as their chief teachers, seem to have inhaled themselves with the idea that Russia inculcates reverence rather than intelligence in its subjects.

Religiously speaking we are not in advance of any of the other great capitals. We have a Russo-Greek Cathedral and a chapel of the same denomination. The Russo-American Company built a neat chapel for the converted Koloshian Indians, but it is going to decay, and has not been in use for years. The Indian is too stoical, and will not warm up to the fervent piety of the Christian missionary. His life has been spent with Nature, and with Nature he will continue. The few Russians here, the Creoles and the half-breeds, are devoted Catholics of the Greek Church, and attend service regularly. Their public devotions are very similar to those of the Roman Catholic Church. A Russian Bishop and a couple of priests are permanently located here. The priests wear long hair, and look somewhat prophetic. They marry and are given in marriage; but if once made a widower, a priest can never again know the sweet peace of matrimonial life. The Bishop, I am told, cannot marry, owing to his ecclesiastical obligations.

You may not know that upon the question of marriage the Koloshian Indians about Sitka are polygamists. The Alaskan Mormons have harems according to their position in society. I visited one of the chiefs who is said to be the owner of seven wives. The old man was seated on a mat, smoking a pipe, was almost half-naked, but looked as if he relished the good things of this life. His squaws were busy in domestic affairs, and acted under such complete subjugation, that I think they never heard of Victoria Woodhull. In my travels about the Indian village I saw several of the chiefs who were masters of considerable harems. The poorer Indians seldom have more than one wife.

The Koloshians live in a rather dirty state, but a few of the chief

men have large and comfortable huts. These are built double, and are very warm. A fire is constantly kept burning in the center of the floor. They have their bed-rooms and apartments, some of which are furnished in very good style, according to the Indian fashion. As a tribe, the Koloshians are very peaceful among themselves. They have no great liking for the whites, but still are inclined to live peacefully with them.

In my last letter I spoke of the vast timber resources of this Territory. Looking at the two small mills in Sitka, which now turn out about 2,500 feet of lumber per day, I cannot but regard them as pioneers in an industry which will at no very distant day assume vast importance. These little mills, by the way, add greatly to the comfort of the town, and are indispensable to its adornment under our imported ideas and tastes.

Government is making an effort to suppress the trade in whisky which smugglers have been carrying on with the Indians. The cutter *Reliance* is cruising along the coast, in search of the landing places of the interdicted article.

X.

THE FUR SEAL.

The fur seal of Alaska is not to be confounded with the ordinary seal, such as is found along the California coast and is caught in great numbers on the banks of Newfoundland and the coast of Labrador. It is of medium size and of grayish color, and the male is ornamented with whiskers like a cat. Once these seals were very abundant in various parts of the world, and immense numbers were killed in the islands of the Southern Atlantic in the latter part of the last century and the beginning of this, while they were also plenty on nearly all the Aleutian Islands; but indiscriminate and careless slaughter has completely exterminated them in the Southern Ocean and the only place in the world which they now haunt in numbers are the two Alaskan islands of St. Paul and St. George and a small island on the Siberian coast. The fur seal, in fact, seems to be the most timid animal that lives. The discharge of a fowling piece or the attack of a dog is sufficient to drive the seals away forever from a rookery which they have tenanted for immemorial ages. Once frightened off they never return, or at least they have never done so within the memory of man. The most probable supposition is that they are guided by the same unerring instinct which prompts the salmon and the shad to seek at their breeding time the very stream in which they were born, and that, once driven from their rookery, they cease to breed, and soon become extinct.

The fur seal, in fact, would be already an extinct species, had not the Russian Government placed restrictions upon their slaughter just in time to save them from being driven from the three islands in which they are now found, as they had been driven from the others.

The American Government has followed the policy of Russia, and has farmed out the seal fisheries of St. Paul and St. George to a single company under the same restrictions which the Russian Government found necessary to preserve the seals; and as the company itself has an interest in their preservation, there is no immediate danger of these beautiful furs becoming lost to the world. In their capture the greatest care is observed. No fire-arms nor dogs, nor anything else which would alarm the timid creatures, are permitted upon the islands. When they first make their appearance, in July, upon the beach, the Aleuts pass among them without attempting in any way to molest them until they become quite accustomed to the human form. Then the younger males (for the older bulls, as they are called, would run right over a man) are gently separated, and driven by easy stages and as quietly as possible towards the interior of the island and into pens where they are out of the sight and hearing of their comrades on the beach. Once here they are dispatched with clubs, their hides taken off and salted down for export. The grayish appearance of the fur seal skin is given to it by the color of the longer hairs which overlie the fur. In preparing the skins for use these long hairs are all pulled out, leaving upon the skin only the close, downy fur.

Our Eastern readers who may wish to see portions of Alaska without incurring an outlay of money and time for the trip, can obtain some charming views of the country, its harbors, forts and public buildings, as well as faithful delineations of its inhabitants, by ordering a set of Muybridge's excellent photographs. For particulars, see advertisements on first and eighth pages.

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THE ALASKA HERALD.

A slow but gradually increasing trade has marked our intercourse with Siberia for some years past. San Francisco is now recognized as the chief source of supply, and will in time furnish the population of that immense country with nearly all the goods therein needed. Divided into what is popularly designated as Eastern and Western Siberia, the population of the former is 8,000,000 and of the latter 5,000,000. A large proportion of the inhabitants are political exiles from Russia proper. The rulers are Russians, or Germans who have lived so long under the sway of the Czar that they have become Russianized. The masses of the population are steady, patient and laborious. In some places the people devote themselves to agriculture, but mining is the great industry. The gold mines of Tomsk in one year yielded \$11,000,000. In all the minerals known to man, Siberia is immensely wealthy. Even crystals are found in abundance. Our commerce with so rich a country and a population of such numbers must prove immensely remunerative. With this vast field for enterprise in the north, and with Mexico in the south teeming with riches and having a population of 8,000,000, San Francisco as a grand central mart will yet rival the oldest and greatest commercial cities of the world. From Mexico we are constantly receiving additions to our mercantile trade. Several merchants from Tepic and Guadalajara have been here lately and made large purchases. From Siberia our custom is increasing. Our heavy goods and rye flour are in principal demand. Mexico receives our light and fancy goods. We mention these facts as illustrative of the marked progress of the queen city of the semi-tropical zone. San Francisco seems destined to be the great commercial artery of the far western no less than the Oriental world.

THERE are several points in Alaska Territory where trade and commerce are in a flourishing condition, considering the facilities and the population. Next to the fur, the salmon trade is the most important, and is increasing yearly. During the year 1871 the estimates were 1,100 barrels taken in the waters about Sitka and 750 barrels at and around Prince of Wales Island. This year some 2,000 barrels will be secured at the latter point. The range is from \$7, \$7 50 to \$8 per barrel. San Francisco and the Pacific Coast, and even the East and Europe, have already been supplied with the very finest quality of Alaska salmon. The article is pronounced equal to the best caught in any waters of the globe. A peculiar characteristic of the Alaska salmon is that the fish of the various localities are distinctly marked as to flavor, color and size. The farther north, up to the Nushagak, the better and more delicate is the fish. As we come south, the meat grows more oily. It would seem, according to the usual laws governing the animal kingdom, that the fish of the north would contain more oily matter than those of the south. This does not hold good in Alaska. The northern salmon, though fat, is not flabby, as is the case in southern waters. The salmon fisheries of Alaska will in time be the most important of any in the world. The waters from Prince of Wales Island, adjoining British America, to the extreme end of the Aleutian Peninsula, touching Asia, are alive with this most delicate and rich of the inhabitants of the deep. Salmon is now and has been for centuries a chief source of food for the Aleuts and the Indian tribes of our new possessions. Dried, it is the greatest delicacy known to their palates.

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PHOTOGRAPHS OF ALASKA.

Just previous to the late General Halleck's departure East, he made a tour of inspection to Alaska Territory, and, by instruction of the Secretary of War, was accompanied by our celebrated photographic artist Muybridge, who made a series of the most picturesque and valuable photographs we have ever seen. The Hon. Wm. H. Seward thought very highly of them and addressed Mr. Muybridge a very complimentary letter in acknowledgment of his appreciation. They comprise about three dozen stereoscopic views of Sitka, Fort Wrangle, Fort Tongass, etc., portraits of Indians, illustrations of Indian life and flying views from ship board; giving a far better idea of the aspects of the country than a volume of reading matter.

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LETTER FROM UNALASKA.

[CORRESPONDENCE OF THE ALASKA HERALD.]

THE ALEUTIAN ISLANDS AND THE ALEUTIAN PEOPLE.

HOW THE ISLANDS CAME THERE.

Scientific men tell us the Aleutian Islands are the lofty peaks of a range of mountains having their bases at the sea bottom. While the Aleuts do not deny this theory, they go beyond it, and inform us how those mountains came into being. Scientific research pales before their legendary knowledge, and the Cyclops of the old Greeks dwindle into mere dwarfs beside the monsters of the Aleutian imagination.

The popular legend peoples the Aliaskan Peninsula with two monsters—a giant and a giantess—husband and wife. Their childhood, if they ever had any, is lost in oblivion. We hear of them only as beings who sat upon the mountains, and who used the hills as footstools; who every month crowned themselves with the moon, and every morning clothed themselves with the mists of the ocean. Their domestic relations are not minutely given; indeed the Aleuts only claim to know the history of this interesting little couple for one eventful day. Whether the stirring events narrated occurred in the still hours of morning, at noon or eve, they know not; but they happened—of that there can be no earthly doubt. The wife committed some grievous sin; of the nature of that sin they are ignorant. She might have been late with the breakfast, or it might have been only half-cooked. She might have had the replenishing of volcanoes and have let one or more go out. Jealousy it could not have been—that one point is settled. They, like Adam and Eve, were alone in their Paradise. But whatever the cause, her liege lord's ire was up, and she, sore afraid, flew toward the end of the peninsula. He pursued; she leaped into the sea, and he, seizing mountains, hurled them after her; dropping into the ocean, they of course sank, but their huge size would not let the sea entirely submerge them. She nearly reached the Asiatic coast before the fatal throw. It is probable that the old giant, between his wrath and terrible exertions, burst a blood vessel and expired, for tradition is ever after silent concerning him.

WHERE DID THE ALEUTS COME FROM?

So much for the origin of the islands; now from whence came the people who inhabit them? As opinions here are conflicting, it would, perhaps, be as well to decide the question by the Darwinian theory, and say they are descended from the seal which frequents these

islands; but inquirers are struck, not with their resemblance to the large-eyed seal, but to the small-eyed "heathen Chinese." The inference drawn is, of course, that the islands were peopled, either from the Asiatic coast proper or Japan. That is, the most westerly of the Aleutian islands were first settled, and later those islands to the eastward and bordering the peninsula.

If this theory be correct—which I deny—the tribes of Alaska north of Kadiak also originally came to their present hunting grounds by the same route. Except the Indians of the upper Yukon and the tribes along the coast north and south of Sitka, the natives of Alaska are of one and the same origin. In their physique and language the natives of the lower Yukon and the Kuskokwim rivers possess a marked resemblance. Like the Aleuts, they are of mild and inoffensive nature. A white man is safer in their country than in civilization. The similarity between the Kuskokwim and the Kadiak natives is striking. Their dialects differ so slightly that they can without difficulty converse together understandingly. If we now follow the Aleutian Islands through to their western terminus, Attu, we will find a marked resemblance in the physiques and languages of the inhabitants of the different islands. It is the accepted theory, and no doubt the correct one, that the original tribes of America migrated from Asia via Bering Straits. The Aleutian Islands, then, received their people directly from the American, not the Asiatic continent. The nearest point of land to the westward of the Aleutian Islands is Copper Island, two hundred and fifty miles away. Chinese junks driven from their course by winds and currents, have been wrecked on the Aleutian Islands. But these occurrences were rare; indeed, only one instance is authentically established. On this one known instance of shipwreck imaginative people have built up hundreds.

The Asiatic cast of features of the Aleuts can be explained outside of junk wrecks. No one, I believe, pretends to assert that all the tribes of America emanated from one tribe in Asia. Long periods are supposed to have intervened between the migration of tribes. The proximity of the Aleutian Islands to Asia, and it may be the comparatively late migration of this tribe, may not have allowed their features to change materially, as time, occupation and climate have, no doubt, changed the features of the North American Indians. Again turning from conjecture to facts, we find the old Russian American Company transferring the Kurile islanders from their homes to uninhabited Aleutian islands to hunt the sea-otter and other fur-bearing animals. These, intermarrying with their Aleutian neighbors could have given them their present Oriental physiognomy. Indeed, this Chinese junk theory is such a junk of absurdities that it seems strange that men of sense should give it a second thought. Before the small-pox made its terrible ravages among this people, the Aleutian Islands possessed more than three times their present population. The peninsula and the islands have a population of about 4,500. They formerly contained from 13,000 to 15,000 souls. Don't let us try to cypher the number of poor Chinese junks that must have gone to pieces on these islands to give them the smallest of these estimates of population. Strange, too, that such an advanced nation as the Chinese should have sunk so low in barbarism as were the Aleuts when first visited by the Russians. Liter

ature they had none; their household utensils had anything but an Oriental look. They were, in fact, the veritable North American savage.

NAVIGATION BETWEEN THE ISLANDS.

From the toe of the peninsula, the Aleutian Islands reach westward for nearly a thousand miles. They are separated by passages ranging from one-half a mile to sixty miles in width. Through the narrowest of these passages the water rushes with terrible velocity and roar. They are filled now with the waters of the Pacific, and now, the tide turning, with the waters of Bering Sea. They are thus seldom at rest. Making, in February, 1870, a trip among these islands in the light, frail skin boat of the Aleuts—the "bydarka"—I waited twenty-four hours on a small island in Akutan passage for the surging waters to subside, but they refused to be still, and I was compelled to enter Bering Sea to avoid its dangers. Again, in the United States steamer *Neuborn*, in the same passage, we steamed for nearly half an hour and made no perceptible headway.

While the Russian charts of these islands and waters are imperfect, our Government has taken no measures to perfect our knowledge of this portion of our dominions. These charts give us about seventy-five islands in this group; but, counting the smaller islands, which they omit, their number would be hundreds. Filled as every passage is with small islands and rocks hidden and visible, navigation is rendered both troublesome and dangerous. Sailing vessels never visit these waters without having to chronicle in their logs one or more hairbreadth escapes from wreck. Too frequently vessels are lost, and in these instances of wreck neither crew nor log are left to tell us the terrible disaster.

FISHES AND WOLVES.

Extensive codfish banks stretch from Kadiak Island to the toe of the peninsula, and every bay in the whole stretch of the Aleutian Islands is filled with this valuable fish of commerce. Halibut, too, are caught in great numbers, and the silvery salmon and a delicious herring literally pack the bays in their running seasons.

"The wolf's long howl from Oonalaska's shore"

May be very good poetry, Mr. Campbell, but it is not the truth. The largest wild animal in the Aleutian Islands is the fox. Water-fowl of many species there are in abundance. The delicious snow grouse are found in great numbers in the hills. The whiteheaded eagle is seen perched on every peak and bluff. In the water swim and dive the precious sea otter and seal. You have only to go to the peninsula to find the bear and the swift footed deer. The wolf, too, there roams in packs, but seldom gets up a "long howl."

A TREELESS COUNTRY.

At the head of the peninsula and around Kadiak are a few scattering trees. South of this, on the peninsula, and on every island, excepting Unalaska, to Attu, a shrub cannot be found large enough to form a walking stick. On a small island in Unalaska harbor the Russians twenty years ago set out a few fur saplings, taken from the continent. They form to-day a dwarfed clump of a half-dozen trees, the loftiest of which is not over fifteen feet high.

RAIN AND VOLCANOES.

Surrounded, as the islands are, by vast bodies of water, the air is almost constantly freighted with moisture, and clouds are ever present. These moving clouds, held for a time by the lofty mountains, are discharged of their vapors. The rains—mostly passing showers and not protracted storms—make deep runs in the mountain sides and overflow every natural basin, be it in the valley, on the mountain slant or on their very summits. The crater of every extinct volcano is thus filled to overflowing. Many of the active volcanoes of to day are but steam producers. The fires below heating the basin of water above, steam is generated. This vapor rises in immense volume, and at a distance cannot be distinguished from smoke. Every few years eruptions of molten lava and fires occur; not alone from the old craters, but it may be from the base of an extinct volcano, or miles away even from old eruptions. In 1848, at the extreme northwestern point of Akutan Island, in sight of the

village of Unalaska, a terrible eruption occurred. It burned for few months and then went out. I saw this little extinct fire mountain in 1870. Vegetation had not then smoothed over its original rugged better-skelter appearance. The little extinct volcano, with its sides symmetrical and of inky blackness, rose about one hundred and fifty feet above the level of the sea. From its base a rocky cape made out into Bering Sea. Over this cape, over the surrounding hills, and along the shore for a great distance, lay scattered its jagged, blackened remains. Not more than a mile inland, away up among the clouds, rose a bold, black peak, in striking contrast with the surrounding snow-covered hills, with an immense pillar of smoke rolling from its summit. This is Aleutian island scenery in winter and far into the summer: snow-covered, treeless hills and mountains with here and there a blackened top with its outpourings of smoke or steam. The loftier peaks are covered for at least nine months in the year with snow, but the low lands are seldom visited, even in winter, by it. In the valleys, as early as the middle of March, vegetation commences to sprout; by July the grass has reached a height of four feet. Hills and mountains are now literally carpeted with flowers. Berries there are in abundance, and many of them of delicious flavor. About Kadiak cranberries abound.

CAPACITY FOR GRAZING.

The excessive dampness is the only drawback to extensive sheep raising in the Aleutian Islands. I will here quote a passage from a report of Captain Charles Bryant, dated St. Paul's Island, 1870. He says: "The climate is not favorable to agriculture, but there is at least a thousand acres of first class grazing land along the southeast shore and in the vicinity of the village. Last year a horse and four neat cattle were brought to the island. Directions had been given to prepare hay for them, but owing to the dampness of the atmosphere it was not done, so that when the cattle were landed there were only such supplies of food for them as the island naturally afforded. They therefore had to subsist on the dry grass of the flats, on which they wintered in good condition, the cows giving a good supply of milk. The wild-rye heads proved nutritious food, of which the supply was abundant. The horse also came through in excellent condition, though having no grain. Goats and sheep have been added to the stock on the island during the past season. They have all bred and are doing well."

The island of St. Paul lies in Bering Sea, nearly two hundred miles north of Unalaska. Its summers are cooler, and its winters much more severe. At Unalaska, contrary to the experience of Capt. Bryant on St. Paul, I saw hay cured in quantity. Coal of the brown or lignite variety is found in the islands of Unga, Tigalda, Amlia and Amchitka. Rumor reports petroleum somewhere on the peninsula, a veritable oil spring. Pumice stone can be picked up on any shore. Ejected from volcanoes, this light substance, falling into the sea, is floated to every bay.

CONDITION OF THE ALEUTS.

Of fur-bearing animals the islands produce the fur and hair seal, the sea otter and the fox—the black, the cross and the red. The agents of the Commercial Company pay the natives for the furs in cash, and sell to them, at a nominal advance on San Francisco price, the necessaries of life. The high price now paid by this company for skins not only places the Aleut above want but gives him a degree of affluence not obtained by the majority of the working classes of the States. A good hunter will yearly secure from five hundred to a thousand dollars worth of skins. Depending, as the Aleuts do, for lumber on the limited supply of logs floated to their shores, they cannot build their houses from wood alone. Constructing the outer walls of sod, and thatching the roof, they line the inside with hewn boards. Although damp, unhealthy abodes, they have improved greatly in their construction since the transfer, under the benign influence of American example.

THE TOWN OF UNALASKA.

The entrance to the harbor of Unalaska—the most important point in the Aleutian Islands—is from Bering Sea. All furs collected

throughout the islands, and north of this point in Alaska proper, are brought to this port for shipment to San Francisco. Here, too, the steamer *Alexander* touches in its semi-annual trips to the seal islands, both on its way to the islands with supplies, and on the return trip to San Francisco laden with its precious cargo of fur seal skins. At the head of the bay, built on a level spit, raised but a few feet above high water mark, is the town, containing about three hundred Aleutian inhabitants. The harbor is perfectly land-locked and one of the finest in the Territory. In 1865 this place was visited by a severe earthquake which destroyed the greater portion of the town and deepened the "inner harbor." Before this event vessels of deep draught were compelled to anchor in the "outer harbor," where they lay exposed, towards the northeast, to the full swell of the sea.

WHAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD DO.

Of the interior of the Aleutian Islands nothing is known. If the Government should expend in scientific research a few dollars of the hundreds of thousands it receives for the lease of the seal islands of St. Paul and St. George and from the tax imposed on the skins shipped therefrom, a fund of useful and even paying knowledge could be collected. In these islands may lie hidden vast stores of the base and precious metals, and extensive beds of valuable stone and marble. These may not exist, but the present policy of the Government, if continued, will keep us in profound ignorance of that fact.

A fund, too, should be set apart for the education of this people; and let me remark, here, that from personal experience I can say the Aleutian children are remarkably clever. In the schools established by the Alaska Commercial Company on the islands of St. Paul and St. George, the pupils are making wonderful progress. But the Government will let years slip by before it gives this matter a serious thought. It is too much occupied at present in civilizing the Indians of the Plains.

SELAH.

THE FUR SEALS AT THEIR ROOKERIES.

BY CHARLES BRYANT.

The male fur seal does not attain mature size until about the sixth year. He then measures in total length from seven to eight feet, and six to seven in girth. His color is then dark brown, with gray over-hair on the neck and shoulders. When in full flesh his weight varies from five to seven hundred pounds. These and no others occupy the rookeries (or breeding-grounds) with the females.

A full-grown female measures four feet in length and two and a half around the body, and differs from the male in form by having a somewhat longer head, shorter neck, and a greater fullness of body posteriorly. She usually weighs from eighty to a hundred pounds. Her color, when she first leaves the water, is a dark steel-mixed on the back, the sides and breast being white; but she gradually changes somewhat, and in eight or ten days after landing becomes dark brown on the back and bright orange on the breast, sides and throat. Hence it is easy to distinguish those that have just arrived from those that have been several days on the shore. The female breeds the third year, and is full-grown at four years.

The yearlings weigh from forty to fifty pounds, and are dark brown with a lighter shade on the throat and breast. The ages of those between one and six years old are easily distinguished by the differences in size and state of development of the animals. * * *

The breeding-rookeries, which are frequented exclusively by the old males and females with their pups, occupy the belt of loose rocks along the shores between the high-water line and the base of the cliffs or uplands, and vary in width from five to forty rods. The sand beaches are used only as temporary resting-places and for play-grounds by the younger seals; these beaches being neutral ground, where the old and infirm or the wounded may lie undisturbed. * *

Wherever a long continuous shore line is occupied as a breeding-rookery, neutral passages are set apart at convenient distances, through which the younger seals may pass from the water to the upland and return unmolested. Often a continuous line, moving in a single file, may be seen for hours together going from the water to the upland, or the reverse, as the case may be. When suddenly dis-

turbed while sleeping on the upland by an attempt of an animal to cross the rookery at any other place, a general engagement ensues, which often results in the death or serious crippling of the combatants. After the females have arrived at the rookeries, many of them, as well as their pups, are trampled to death in these struggles.

Constant care is also necessary lest thoughtless persons incautiously approach the breeding-grounds, as the stampede of the seals resulting therefrom, always destroys many of the young.

The old males are denominated by the natives "Scutch" (married seals). These welcome the females on their arrival, and watch over and protect them and their young until the latter are large enough to be left to the care of their mothers and the younger males.

By the first to the middle of April the snow has melted from the shore and the drift ice from the north has all passed. Soon after this period a few old veteran male seals make their appearance in the water near the island, and after two or three days' reconnaissance venture on to the shore and examine the rookeries, carefully smelling them. If the examination is satisfactory, after a day or two a few climb the slopes and lie with their heads erect listening. At this time, if the wind blows from the village towards the rookeries, all fires are extinguished and all unnecessary noises avoided. These scouts then depart and in a few days after small numbers of male seals of all ages begin to arrive. The old patriarchs soon take their places on the rookeries and prevent the younger males from landing. They thus compel them to either stay in the water or go to the upland above.

In locating, each old male reserves a little more than a square rod of space to himself. For this proceeding they evidently have two reasons. First, from the constant liability to surprise from their rear, which is their weakest point, they require room enough to make one leap in turning before being able to defend themselves or to attack their enemies. Their eyes being adapted to seeing in the water, their vision is feeble when out of that element. Consequently they have to rely mainly on the senses of hearing and smell for warning of danger; hence, while dozing on the rocks every movement or sound in their vicinity keeps them constantly turning towards the direction from which it proceeds. A second reason is that each requires that amount of space for the reception of his ten or fifteen wives.

Male seals continue to arrive in small numbers daily, a few of which are yearlings; those two, three, four and five years old arrive in about equal proportions. Those older than this are more numerous than the younger, each one of which fights his way to his old place on the rookery, or, taking a new one, prepares to contend for it in case the owner comes to take it. As they acknowledge no right but that of might, the later comer has to select again. The growling and fighting are constant, so that day and night the aggregated sound is like that of an approaching railway train.

About the 15th of June the males have all assembled, the ground being then fully occupied by them, as they lie waiting for the females to come. These appear in small numbers at first, but increase as the season advances till the middle of July, when the rookeries are all full, the females often overlapping each other. * * *

The "bachelor" seals swim all day along the shore, escorting and driving the females on to the rocks as fast as they arrive. As soon as a female reaches the shore, the nearest male goes down to meet her, making meanwhile a noise like the clucking of a hen to her chickens. He bows to her and coaxes her until he gets between her and the water so that she cannot escape him. Then his manner changes, and with a harsh growl he drives her to a place in his harem. This continues until the lower row of harems is nearly full. Then the males higher up select the time when their more fortunate neighbors are off their guard to steal their wives. This they do by taking them in their mouths and lifting them over the heads of the other females, and carefully placing them in their own harem, carrying them as cats do their kittens. Those still higher up pursue the same method until the whole space is occupied. Frequently a struggle ensues between two males for possession of the same female, and both seeking her at once pull her in two or terribly lacerate her with their teeth. When the space is all filled, the old male walks around complacently reviewing his family, scolding those who crowd or disturb the others, and fiercely driving off all intruders. This surveillance always keeps him actively occupied.

In two or three days after landing, the females give birth to one pup each, weighing about six pounds. It is entirely black, and remains of this color the whole season. The young are quite vigorous, even at birth, nursing very soon after they are born. The mother manifests a strong attachment for her own young, and distinguishes its cry among thousands.

THE ALASKA HERALD.

A. A. STICNEY PUBLISHER AND PROPRIETOR

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AN OVER-TAXED PRODUCT OF ALASKA.

Seal oil is worth in this market about fifty cents per gallon. A large quantity of it could be made, at a profit, from the seals annually killed in Alaska for the sake of the skins, were it not that the Government has imposed upon it a tax of fifty-five cents per gallon—just ten per cent. more than it is worth. At least 50,000 gallons of oil might be annually made in the islands of St. Paul and St. George alone, were it not for this tax, which would represent a clear addition of \$25,000 per annum to the wealth of the nation. Upon this the Government might, if it were so disposed, by a tax of ten cents per gallon, collect a revenue of \$5,000 per year where it now gets nothing. Better still than taxation, however, would be the adoption of the recommendation of Special Agent Bryant, who proposes to remove the tax entirely, and put in its place a stipulation which would redound directly to the benefit of the natives engaged in taking the seals. In his recent report he says:

The cost of rendering the oil is twenty-five cents per gallon, which added to the tax, fifty-five cents, makes a total of eighty cents per gallon at the island, while the market value is less than fifty cents. It must be obvious no company can afford to incur the expense necessary for carrying on a business involving such positive loss. In my opinion, no revenue can be derived from taxing the oil, and as the natives are the parties most to be benefited by its saving by us, it affording an additional industry to their island, I would suggest that in place of a revenue tax there be established a regulation fixing a stipulated price, say twenty cents per gallon, to be paid by the company to the natives for all the oil shipped from the island. This would leave a margin sufficient to pay the cost of rendering and shipping. In this way about fifty thousand gallons of oil may be obtained annually above or over what blubber is required by the natives for fuel. The proceeds of this would enable them to purchase wood or coal to warm their houses in winter. The blubber, being entirely unfitted for that purpose, is now burned in an out-house for cooking only, the sixty cords of wood now annually distributed among them being insufficient for baking purposes.

SINCE our last publication, M. Alphonse Pinart has arrived in San Francisco, after an extended tour among the Aleutian Islands and on the mainland of Alaska. His travels have been attended by incidents of peril and exposure, he having at one time been forty-two days upon the North Pacific in the slight bydarka (a canoe made of seal-skins) in use on that coast. He brings back abundant evidences of industry and success in the shape of specimens of the wealth and wonders of both sea and land; he has taken several hundred negatives from which to illustrate the scenery of Alaska and the customs and costumes of her people. In M. Pinart's judgment the evidences are very strong that the Aleuts are of Japanese origin, his previously entertained opinions having been strengthened by his recent studies among them. We are not advised as to his immediate plans, but understand he will again visit Alaska and make a thorough investigation of the ethnological questions which engage his earnest thought. Since his return to San Francisco a letter from Paris announces the death, in that city, of M. Pinart's mother, a lady of great mental powers and literary acquirements.

THE Bohemian Club banquet to M. Pavy, on Monday night last, was one of the most brilliant affairs of the kind which ever took place in this city. Many banquets more sumptuous and more numerously attended there have been, but none in which so much wit and good feeling were displayed, and in which everything passed off so pleasantly. The Bohemian Club honored both M. Pavy and themselves.

A RICH amber mine is said to have been discovered on the mainland of Alaska. A Sitka trader reports that specimens have been sent to San Francisco to have their purity tested. The most celebrated amber mines in the world are on the Baltic Sea.

THE ARCTIC PROBLEM.

At a recent meeting of the Academy of Sciences, M. Pavy gave an exposition of the Arctic theory upon which rest his hopes of a successful visit to the Atlantic coast by way of the North Pole. He has no doubt of the existence of an Arctic passage from the Pacific to the Atlantic—though of course impracticable for the purposes of commerce; the Polar center he believes to be an open sea in summer and winter, surrounded by a belt of ice, and that the great difficulty in reaching the Pole is the penetration of this belt; this can be done by discovering the channel traversed by the warm ocean current from the south; there are six entrances to the Polar Basin—those eastward, between this continent, Greenland, Spitzbergen and Nova Zembla, are impracticable, because at a certain latitude powerful currents are encountered, sweeping down from the north and bringing ice with them, against which a ship could not be navigated; through Bering Strait, however, a warm current flows to the north, and a clear passage through the ice-belt to the open sea must there be discovered. Dr. Kane came to the conclusion that the ice-belt which had barred his progress in Smith's Sound must have been in course of formation not less than eighty years. All expeditions by the eastward have been stopped by impassable ice. The members of the Russian expedition last year thought they had reached the Polar Sea, but a comparison of their reckonings shows that they only entered a bight in the ice-belt created by the warmth of the Gulf Stream and already entered by navigators. M. Pavy believes that the Gulf Stream sinks as it expands and meets the cold and heavy current from the north, but it comes to the surface again on reaching the Polar Sea, retains its heat unimpaired, and maintains an open sea of moderate temperature at the Pole. In the latitude of 80°, and southward, land birds are rarely known to stay, in consequence of the extreme cold; but they have been seen flying northward over the belt of ice; and in higher latitudes have been seen in great numbers. The great eastern ocean current, flowing upward through Bering Strait and rounding the shores of that unexplored continent, Wrangell's Land, whirls eastward into the Polar basin; then, uniting with the waters of the Gulf Stream, the southern currents are formed which sweep through the strait leading into Baffin's Bay, and down upon the shores of Spitzbergen and Nova Zembla; the woods common to the shores of Siberia are found strewn upon the coasts of these islands, and confirm the theory. A portion of the Japan current branches off to the south of Alaska and produces the fine climate enjoyed along this coast. Another evidence of an open Polar Sea to the north of the ice-belt is the fact that one species of whale commonly passes northward at the approach of winter, seeking clear water and avoiding the perils of a frozen surface.

SHIPMENTS of fish and furs from Alaska show a gratifying ratio of increase. The exports of the Territory are assuming an importance which must astonish the croakers who have maintained that we are to get no return for the money paid to Russia. We have not yet had occasion to draw upon the mainland of Alaska for its unequalled timber, but the day will come; and meantime the waters of the coasts and islands are beginning to exhibit their vast resources in codfish, salmon and other valuable market supplies. Our British cousins are quite elated at the finny productiveness of their possessions on the Pacific, as the following paragraph from the *Toronto Mail* illustrates. Considering the fact that our territory embraces a greater variety than British Columbia can boast, and a shore line much more favorable to its utilization, we may feel tolerably content with our purchase:

"Its fishing grounds are much more extensive and will be infinitely more productive, when properly worked, than those upon the eastern side of the continent. With the exception of mackerel, the British Columbia waters furnish all the finny tribes found on the Atlantic coast. Salmon is a thousandfold more abundant. A small fish—the hoolichan—crowds the northern part of the Gulf of Georgia, and yields nearly half its weight of oil, valuable, in addition to its other uses, for its medicinal properties, exceeding those of the best cod liver oil in cases of pulmonary and other debilitating diseases. The Gulf is also thronged at certain seasons with whales, which may be captured just to the extent to which capital shall be invested in the pursuit. The facilities afforded by the sheltered quiet of those land-locked waters for the prosecution of the whale fishery are unequalled in any part of the world."

By the steamship *Alexander* 39,176 fur seal skins belonging to the Alaska Company and 3,500 belonging to the United States were brought to San Francisco. Government receives from the Alaska Company, as the tax upon these skins, the nice little sum of \$103,847, besides the annual rental.

A CRUMB FROM THE TABLE—PERHAPS.

Somebody sends us the subjoined, with the statement that it was picked up near the scene of the banquet recently given to M. Pavy, in this city, by the Bohemian Club. We confess we have some doubts on this point; but whether "picked up" or not, as it seems to have been prepared by a friend of that portion of our noble domain in whose interests we are laboring, we give it place. As we find nothing of the kind in the reports given to the world by the daily press, we suspect the author was present at the feast in spirit only, and that the toast and response are as imaginary as the viands that "might have been":

"ALASKA: The quarter-stretch on the Polar course."

Sir, the mighty resources and abundant prophecies of our far northern Territory will, I trust, find a more able exponent; to do them justice I feel I am not Alaska pable.

Sir, with an area of 200,000 square miles—crooked maps to the contrary, notwithstanding; with vast forests of timber unexcelled for shipbuilding, and oceans of the *Læo Marinus* to furnish material for the unapproachable "by-darka" (the only Simon-pure found in that climate); with mines of gold, silver, coal and amber begging to be incorporated that they may enrich the faithful of California street, (and perhaps a few shares "to a friend"); with both water and land alive with animals that shall clothe the world in garments of beauty, Nature has indeed set upon Alaska the SEAL of a prosperous present and prospecting future.

But, sir, high as is her mission in ministering to the warmth of man even from her snowy fastnesses and frigid waters; lofty as are her mountains and exalted as is her latitude, we are reminded by the event of this evening that the aspirations of the scientific and practical world are fixed at least an OCTAVE higher. May the fearless explorer PAVE A WAY 'round the world that shall be forever open, and may the North Pole become so familiar and easy of access that the whittling American shall soon reduce it to pen-holders and schoolboys find it no more among the unanswerable conundrums of their class books.

Sir, the peaks of Alaska will be the last western landmarks of our Republic upon which the heroic voyagers will look, but her hardy pioneers will not be least in appreciating their courage or in wishing them a success that shall make their names immortal. San Francisco will give the word at starting—Alaska will raise every voice and wave every hand to cheer them on their way.

ALL our readers who feel an interest in the Aleutian islands and people will be glad to find in the present number of the HERALD a letter from a gentleman thoroughly conversant with those topics. We return our thanks to "SELAN" for his valuable contribution, and trust he will find time to lay us and our readers under further obligations. His suggestions upon educational wants and duties should receive the serious attention of Government; or, failing to command official interest, should be made the subject of philanthropic effort. None of our aboriginal people are more deserving, and perhaps none present so hopeful an aspect as the Alaskan tribes. With the prohibition of traffic in spirituous liquors enforced to the letter, it is quite possible to civilize these Indians without burying them. They will not come in contact with the whites, in numbers, for some years. The missionary and teacher will have rare opportunities to perform their good offices among them without seeing their efforts defeated by the vicious practices of those who usually follow in their wake. That the natives possess the capacity and willingness to learn, in a remarkable degree, is the opinion not only of our correspondent but of all who have visited the Territory. If a good work must be shown to be also a paying one to insure its being undertaken, as too often happens, it is not difficult to do so in this instance. In educating the people of a Territory abounding in articles needed by the civilized world, we not only make them intelligent and happy but also prudent and thoughtful, and will be able to utilize their increased knowledge for our benefit as well as theirs.

LETTER FROM SITKA.

[CORRESPONDENCE OF THE HERALD.]

The condition of affairs in this burg is remarkably quiet. We have settled down to an even, steady kind of a life, which passes away, day by day, without anything to mar the harmony. We are a good deal like the "Happy Family." We eat and drink and grow merry. Indians and whites are alike content with this queer existence. The soldiers, also, seem to have become imbued with a peaceful disposition. The wars and rumors of wars which were once so prevalent, and which looked more serious to the outside world than they did to us, are no longer heard of. The less excitement we have, the less we seem to want. Since the flurry about the discovery of the mines on Indian river our nerves have been undisturbed.

Since the arrival of Bishop Johannes at Sitka, many improvements have been made in the way of repairing churches and ministering to the wants of the poorer classes. The Cathedral has been thoroughly repaired, and is now an ornament to the city. Services are held regularly, the pomp and solemnity of which are not excelled even in the Roman Catholic Church. The people of Sitka, the Russians, Creoles and Christianized Indians, are very devoted and firm believers in the Greek-Russo Church. The Czar, as the spiritual head of the Church, is to them as infallible as the Pope is to the Roman Catholics. The Ecclesiastical Council of Moscow bears the same relation to the Czar that the Council of Cardinals in Rome does to Pío Nono. The confessional is a peculiar institution of both the Greek and Roman Catholic Churches.

A short time ago I attended an Indian funeral, which was peculiarly interesting. Entering one of the huts I saw about fifty Koloshians, sitting and standing about a fire in the center of the hut. A pot hung over the fire, into which one of the chief medicine men poured oil, which, as fast as poured in, ignited and blazed forth with great power. Every time the blaze ascended, the Indians looked very solemn, and cast themselves in great sorrow upon the floor. Rising suddenly, they waved their sticks, to the top of which green boughs were tied, and uttered strange, guttural, sad sounds, after the manner of Shakespeare's witches. This, I understood, was for the purpose of driving the bad spirits away from the dead body. The Indians in a body then left the hut and walked along the front of the Indian village in a wild goose line. They looked solemn, each native carrying his wand with the green bough. Afterwards they proceeded to the burying-place and wept in great sorrow while the coffin was being placed in the ground.

Jealousy is not common here, but I saw a case of it lately. A female Indian was under its sway, and I must confess she displayed a vigor worthy "the boards." Seated around a large fire were several young bucks and squaws, all Koloshians. While I was holding a conversation with one of them, a strange sight attracted my attention. The jealous woman had hold of a young Indian by the hair of the head and was beating his topknot with a vengeance. She would lift up his head and strike it against the floor, then rock him to and fro, holding him by his hair. The Indian neither made resistance nor protest, but endured the punishment as if admitting its justice. The squaw, after her vengeance was satiated, went and got some dried fish, which she consumed with an appetite evidently sharpened by her exercise.

There is a marked difference between the condition of the people of Sitka now and their status under the Russian Government. In former times they were the serfs and subjects of the Government, which exercised over them a patriarchal care. The Church, representing the Imperial Government, acted as schoolmaster, priest and even judge. In education, morals and social life, the priest had a powerful influence. Labor was provided by the civil authorities, so that the working classes never thought of providing for themselves. Coming under the rule of our Government, they were thrown upon their own resources, and have wonderfully adapted themselves to the new order of things. Many of them have learned the English language and are thoroughly imbued with American ideas. Their children will grow up under Republican influences and revere Uncle Sam.

One of the great needs of this place is direct communication with the Aleutian Peninsula. Communication at present is very irregular. A growing trade has been developed with the mainland, Kodiak Island and the Peninsula. If we had a small steamer to make regular monthly trips, this trade would be greatly increased. Sitka, as the Capital, is naturally ambitious to extend her commerce with other and distant portions of the Territory. Some talk about petitioning Congress for a small subsidy occurred, but the project has not been prosecuted with energy. No doubt that within a few years there will be an imperative demand for such an enterprise. At present the line would develop a very large trade in furs, fish, dry goods and provisions. We are in hopes that a line of steamers or sailing vessels will ere long connect us with all important points in the Territory. X.

Capt. Bryant, in a paper contributed to the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard College, gives some interesting facts concerning the sea lion:

"The sea lion visits St. Paul Island in considerable numbers to rear its young. It is one of the largest of the seal family, the male frequently measuring thirteen feet in length, and weighing from fifteen to eighteen hundred pounds. Its habits are the same as those of the fur seal. When roused to anger it has a very marked resemblance, through the form of its head and neck, to the animal from which it is named, and its voice, when roaring, can be heard to a great distance. Its body is thickly covered with fine, short, brown hair, without any fur. Its skin is of considerable value as an article of commerce in the Territory, it being used in making all kinds of boats, from a one-man canoe to a lighter of twenty tons' burden. The natives of all the Aleutian Islands and of the coast as far east as Sitka, beside those of many ports on the mainland to the north, rely on this island for a supply of the skins of this animal. The rookery is on the northeast end of the island, and the animals have to be driven ten or eleven miles to the village to bring their skins to the drying-frames. It sometimes requires five days to make the journey, as at frequent intervals they have to be allowed to rest. It is a somewhat dangerous animal, and the men frequently get seriously hurt by it in driving and killing it. They are driven together in the same manner as the fur seals are; and while impeding each other by treading upon each other's flippers the small ones are killed with lances, but the larger ones have to be shot.

"This animal is the most completely consumed of any on the island. Their flesh is preferred to that of the seal for drying for winter use. After the skins are taken off, they are spread in piles of twenty-five each, with the flesh side down, and left to heat until the hair is loosened; it is then scraped off, and the skins are stretched on frames to dry. The blubber is removed from the carcass for fuel or oil, and the flesh is cut in strips and dried for winter use. The linings of their throats are saved and tanned for making the legs of boots and shoes, and the skin of the flippers is used for the soles. Their stomachs are turned and dried, and are used to put the oil in when boiled out. The intestines are dressed and sewed together into water-proof frocks, which are worn while hunting and fishing in the boats. The sinews of the back are dried and stripped to make the thread with which to sew together the intestines, and to fasten the skins to the canoe-frames."

Mr. Theodore Lyman thus describes the movements of these animals on land, his observations having been made at the "Seal Rocks," near San Francisco:

"These rocks are beset with hundreds of these animals—some still, some moving, some on the land and some in the water. As they approach to effect a landing, the head only appears decidedly above water. This is their familiar element, and they swim with great speed and ease, quite unmindful of the heavy surf and of the breakers on the ledges. In landing, they are apt to take advantage of a heavy wave, which helps them to get the forward flippers on terra firma. As the wave retreats, they begin to struggle up the steep rocks, twisting the body from side to side, with a clumsy wormlike motion, and thus alternately work their flippers into positions where they may force the body a little onward. At such times they have a general appearance of sprawling over the ground. It is quite astonishing to see how they will go up surfaces having even a greater inclination than 45°, and where a man would have to creep with much exertion. When the surface is nearly horizontal, they go faster, and often proceed by gathering their hind-quarters under them, raising themselves on the edges of their fore-limbs and then giving a push, whereby they make a sort of tumble forwards. In their onward path they are accompanied by the loud barking of all the seals they pass; and these cries may be heard a great distance. Having arrived at a good basking-place, they stretch themselves out in various attitudes—often on the side, sometimes nearly on the back, but commonly on the belly, with the flippers somewhat extended. They seem much oppressed with their own weight (which is usually supported by the water), and it seemed an exertion for them even to raise the head, though it is often kept up for a long time. They play among themselves continually by rolling on each other and feigning to bite. Often, too, they will amuse themselves by pushing off those that are trying to land. All this is done in a very cumbersome manner, and is accompanied by incessant barking. As they issue from the water, their fur is dark and shining; but, as it dries, it becomes of a yellowish brown. Then they appear to feel either too dry or too hot, for they move to the nearest point from which they may tumble into the sea. I saw many roll off a ledge at least twenty feet high, and fall, like so many brown sacks, into the water, dashing up showers of spray."

The sea lions move on land only about two miles a day; the fur seal can be driven a mile and a half per hour.

МѢХОВАЯ ТОРГОВЛЯ

ВЪ САН-ФРАНЦИСКО.

LIST OF PRICES FOR FURS,

IN SAN FRANCISCO.

Bear, black, prime, fine	....	....	skin, from \$ 3 00 @ \$5 00
Черный Медведь самый пушистый,—отъ	до	до	до
do do do heavy	....	....	2 00 do 3 00
жесткий	....	....	....
do do seconds	....	....	1 00 do 1 50
второго сорта	....	....	....
do do cube	....	....	0 50 do 1 00
медвеженокъ	....	....	....
do brown and grizzly, about 25	....	....	skin, from \$ 0 50 do 1 00
черный съ просьбою	....	....	дешевле чѣмъ черный
Badger	....	....	....
Барсукъ	....	....	....
Fisher, prime, dark	....	....	2 00 do 5 50
Фишеръ первого сорта, черный	....	....	....
do do pale	....	....	1 00 do 1 50
блѣдный	....	....	....
do seconds	....	....	1 00 do 1 50
второго сорта	....	....	....
Fox, Silver	....	....	4 00 do 50 00
Серебристая Лисица	....	....	....
do Cross	....	....	2 00 do 2 50
Пятенная	....	....	....
do Red	....	....	0 50 do 1 00
Красная	....	....	....
do Kitt	....	....	0 40 do 0 50
Маленькая	....	....	....
do White	....	....	0 75 do 1 00
Бѣлая	....	....	....
do Gray	....	....	0 40 do 0 50
Сѣрая	....	....	....
Lynx	....	....	1 00 do 1 10
Рысь	....	....	....
Marten, prime, dark	....	....	2 00 do 9 00
Соболь, черный	....	....	....
do do pale	....	....	1 00 do 1 25
блѣдный	....	....	....
do seconds	....	....	0 50 do 1 00
второго сорта	....	....	....
do thirds	....	....	0 25 do 0 50
третьяго сорта	....	....	....
Mink, dark, northern, prime	....	....	0 40 do 5 75
Норка черная, сѣверная, первого сорта	....	....	....
do pale, southern	....	....	0 50 do 0 75
Бѣдная, южная	....	....	....
do seconds	....	....	0 40 do 0 55
второго сорта	....	....	....
do thirds	....	....	0 20 do 0 25
третьяго сорта	....	....	....
Muskratъ	....	....	\$0 05 @ 0 10
Выхухоль	....	....	....
Otter Sea, prime, dark silvery	....	....	15 00 do 75 00
Бобръ Морской, первого сорта,	....	....	....
do do do	....	....	5 00 do 10 00
второго сорта	....	....	....
do do do brown	....	....	5 00 do 10 00
черный	....	....	....
do do do pups	0 50 do 1 00
блѣднаго цвѣта
Otter, Land, prime, dark, northern	1 50 do 5 50

ALASKA



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LETTER FROM KADIAK.

[CORRESPONDENCE OF THE ALASKA HERALD.]

This important island, situated midway between Sitka and Unalaska, has long been the center of considerable commercial interest. It is the largest of all the islands belonging to Alaska, and its favorable geographical position attracts the attention of merchants and traders.

The principal village or town is called Kadiak. It has all the characteristics of a Russian village; contains about 1,000 inhabitants, 200 of whom are Russians and half-breeds, the rest being Aleuts. A few Americans are doing business here. There are two large trading stores which furnish the inhabitants with what goods they require, in exchange for furs and fish.

The principal kinds of furs brought to this market are: red, gray, black and cross foxes, ermine, martin and bear skins. The waters abound with halibut, rock-cod and salmon. The chief enterprises of the island and of the adjacent mainland, are confined to the two specialties mentioned. In these the inhabitants find abundant resources. The Aleuts are excellent hunters and fishermen. Brought up to these employments from infancy, they become, at an early age, experts in handling the gun and casting the net; their life work is to fish and hunt.

During the past few years the natives here and elsewhere have been trying their hands at gardening. Kadiak produces plenty of cabbages, beets, carrots, lettuce, turnips and other vegetables. Potatoes are also grown, though not as successfully as the articles mentioned. It is believed that hard varieties of fruit trees planted here would yield richly. No attempt has ever been made, so far as I could learn, to raise fruit of any kind. The experiment is to be tried, and if successful will be of great benefit to Alaska.

We have hardly enough warm weather to make crops grow and ripen. At times the atmosphere is pleasant and genial enough, but, generally speaking, a "spell of warm weather" is a rarity. Cold fogs prevail. The climate, however, is not nearly so severe as in the same latitude on the Atlantic side. The warm currents strike the Aleutian Peninsula, and by their genial influences we are kept from freezing to death.

Wood Island contains quite a number of native inhabitants, many of whom were formerly engaged in working for the ice company. A number are yet employed, but, owing to competition, the business is not so large as formerly. A sawmill is amongst the valuable institutions. There is a supply of valuable timber on these two islands. As lumber is one of the great necessities, a sawmill is

an acquisition at any important point throughout the Territory. I am told there are sawmills at some five or six points in Alaska at present.

Another region which demands particular attention is the Kenai Peninsula. From a friend who has traveled in the interior and coasted along its entire length, I learn that the climate is mild, compared with other portions of the Territory, and in parts looks like an agricultural district. The surface appears to be rolling land, valley and hill alternating. The gentleman was quite enthusiastic about Kenai, being confident that excellent crops could be raised there, and that for grazing it has no equal north of British Columbia.

I remember that two years ago some suggestions were made about bringing stock to the Alaskan Peninsula, but as yet none have arrived. Whether the boast made about the adaptability of Kenai to stock raising will induce some enterprising man to send cattle, sheep and horses there, I know not. It is certain that rich grass is to be found during the summer months, and a sufficient quantity of hay could be easily secured for winter. There is an abundance of good water.

Quite a number of Indian villages dot the Kenai Peninsula. Some of the natives make a specialty of fishing, while others are entirely engaged in hunting. The old fort, formerly occupied by the Russians, has been deserted as a military post. Those of Russian birth who formerly resided there have all gone. A few half-breeds and Indians, it is said, claim it as an abiding-place.

Wherever one travels in Alaska, and especially along the coast, his attention will be attracted by the religious fervor of the people and their hospitality. The Russo-Greek Catholic Church is still predominant. The priests have great influence and power with the natives. I do not think that the Roman Catholic masses in Spain or Italy are more deeply religious than are the masses of the Aleuts. Converted from paganism by the early missionaries, they cling tenaciously to the Russo-Greek faith. Other sectarian missionaries would not make much progress in converting the Aleuts to their peculiar doctrines.

There is one thing very much more needed in Alaska than increased religious sects or missionaries. If schoolhouses and teachers were even as plentiful as churches and missionaries, much good would be accomplished. Formerly the priests engaged in teaching, with good results, but of late years scarcely anything has been accomplished. Hundreds of the Aleuts are eagerly asking for schools in which to educate their children in the English language and teach them something of American institutions. They may keep asking for some time, from present appearances. The schools generously maintained by the Alaska Commercial Company, on the small islands, furnish ample proof that the Aleutian children are willing and quick to learn our language.

There are not a few even intelligent Aleuts who can scarcely make themselves believe that Alaska really belongs to the United States, things have changed so little since the acquisition. Of course, at Sitka and other points of commercial interest there is a marked change; but generally speaking the influence of Russian customs and laws seem almost undisturbed.

A word in favor of increased postal facilities between Alaska and San Francisco may not be out of place. The denizens of Sitka are fortunate enough to have a monthly steamer running between that point and Portland, Oregon, besides the occasional sailing vessels which touch at the metropolis. From Sitka north the mail is uncertain and irregular. We are in hopes that ere long a Government cutter will make monthly trips from Sitka along this coast, and thus afford us more frequent communication with the civilized world.

SEALS—THEIR HOMES AND HABITS.

Out of the twenty-five varieties, there is believed to be but one, among the Otaria (eared seals), that furnishes a fur under the ordinary covering of hair. The peculiarities of this animal were unknown to naturalists until after the year 1823, although the capture of it, for its valuable skin, had been pursued for many years previous to that date.

The Otaria Falklandica, or fur seal of commerce, has been in former years widely distributed over the world; but, owing to persistent hunting and indiscriminate slaughter in its land home, it is now found in but few places in any great numbers. A striking peculiarity of this animal, different from other species of the seal, is, that when ruthlessly destroyed and swept off from their accustomed places of resort, such locations, even if undisturbed for years, never recuperate or become repopled with seals.

The fur seal was formerly found in great numbers in the Southern Ocean. Kerguelan's Land, Falkland Islands, South Shetlands, South Georgia, lower coasts of South America, Juan Fernandez and Masafuero islands, were at one time famous hunting grounds. In the Northern Ocean, the west coast of North America, some islands of Bering Sea, and coasts of Japan, have been found to be inhabited, at seasons, by these animals.

It is a singular fact, however, that with all this wide distribution, none have ever been found in the waters joining those of the North Atlantic Ocean. While around Greenland, Iceland, Nova Zembla and northern coasts of Europe, the common, or hair seal, is very abundant, the fur seal has never been found in those localities.

The habits of this animal are very peculiar, and form an interesting study. In the Spring of the year, in either northern or southern hemisphere, they leave the water and resort to the land in countless thousands, remaining some months; then, on the approach of Winter, all depart for unknown localities. It is believed, however, that they spend the intervening time at sea, in a milder latitude than their island homes would be in mid-winter. Where do they go? has often been asked, but never satisfactorily answered. Perhaps it is well that it has not, for if pursued in the water as well as on the land, total annihilation would ensue. Being fitted by nature to inhabit equally well the shore and ocean, it is probable that after their visit to the land, their voyage to sea is one of rest and recuperation. They are known to sleep on the surface of the water, and their active and playful habits when in this element have often been observed by seamen. While at sea they become quite fat, and when first landing on the beach in the spring their size often renders them unwieldy, but their strength is proportionally increased. In their habits of life these animals are completely gregarious, but in visiting the land they separate themselves into classes of different ages and sexes. Of their land homes and their habits, Capt. Bryant says:

"The breeding-rookeries, which are frequented exclusively by the old males and females with their pups, occupy the belt of loose rocks along the shores between the high-water line and the base of the cliffs or uplands, and vary in width from five to forty rods. The sand beaches are used only as temporary resting-places and for play-grounds by the younger seals; these beaches being neutral ground, where the old and infirm or the wounded may lie undisturbed.

Wherever a long continuous shore line is occupied as a breeding-rookery, neutral passages are set apart at convenient distances, through which the younger seals may pass from the water to the upland and return unmolested. Often a continuous line, moving in a single file, may be seen for hours together going from the water to the upland, or the reverse, as the case may be. When suddenly disturbed while sleeping on the upland by an attempt of an animal to cross the rookery at any other place, a general engagement ensues, which often results in the death or serious crippling of the combatants. After the females have arrived at the rookeries, many of them, as well as their pups, are trampled to death in these struggles.

Constant care is also necessary lest thoughtless persons incautiously approach the breeding-grounds, as the stampede of the seals resulting therefrom, always destroys many of the young.

In locating, each old male reserves a little more than a square rod of space to himself. For this proceeding they evidently have two reasons. First, from the constant liability to surprise from their rear, which is their weakest point, they require room enough to make one

leap in turning before being able to defend themselves or to attack their enemies. Their eyes being adapted to seeing in the water, their vision is feeble when out of that element. Consequently they have to rely mainly on the senses of hearing and smell for warning of danger; hence, while dozing on the rocks every movement or sound in their vicinity keeps them constantly turning towards the direction from which it proceeds. A second reason is that each requires that amount of space for the reception of his ten or fifteen wives."

Seals are particularly attached to their chosen resort, and if undisturbed return to it with unfailing regularity; they seem to love to congregate together. Often, when many islands are contiguous, they select one or two, crowding upon them to the neglect of others apparently as good.

Woe to the seal if his rookery is accessible and is not guarded by laws and penalties against the rapacity of man. The lust of greed, the desire to make the most money in the shortest time, has caused the utter destruction of these valuable animals in many localities. No rookery of large size is now known in the Southern Ocean. The cupidity of man has caused their destruction in almost all of their haunts south of the equator.

Much as we dislike monopoly of any kind, where it can be avoided, it is clear that the fur seal must be made an exception in this regard, or it must be dispensed with altogether. It must be under the protection of those whose interests forbid its destruction. Our Government has acted wisely in copying the example of Russia in "farming out" the seal islands, and by this course alone has saved them from being utterly robbed of their wealth of furs.

BEFORE Pinto discovered Japan, in 1542, its people appear to have been, above all others in modern times, ready for the reception of Christianity, as indicated, first, by a statement of G. F. Meijlan, an early President of the Dutch factory at Decima, that a faith once nearly universal in Japan, from its close resemblance in its doctrines to those of the religion of the Portuguese, had been involved in the same ruin, which taught the existence, death and resurrection of a Savior, born of a Virgin, with other essentials of Christianity, including a belief in the Trinity. Also, a tradition that this form of religion was introduced under the reign of the Chinese Emperor-Mimti, who ascended the throne in about A. D. 50—a faith which may have sprung from the preaching of the Apostle to India, or which may have been a form of Buddhism again prevalent in Japan, which acknowledges an omnipotent Creator, a Divine Incarnation which came into the world to enlighten and show the way of salvation to men, together with other moral truths of Christianity. Second, by the similarity in the worship of the Bonzes to the ritual of the Catholic Church before the Reformation; their temples possessing altars with the decorations and images of saints, surmounted with the ring of glory, shaven priests attended by acolytes and choristers, officiating with the burning of incense and mumbling prayers in a language unknown to the people, leading a monastic life under vows of celibacy, having orders of nuns in like manner, together with so many other resemblances, including the adoration of the Maya, the virgin mother of Buddha, that the Bonzes declared there was no difference between the old and new religions, excepting "certain fables and ridiculous stories which the latter made important, but which were not worth forsaking the faith of their fathers for." Third, by the friendly reception and immediate successes which the early Roman missionaries experienced.—Independent.

A PERSON who dined in company with Dr. Johnson endeavored to make his court by laughing at everything he said. The Doctor bore it for some time with philosophical indifference; but the impertinent ha! ha! ha! becoming intolerable, "Pray, sir," said the Doctor, "what is the matter? I hope I have not said anything that you can comprehend."

A GERMAN, lately married, says: "It was yooost so easy as a needle could walk dru der eyes mit a camel as to get der last vord before a voman."

ST. JOHN'S DAY.

"Robert Roaster" occupies a column of the Philadelphia *Sunday Dispatch* very pleasantly with memories of the month of June. As appropriate to the date of our present issue, and as in itself rather pretty, we select the following translation of a Spanish ballad. It is sung by the maidens on the sunny banks of the Guadalquivir, when they go forth to gather flowers on the morning of the festival of this day:

Come forth, come forth my maidens! 'tis the day of good St. John—
It is the Baptist's morning that breaks the hills upon;
And let us all go forth, my maidens, while the blessed day is new,
To dress with flowers the snow white wether, ere the sun has dried the dew.

Come forth, come forth, my maidens! the hedgerows all are green,
And the little birds are singing the opening leaves between;
And let us all go forth together, to gather trefoil by the stream,
Ere the face of Guadalquivir glows beneath the strength'ning beam.

Come forth, come forth, my maidens! and slumber not away
The blessed, blessed morning of John the Baptist's Day;
There's trefoil on the meadow, and lilies on the lea,
And hawthorn blossoms on the bush, which you must pluck with me.

Come forth, come forth, my maidens! the air is calm and cool,
And the violet blue far down ye'll view, reflected in the pool;
And the violets and the roses, and the jasmynes all together,
We'll bind in garlands on the brow of the strong and lovely wether.

Come forth, come forth, my maidens, we'll gather myrtle boughs,
And we all shall learn from the dew of the fern, if our lads will keep their vows;
If the wether be still as we dance on the hill, and the dew hangs sweet on the flowers,
Then we'll kiss off the dew, for our lovers are true, and the Baptist's blessing is ours.

Come forth, come forth, my maidens, 'tis the day of good St. John—
It is the Baptist's morning that breaks the hills upon;
And let us all go forth, my maidens, while the blessed day is new,
To dress with flowers the snow-white wether, ere the sun has dried the dew.

AN OLD MAID'S STORY.

"Now, Aunt Sally, do please tell us why you never got married. You know you said once that when you were a girl you were engaged to a minister, and promised you would tell us all about it some time. Now, aunt, please do."

"Well, if I ever did see such girls in my born days. It's tease, tease, from morning till night. You must know all about everything you have no business to know anything about. Such inquisitive, pestiferous critters as you are! When I was young, girls were very different—they minded their business, and didn't go sailing around with a string of beaux, getting their heads filled with all sorts of nonsense. I never dared ask my aunts, married or single, about any of their affairs. Pretty mess I'd have got in if I had. When they offered to tell me anything, of their own accord, I kept my mouth shut and listened. Everything is different now-a-days; young folks have no respect for their elders. But as I see I'm not going to have any peace till I do tell you, why just listen, and don't let me hear a word out of your mouths till I get through."

"That's right, Aunt Sally. Go right ahead, do, and we will keep perfectly still."

"Well, you see, girls, when I was about seventeen years of age, I was living in Utica, in the State of New York. Though I say it myself, I was quite a good-looking girl, then, and had several beaux. The one that took my fancy most was a young minister, a very promising young man, and remarkably pious and steady. He thought a good deal of me, and I kind of took a fancy to him, and things ran on till we were engaged. One evening he came to me—I remember it as well as if it were only yesterday. When he came in the parlor where I was, alone, he came up to me, and—but now, pahaw! girls, I don't like to tell the rest."

"Oh! Aunt, for mercy's sake, don't stop! Tell us what he did."

"Well, as I said, he came up to me and put his arms around me, and rather hugged me, when I got excited and some frustrated. It was a long time ago, and I don't know but what I might have hugged him back a little. Then I felt—but just now clear out, every one of you! I shan't tell you any more."

"Goodness gracious! No! Aunt Sally. Do tell us how you felt. Didn't you feel good? And what did he do next?"

"Oh! such torments as you are! I was like any other girl, and pretty soon I pretended to be mad about it and pushed him away, though I wasn't mad a bit. You must know that the house where I lived was on one of the back streets of the town. There were glass doors in the parlor, which opened right over the street. These doors were open and the shutters drawn to. I stepped back a little from him, and when he edged up close I pushed him back again. I pushed him harder than I intended to; and don't you think, girls! the poor fellow lost his balance and fell through one of the doors into the street. Yes! it's so. As he fell I gave a scream and caught him—but I declare I won't tell anything more! I'm going to leave the room."

"No! no! Aunt Sally. How did you catch him? Did it hurt him much?"

"Well, if I must, I must. He fell head first, and as he was going I caught him by the legs of his trousers. I held on for a few minutes, and tried to pull him back; but his suspenders gave way, and the poor young man fell clear out of his pants into a whole parcel of young ladies and gentlemen passing along the street!"

"Oh! Aunty, Aunty! Lordy!"

"There! that's right! squall and giggle as much as you want to. Girls that can't hear a little thing like that without tearing around the room, and he being in such a way, don't know enough to come home when it rains. A nice time the man who marries one of you will have, won't he? Catch me telling you anything again!"

"But, Aunt Sally, what became of him? Did you ever see him again?"

"No; the moment he touched the ground he got up and left that place in a terrible hurry. I tell you it was a sight to be remembered. How that man did run! Father happened to be coming up the street at the time, and he said he never saw anything the equal of it in his whole life. I heard others say he did the fastest running ever known in that part of the country, and that he never stopped or looked behind him until he was two miles out of town. He sent me a note a few days afterward, saying that the engagement must be broken off, as he could never look me in the face again after what had happened. He asked Horace Greeley's advice, and the Philosopher told him, "Go West, young man! Go West!" So he went to Illinois, and, I believe, is now preaching there. But he never married. He was very modest, and I suppose he was so badly frightened that time he never dared to trust himself near a woman again. That, girls, is the reason I never married. I felt very bad about it for a long time—for he was a real good man, and I've often thought to myself that we should have been very happy if his suspenders hadn't given way."

"Emma," my love!" said a much-enamored, newly-wedded husband, "you have such pretty feet that I wonder you do not wear shorter dresses." "I declare, George," she replied, "you're a greater noodle than even I thought you were. Don't you see, if I wear long dresses, I can have an excuse to lift my skirts much higher than I dare wear them if made short?" Exit wife for a walk. Husband sits down to reflect upon the subtleties of feminine strategy.

SOME one says that the lion and the lamb may lie down together in this world, but when the lion gets up it will be hard work to find the lamb.

It has gone as far as "Dolly Varden chills" in Georgia. The sufferer turns all sorts of colors.

THE ALASKA HERALD.

A. A. STICKNEY. EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

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Answers to Correspondents.

Geographical Student.—Sitka is on an island—you have won the gun. Christians Sound, Chatham Strait, Peril Strait, Klockachest Gulf and the Pacific manage between them to surround Baranoff Island, on which the town is situated. Krnz-off, Chichag-off and Kuprian-off are not far off. Cape Ommaney is at the extreme southern end of Baranoff Island. It is supposed to have been named by an English navigator who was treated by the hospitable natives to a kettle of hominy, and who wished to honor their kindness but was unable to *aspirate* 'in h.

G. B.—The Austrian Polar Expedition left Bremerhaven on the 18th instant. Don't see any way in which you can join it at this late day, unless you cut 'cross lots to the Pole. You say you want to do something which shall hand your name down to posterity in conjunction with those who have braved all, and lost all that could be lost, for science. Well, *spit!*

Junius.—No, sir; the "corruption" is entirely in yourself. There is no trace of a common origin in the words "Kolosh" and "golosh;" nor does your intimation that the Koloshians are to this day quite *slippery* in their morals prove anything except your own utter depravity. As a fitting punishment we prescribe something more substantial than goloshes—say a pair of No. 11 brogans.

Invalid.—"You speak of the 'toe' of the Alaskan Peninsula. What do you mean by that?" A glance at the map, on your part, would have saved us the trouble of answering this question. The peninsula bears quite a resemblance in shape to a human foot—though more, perhaps, to an inhuman one. You also ask whether we would recommend the *heel* of the peninsula as a health resort in pulmonary affections. Decidedly; try any place on Shelikoff Strait. If it don't heal you, try anything else straight, and don't bother us with your infirmities. We won't stand much from a sick man, anyhow.

Bayle.—Yes, we believe it is contemplated to engage a quartette of the Otavids of the Pribyloff Islands to take part in the Boston Jubilee. These seals keep excellent time with their flippers, while their voices are melody itself. Yankee enterprise stops at nothing. The English authorities have revoked the permission granted a Grenadier Band to visit the Hub; but Gilmore swears, by St. Paul and St. George, he can do without the darned Britishers.

Sharpy & Co.—No doubt your invention is a useful one. You say "the new teeth can be applied to old hens at any time," and that "if there is a hen anywhere within ten thousand miles of your factory out of repair, you will fix her without charge." This sounds rather familiar, and we don't wish to encourage plagiarism. We decline the general agency for Alaska. We also decline to insert your advertisement unless you permit us to do so for nothing. Your proposition that we shall advertise to the value of \$1,000 and then remit you a like sum of money, whereupon you will send us \$2,000 worth of your patent hen-teeth, is a generous one, but we always had a prejudice against getting suddenly wealthy.

Cadet.—The story is absurd. You have been imposed upon. Gen. H. in early life may have been "in chow," but he was not sent upon his present errand on that account. No amount of experience in the Western Reserve staple would avail him anything among the Apaches who are now to be cut up. You are nearer right about the tracts. The General has exhausted his supply, and has determined that the savages shall *make tracks* from this time forth.

George William.—We cannot give you a "full history of the paper;" it would occupy too much space, and besides, having for nearly two years been connected with its proprietorship, the account we should give might be thought somewhat biased. A few facts are at your service: *The Californian*, a 16-page weekly, of the size of *Harpers*, was founded by C. H. Webb ("Inigo") in May, 1864. Capt. Ogden ("Podgers") took it in hand at the expiration of the first quarter, and called Bret Harte, who had been a contributor from the start, to the editorial chair. By the end of the second quarter the genial Captain had amassed all the literary wealth he desired, and transferred the paper to the employees in the office. After that, Webb and Harte alternated in the editorial sanctum; they had grown so fast that the place was not large enough for both at one time. The "pubs" were happy with either, when t'other concluded to stray; still they could manage, with neither, to make the enterprise pay. But it was not the fault of the writers that neither they nor the publishers were rewarded with many ducats; the *Californian*, from the first, was a brilliant literary success. Its columns sparkled with the brightest "Things" and fancies of Webb; the quaintest sketches and noblest poems of Bret Harte; the most delicious song-fruit of Charley Standard; the keenest satire of "Tom" Johns; the richest humor of "Mark Twain"; the cleverest efforts of "Podgers"; the sweetest warblings of Ida D. Coolbrith, Emily Lawson, "Ingle," "Clara Clyde," and other daughters of poetry; while Ralph Keeler, Riordon, Hittell, Miller, Clark, Merrill, George, Ames, Hastings, Rogers, Fillmore, and a host of other writers contributed to its columns their finest productions in verse and prose. The State did not at that time afford a sufficient number of readers whose tastes were of the quality to which the *Californian* endeavored to adapt itself, and Eastern readers were so promptly served with the best dishes from its table by their own purveyors that they had little occasion to subscribe. Financially, therefore, as above intimated, the publication was not numbered among the cent-per-cent. investments—it was "numbered among the things that were" in 1867, and its remains gently covered, we believe, by the "Robins."

F. G.—Very true; dogs are employed, up North, to draw snow-sledges, and it is said to be impossible to drive the brutes without swearing. That's nothing—newspapers are driven in the same way in San Francisco, the year 'round.

THE descriptions we have heretofore published seem to have stimulated inquiry as to the habits and peculiarities of the fur seal of Alaska; accordingly, some further information, from a reliable source, appears elsewhere in this paper. It is fortunate, indeed, that restrictions have been imposed upon the killing of seals; otherwise, their beautiful furs would soon be lost to commerce, and the ladies would mourn as those who could not be comforted. The lease of the American Commercial Company runs for twenty years, and it is not only the duty but the interest of the Company to observe faithfully the limitations provided by their contract. They have made immense outlays, which only the most careful management can reimburse. Their interest, clearly, lies in the preservation of the fur-seal species; whereas, were the killing of these animals permitted without restriction, and any and everybody invited to join in the slaughter, they would be exterminated within two years. As it is, Government is getting a fair annual rental, the seals are in no danger of being driven from the islands, and we hear of no just cause of complaint against the Company. The tax collected by Government upon the hides exported from the islands (aside from the rental) amounts to more than the entire annual expenditures of Government on Alaskan account. One cargo of furs recently received here paid the snug sum of \$102,847 taxes. Did Uncle Samuel ever take under his wing a Territory which gave him no trouble and actually paid more than its own expenses, until he acquired Alaska?

At an early day means should be provided for a thorough inquiry in regard to the mineral deposits of Alaska. Although the country has been but partly explored, enough evidences of metals of considerable value have been discovered to warrant such a measure; and there are portions even of the Aleutian Islands that have not been visited. A scientific inquiry would cost but little, and probably would add a great deal to the available wealth of the nation.

THE OPEN POLAR SEA.

The open Polar Sea must be discovered soon, if at all. At least, so argues a writer in *Nature* (an English periodical), who believes the sea will soon cease to exist. Land is said to be rising everywhere between the Pole and the fifty-seventh parallel, and the greatest movement is at the Pole itself. Some interesting facts are quoted in support of this theory. Pliny said that Scandinavia was an archipelago, and spoke of bold seamen who had circumnavigated the group of islands. Ptolemy confirmed the statement. Celestius said, in the seventeenth century, that Norway was rising at the rate of forty inches a year. Sir Charles Lyell indorses the theory. The water level in the Gulf of Bothnia falls one foot every fifteen years. Near Gofte there are low pastures where old men remember seeing boats afloat. Near Stockholm, seventy feet above the level of the sea, the remains of shell-fish identical with the present coast species are found. At Soduleige, ninety feet above high water, there is a bed of sand which contains some wrecked boats and an old anchor. In the interior of Spitzbergen, skeletons of whales have been unearthed above sea level. The fishermen say that the land has risen so much that the shallowness of the water has driven away the right whale, which, once abundant, is now rarely seen. On the Pacific, the shores around Bering Strait are low and flat, but, a mile or two back there are ranges of bluffs, parallel with the coast, and containing innumerable shells of the littoral species. If the theory is true, it offers us a curious case of compensation. While the ocean is washing away Great Britain, France, Holland and New England, way to the north the continents are encroaching on the sea. The only thing to regret is that the process cannot be reversed, and Neptune enriched at the expense of the frozen north, and to the gain of the more habitable south.

The *Scientific American*, in calling attention to the statement of an Italian journal, that the recent visit of the Czar of Russia to the southern part of his empire had particular reference to the projected union of the Caspian and Black Seas, says:

The entire length of the canal would be 630 Russian versts, about 100 miles, though the mountain chain to be pierced only measures eight versts, or five miles. It is calculated that 32,000 laborers will have to be employed for fully six years in order to complete the undertaking. Quite apart from the direct commercial advantages which would result from the completion of this canal, it would serve to replenish the Caspian Sea with water, a highly important consideration. During the last decade, and even prior, a remarkable reduction of water was noticed, so much so that the final extinction, or exsiccation, of the sea was apprehended. The result would not only be malarious in the extreme, but also destructive of a great source of wealth—namely, the sturgeon, sterlet and seal fisheries. Many thousand persons are at present employed in these fisheries (chiefly at Astrakhan), by whom 800,000 pounds of caviar alone are annually obtained. An insurance of water supply to those persons would, therefore, give renewed stimulus to their enterprise, though the same may not be nearly so important as the effect on commerce at large.

An interesting letter from Kadiak will be found on our first page. Our correspondent's suggestions in regard to increased mail facilities for Alaska are worthy the attention of those whose official positions enable them to make themselves heard at Washington. An effort, properly indorsed on this coast, and prosecuted with energy, would no doubt very soon meet with a favorable response from headquarters.

PEROPAVLOVSK, on the river Ishim, Siberia, enjoys an extensive trade, and is of some importance as a military station. It has a population of about 4,200. Petropaulovski, on the bay of the same name, Kamtschatka Peninsula, contains 630 inhabitants.

It is rumored that the Northern Pacific Railroad Company has been notified that its land grant will cease whenever the road reaches the waters of the Sound, and that the Company will therefore first build to Bellingham Bay, afterward constructing branches to Seattle, Olympia and other points.

R. B. SWAIN AND THE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION.

THE sudden death, from an accidental cause, on the 14th inst., of R. B. Swain, deprived San Francisco of one of her best men. Had he left but the record of his connection with the San Francisco Benevolent Association, his memory would be kept green in many a household in this city where want and wretchedness have been enforced guests. We remember an incident which is but one of thousands of the good deeds unostentatiously performed by the Association named, under his direction. A worthy family, comprising seven persons, were in the deepest distress; the husband had been sick for months; a young babe, also sick, claimed the wife's care to such an extent that even when the husband began slowly to convalesce, she was unable to go out and work; none of the children were old enough to earn anything; the means at the disposal of their nearest friends had been exhausted. Their landlord, having been badly treated by one of his tenants, closed his heart against these poor people; he called before the month expired, and told the distressed lady that on the first day of the coming month he must have his rent. She replied, it was impossible—every resource had been exhausted; he must wait until her husband got well enough to go to work, when they would pay every farthing. No; that wouldn't do—"My money or my house! You must pay or leave!" Think of it: a family, who had been in comfortable circumstances, reduced to such a plight through misfortune alone, and in their sick, destitute condition, to be turned upon the street; the wretchedness of that household, after the landlord's visit, could scarcely be told. Fortunately a stranger to the family happened to hear of their situation; he had heard some complaints of want of promptness on the part of the Benevolent Association—no organization, not even a Committee of One Hundred angels, can satisfy everybody—and thought he might here test their justice. He wrote a brief note to President Swain, outlining the facts, and asking that one of the official visitors be sent to the house in question. As the "first of the month" fell on New Year's Day, the landlord did not make his appearance; but he was on hand the next morning, with the short, sharp demand, "Well, now, my money or my house?" The lady drew from her pocket the required sum, and handed it to him, saying, "Thank God! I've got the money for you! I don't know sent it, but God will bless him for the deed, who ever it was!" And she does not know to this day, "who sent it," but we do; and although the remark might be made that it was not the personal act of R. B. Swain, yet it was one of those sweet charities which grew out of his deep-rooted sympathy with his fellow-creatures—a sympathy that did not exhaust itself in words, but took effective, working form. Those who knew him best tell us, also, that he not only planned and organized the agencies of charity, but that his own means were always freely contributed. Our daily papers have recited the many honorable and useful positions Mr. Swain held in this community; we could not refrain from placing upon his bier our humble tribute to his goodness of heart and to the efficiency of the institution which he founded and labored devotedly to maintain. Truly, God does "bless him," as he blesses all who write their names as "those who love their fellow-men."

AS THERE are wide differences of opinion as to the spelling of Alaskan names, we think, with Prof. Dall, it is best to represent their phonetic value rather than attempt to decide between conflicting methods. Spelled upon this principle, many useless letters are dispensed with, and uniformity is attainable. Our recent scientific maps adopt this method, and it would be well for those who control the orthography of our schools to consider its claims to recognition. We will mention, also, that an undoubted autograph of Bering, the Danish navigator, who, in the service of Queen Catherine, made the discoveries which gave to Russia a large portion of northwestern America, does not contain the *h* now usually given.

THE steamer "California," from San Francisco, conveying passengers and troops to Sitka, was wrecked at Sea Egg Island, about forty miles above Nanaimo. The "George S. Wright" was detailed to transfer mails and passengers and convey them to their destination.

Русскіе, собравшіеся въ Нью-Йоркѣ, основали “РУССКІЙ КРУЖОКЪ,” какъ съ цѣлью объединенія Русскихъ, живущихъ въ Нью-Йоркѣ и другихъ мѣстахъ Соединенныхъ Штатовъ, такъ и съ цѣлью взаимной помощи. Двери засѣданій “Русскаго Кружка” открыты для всѣхъ, желающихъ посѣтить Собраніе. Всѣ пренія и дѣла “Кружка” ведутся на русскомъ языкѣ. Дѣйствительнымъ членомъ “Русскаго Кружка” можетъ быть только Русскій. Въ почетные члены принимается всякій, безъ различія національностей. Письма и корреспонденціи, присылаемыя на имя “Кружка,” адресуются такъ:

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ШЪХОВАЯ ТОРГОВЛЯ

ВЪ САН-ФРАНСИСКО.

LIST OF PRICES FOR FURS.

IN SAN FRANCISCO.

Bear, black, prime, fine	....	....	3 skin, from \$ 8 00 @ \$5 00
Черный Медведь самый пушистый,—отъ	до	до	2 00 до 3 00
do do do heavy	....	....	do
жесткий			
do do seconds	....	....	do 1 00 до 1 50
второго сорта			
do do cube	....	....	do 0 50 до 1 00
медвежонокъ			
do brown and grizzly, about 25 3/4 c. less than black			
черный съ просьбою			дешевле чѣмъ черный
Badger	....	....	3 skin, from \$ 0 50 до 1 00
Барсукъ			
Fisher, prime, dark	....	....	do 2 00 до 5 50
Фишеръ первого сорта, черный			
do do pale	....	....	do 1 00 до 1 50
блѣдный			
do seconds	....	....	do 1 00 до 1 50
второго сорта			
Fox, Silver	....	....	do 4 00 до 50 00
Серебристая Лисица			
do Cross	....	....	do 2 00 до 2 50
Пятенная			
do Red	....	....	do 0 50 до 1 00
Красная			
do Kitt	....	....	do 0 40 до 0 50
Маленькая			
do White	....	....	do 0 75 до 1 00
Бѣлая			
do Gray	....	....	do 0 40 до 0 50
Сѣрая			
Lynx	....	....	do 1 00 до 1 10
Рысь			
Marten, prime, dark	....	....	do 2 00 до 9 00
Соболь, черный			
do do pale	....	....	do 1 00 до 1 25
блѣдный			
do seconds	....	....	do 0 50 до 1 00

Второго сорта	do thirds	do	0 25 do 0 50
третьяго сорта			
Mink, dark, northern, prime	do	do	0 40 do 5 75
Норка черная, сѣверная, перваго сорта	do pale, southern	do	0 50 do 0 75
Блѣдная, южная	do seconds	do	0 40 do 0 55
второго сорта	do thirds	do	0 20 do 0 25
третьяго сорта			
Muskrate	do	do	\$0 05 @ 0 10
Выхухоль			
Otter Sea, prime, dark silvery	do	do	15 00 do 75 00
Бобръ Морской, перваго сорта,	do do do	do	5 00 do 10 00
второго сорта	do do do brown	do	5 00 do 10 00
черный	do do do pure	do	0 50 do 1 00
блѣднаго цвѣта			
Otter, Land, prime, dark, northern	do	do	1 50 do 5 50
Выдра земноводная, перваго сорта, черная сѣверная	do do do southern	do	1 00 do 1 25
южная	do seconds	do	0 50 do 1 00
второго сорта	do thirds	do	0 25 do 0 75
третьяго сорта			
Raccoon	do	do	0 15 do 0 25
Барсукъ			
Wolf, large	do	do	1 00 do 2 00
Большой Волкъ	" small	do	1 00 do 1 25
малый	" seconds	do	0 50 do 0 75
второго сорта			
Wolverine, firsts	do	do	2 00 do 3 00
Росомаха, перваго сорта	do seconds	do	1 00 do 1 50
второго сорта			
Wild Cat, firsts	do	do	0 30 do 0 35
Дикій Котъ, перваго сорта	do seconds	do	0 20 do 0 25
второго сорта			
Skunks	do	do	0 10 do 0 15
Американскій Хорекъ			
Seal, fur	do	do	
Котъ морской	do hair	do	0 10 do 0 30
Тюлень			
Beaver, northern	do	do	75 lb from 0 75 do 1 00
Сѣверный Бобръ	do southern	do	0 50 do 0 90
Южный Бобръ			
Indian dressed Deer Skins, smoked preferred	do	do	0 85 do 0 80
Индійскія олени кожи копченныя			
Deer Skins, raw, summer and fall	do	do	0 10 do 0 15
Сырая Оленья кожа, лѣтняя и осенняя	do do winter	do	0 05 do 0 10

THE debt of the United States, minus cash in the treasury, on the 1st of June, was \$2,193,517,379. Of this amount, \$473,686,634 pays no interest, leaving the interest-paying debt, \$1,719,830,655. Part of this (\$310,000,000) pays 5 per cent.; the rest 6 per cent., except some small funded amounts, at 3 and 3½ per cent. At the present rate of decrease, in three years the annual interest will be reduced to about \$80,000,000. It was nearly \$127,000,000 in 1868.

THE ALASKA HERALD.

VOL. V.

JUNE 24, 1872.

No. 107.

OCCASIONALLY the suggestion is made that Alaska should have a civil Territorial Government. It is quite true that there are enough white men in Alaska to fill a Territorial Council, and enough self-sacrificing patriots outside the Territory who would accept the Federal appointments and go there (occasionally) to reside; but there are good reasons for postponing the organization. Military government is inexpensive and answers every purpose. There are but few Americans among the white residents; and there are no measures for the enlightenment and convenience of the people but can be vigorously prosecuted under the present system, if Government will devote a little time and a few thousands from its Alaskan revenues to these purposes.

THE Canadian House of Commons, on the 1st inst., passed a bill providing for the building of a railroad across the continent, on the 49th parallel. A private company is to carry on the work, depositing \$1,000,000 with the Government as security. A grant is made of each alternate section for twenty miles on both sides of the roads, and an appropriation of money, as the work progresses, to the amount of \$20,000,000, is provided for. The main line will be 2,700 miles in length. Two branches are to be constructed—one from a point in Manitoba to the United States and one to a point on Lake Superior. Ten years are allowed for the construction of the road. The western terminus is Lake Neplesing, sixty miles north of Georgian Bay.

SITKA has a population of about 1,100. Of these, 800 are Indians, 150 Creoles and Russians, and 150 Americans and foreigners. There are, in addition, from 150 to 200 soldiers.

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Just previous to the late General Halleck's departure East, he made a tour of inspection to Alaska Territory, and, by instruction of the Secretary of War, was accompanied by our celebrated photographic artist Muybridge, who made a series of the most picturesque and valuable photographs we have ever seen. The Hon. Wm. H. Seward thought very highly of them and addressed Mr. Muybridge a very complimentary letter in acknowledgment of his appreciation. They comprise about three dozen stereoscopic views of Sitka, Fort Wrangle, Fort Tongass, etc., portraits of Indians, illustrations of Indian life and flying views from ship board; giving a far better idea of the aspects of the country than a volume of reading matter.

The price is three dollars coin per dozen and for this amount we will forward a dozen or more, postage free to any part of the world.

There are also about a dozen larger sized views of the same subject 7 by 9 inches of equal if not superior merit to the stereographs; these we will forward free of postage upon receipt of \$1.25, coin, each.

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ALASKA



HERALD.

VOL. V.

SAN FRANCISCO, JULY 9, 1872.

No. 108.

The Herald is issued semi-monthly. Orders for copies may be left at the office, 113 Leidesdorff street (Room No. 3), or with White & Bauer, News-Dealers, 413 Washington street. Letters and communications should be addressed: A. A. Stickney, Editor Alaska Herald (Post Office Box, 821).

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LETTER FROM SITKA.

[CORRESPONDENCE OF THE HERALD.]

I cannot too frequently call the attention of your readers to the splendid business openings in this Territory. As you are aware, the fur trade of Alaska is very important. The stock of furs procured here yearly is very large, and the proceeds are as remunerative as could be expected, considering the great expense attendant upon procuring supplies. From this source alone the inhabitants receive a good deal of money which they spend in procuring such comforts as they need. The natives of all classes have a much fairer show under our Government than they had when this Territory was a Russian possession. Then they were mere serfs, and had to work whether they liked or not. They got little or nothing for their labor, and consequently made no exertion to better their condition; they merely existed like so many cattle, and were moodily thankful for whatever was given them. When the country came under the American flag, competition sprang up, and the Alaskans were not slow to seek the highest price. As the merchants and traders increased, the native population renewed their efforts to supply the demands of the market, and thus they were well paid for their labor. We still desire an increase of good, reliable business men, who will engage in enterprises that promise excellent results. The opportunities for speculation in Alaska, in its specialties, are excellent.

Our fishing interests are rapidly growing. In conversation with a merchant doing business here I was informed that there are no less than seventeen firms in San Francisco engaged in the salmon and cod fisheries of Alaska. The great demand for Alaska salmon in California and the Eastern States has given the article a reputation which will develop the fisheries to a much greater extent than has yet been done. Even in Australia the salmon caught in Alaskan waters is more prized than any other. The supply that may be procured in our bays and inlets would be enough to furnish the world. It is

almost impossible to describe how prolific the North Pacific is in this respect. The waters are literally alive with countless millions of the very first quality of salmon; and the article is in demand as much in the hut of the Indian as in the palace of royalty.

Codfish is no less abundant; the celebrated Shumagin Islands, along the Alutian Peninsula, are among the greatest codfisheries in the world, taking equal rank with those of Newfoundland. Four years ago the registered tonnage of the Shumagin fishing fleet did not reach 1,000 tons; now it is estimated as high as 5,000 tons, and the trade is rapidly increasing every year. It gives employment to a very large number of men. Every vessel sent after salmon, codfish, halibut and other varieties of fish, adds so much to our comfort. We are in need of the comforts that can only be procured from San Francisco, and our exports, consisting principally of fish and furs, are the chief articles that we can procure them with. In these our supplies are inexhaustible.

In time, no doubt, the timber trade of this Territory will yield immense revenues. All travelers through Alaska agree that in certain localities the finest shipbuilding timber in the world can be procured. We are already able to get our own supplies through the agency of small sawmills. When we first came into possession of the territory, lumber had to be brought from Puget Sound and San Francisco. Even firewood was brought from the latter place. In these respects we are carrying out many necessities that formerly had to be imported. Every year will add to them, until we hope to make ourselves self-sustaining in many particulars.

We have been greatly retarded from carrying out our best wishes by the bitter personalities and jealousies which naturally arose in the early settlement of the Territory. No doubt we were not as good as we ought to have been, but many of the stories published about us were sensational in their character. We had to expect this. As we become civilized the people of the United States are learning that we are not as black as we were painted.

If some parties would only take it into their heads to send us some facilities to educate the natives we could get along a good deal better. In new countries like this every man has almost as much as he can do to take care of himself. Still we are not entirely selfish. We desire that the Alaskans should have a chance to learn something of our language and literature as well as of the Government to which they owe allegiance. Send us schoolmasters and we will appreciate them.

I know you do not mingle in politics, but as an item of general interest I may mention that we are not insensible to our duties in canvassing the merits of Presidential candidates. We have our "Grant men" and our "Greeley men," and even the "Greeley hat" has made its way here. Politics are discussed with considerable vigor, for without politics we would soon forget that we were Americans. Our warfare is not bitter, however, and the adherents of both parties are confident of success.

There is some talk of celebrating the Fourth of July in grand style. I hope it will be so. Sitka, as the Capital of our new possessions, should be as patriotic as the nation's Capital.

X.

A CORRESPONDENT writes that rumors are very prevalent in Russia in regard to the Czar's state of health. It is reported that he is again the subject of a profound melancholy. His journey to Livadia was the occasion of serious controversies in political matters between the Emperor and the heir to the throne. In Livadia the Emperor lived a very solitary life and was constantly somber and taciturn. For hours together he would occupy himself in solitary walks, or remain shut up in his room, where he saw no one. The mystical ideas by which he has for some years been possessed have obtained great influence over his mind, and according to the testimony of individuals who have had opportunities for judging, his mental powers are seriously affected.

THE PRIBYLOFF GROUP OF ISLANDS.

BY CAPT. CHARLES BRYANT.

The group of several small islands, known as the Pribyloff Group, were discovered under the following circumstances. Capt. Pribyloff, who in 1781 took charge of the Russian trading factory at Unalaska, observed during his voyages among the islands to the westward of Unalaska numbers of fur seals going north in spring and returning in autumn. Believing that there must be unknown land to the northward to which these animals resorted, he fitted out an expedition for the purpose of discovering it, and in June, 1785, while cruising for that purpose, discovered an island. He took possession of this island, colonized it, and called it St. George, from the vessel in which the discovery was made. On a clear day, during the following year, these colonists saw another island to the northward of the first, and, visiting it in their canoes, proceeded to occupy it. The island was called St. Paul, from its discovery being made on St. Paul's day.

ST. PAUL ISLAND.

St. Paul Island is nearly triangular, and sixteen miles in length. Its northern side is a little concave. Its greatest breadth is four miles, at a point one-third its length from the west end. From this point a narrow peninsula, half a mile wide and two and a half miles long, extends in a southwest direction from the main island. The island is of volcanic origin, and consists of a cluster of flattened cones; the central cones of the island have an elevation of from two to three hundred feet, and a diameter of from half a mile to one mile and a half. Those on the outside, which form the shore line, are much smaller, they being only from one-eighth to half a mile in diameter, and from fifty to sixty feet in height; their bases touch those of the central higher cones. Between the chains of cones are narrow valleys, raised but little above the sea level. The border cones are composed entirely of clinkstone, and their surfaces appear to have undergone no change other than that resulting from the original fissuring and the subsequent action of frost. Where these cones extend into the water they form rounded points with gently sloping shores. There is a belt of loose rocks, varying from five to forty rods in width, between the base of the outer cones and the water; the coves formed between these points have shores of loose lava sand.

The peninsula is formed by two of these cones, one of which is one-half and the other two and a half miles distant from the main island, with which they have been recently connected by the deposition of loose sand thrown up by the action of the waves. The connecting necks of land thus formed have a height of only six or eight feet above the tide level.

The cones of the peninsula differ from those of the main island in being elongated instead of circular, and in having their surfaces covered with a layer of pitchstones, several inches in thickness, above the clinkstones.

On the cone in the center of the peninsula there is a bed of volcanic ashes and cinders, which shows by its loose mixed condition that it fell there after the elevation and cooling of the rock above water. Opposite the junction of the peninsula with the main island is a cliff, facing the southeast, sixty feet high. Its composition of alternate layers of cinders and ashes indicates that it was deposited under water, and subsequently elevated to its present position. This cliff has been worn into by the waves, and portions of it continually falling down furnish material for the increase of the sand belt along the southeast shore of the island. A seam or stratum two feet in thickness, composed mainly of volcanic ashes and containing lumps of calcined sea mud and petrified shells, extends the whole length of the cliff, parallel with its surface curves, and situated at about midway its height. These shells differ from any now found on the island.

The distance from the point where the peninsula joins the island to the west end of the island is about eight miles, and the general trend of the shore is northwest. The peninsula extends two miles and a half in a southwesterly direction, with a reef continuing to the west-

ward a mile farther. Within the angle formed by these two shores is an open harbor, with anchorage of from nine to thirteen fathoms of water, half to three miles off shore.

A vessel lying here is sheltered from winds blowing from any north-orly point between northwest and east; with the wind more to the southward, a heavy swell rolls over the reef, making it very rough. At the head of the cove is located the native village. This portion of the island is undergoing great changes, from the filling in of sand from deep water. At no very remote period there existed a spacious harbor within the cove now filled with sand; and there are people living on the island who remember when the peninsula itself was an island.

Conspicuous among the grasses are the redtop and other common varieties of the New England States; at a lower level on the made land a grass grows which, when young, resembles oats, but later it heads out like rye, and bears a small black seed which resembles the latter grain when shrunken in ripening; these grass-heads in winter furnish rich forage for the cattle and other stock living on the island. Among the profusion of wild flowers are the dandelion, buttercup, wild pea and bean, yarrow, wormwood, and other weeds; also the cow-paranip or wild celery. The latter the natives consider a great luxury, they eating the seed stalks when green and tender with a great relish.

On one of the largest cones near the center of the island is the rim of an extinct volcano, with a crater thirty rods in diameter. This rises to a height of two hundred feet above the surrounding plain of clinkstones. Its walls are of red tufa, much crumbled and broken, the debris of which fills the opening in the center.

OTTER ISLAND.

Four miles southwest, and in line with the peninsula, is a small rocky island, half a mile long in its longest diameter, one-fourth of a mile wide, and about forty feet high, with a sloping shore on one side. It is a part of a cone which has been broken off on three sides, and the other part submerged. This is called Otter Island, and has on it a small fur seal rookery.

MOSKOVIA, OR WALRUS ISLAND.

East-southeast from the east end of St. Paul Island, eight miles distant, is a rock rising on all sides to a height of thirty-five feet, half a mile long by one-eighth wide. It has around its base at the water line several ledges or shelves, on which the walruses come to lie after feeding on the banks east of the island. These animals frequent the island during the summer in large numbers, and are killed by the natives for their ivory. On the island is also a small sea lion rookery. It is also the breeding-place of immense flocks of sea-fowl, and the natives of St. Paul hence visit it in the laying season for the purpose of obtaining eggs.

ISLAND OF ST. GEORGE.

This island lies forty miles to the southeast of St. Paul, and is nearly triangular in form; its greatest length is twelve miles in an east and west direction. The greatest width of the island, which is near its center, is four miles. Its northern shore has an indentation near its center of three-fourths of a mile in depth, with a bank in front. Within this cove vessels may anchor in ten fathoms of water, one-half mile off shore. It is at this point that the settlement is situated. The southeast and southwest sides are very irregular, with indentations on each side where vessels may anchor in from ten to sixteen fathoms, one fourth of a mile from shore, but with poor holding ground and no shelter except when the wind is from the land.

This island is of similar origin to St. Paul, but differs from it in outline. A mountain ridge nearly one thousand feet high traverses the southeast part of the island parallel to the shore, and forms a perpendicular sea front, from two to six hundred feet high. West of the ridge the island is intersected by a valley three miles wide, descending gradually on either side to the shores, where it terminates in low broken cliffs. To the westward of the valley the surface rises again rapidly, and ends in a narrow perpendicular headland six or seven hundred feet high.

The whole appearance of the island indicates that it was originally

much larger than it is at present, and that the outer portion has been broken off and submerged, leaving the sides perpendicular. It is only on the sloping shores near the middle of the island that the seals can obtain a footing. On all the other sides the surf breaks against the base of the cliffs. Broken clinkstones cover most of the surface of the island, upon the lower parts of which a thin soil of decayed vegetable matter has accumulated. Owing to the springy, cozy nature of the ground, the houses are all built above ground, and not partially below the surface as on St. Paul. The island has one hundred and sixty Aleutian inhabitants, similar to those of St. Paul.

The island of St. George is estimated to yield one-half as many seals as St. Paul. [The number to be killed on St. Paul is restricted to 75,000, and on St. George, 25,000 per annum.]

THE CLIMATE.

No record of the temperature of these islands had been kept previous to my arrival. My observations at St. Paul give the mean temperature of June as 48° F.; of July, 51°; a part of August, 60°. These are the three warmest months of the year. I was told that the mercury froze twice during the previous winter.

Snow falls on these islands from October to April, but except in sheltered spots it does not attain to any great depth, blowing off as fast as it falls.

From the middle of March to the latter part of May the great body of floating ice comes down from the north, and passes by the east end of the island to the southwest. At this time the weather is very severe, this being the most stormy period of the year. This body of ice seldom extends as far south as St. George, forty miles distant.

During my residence at St. Paul there was very little fog on the island, though it could be seen resting on the water ten or fifteen miles off shore, forming clouds which obscured the sun during the greater part of the time. The climate is not favorable to agriculture, but there is at least a thousand acres of first-class grazing land along the southeast shore and in the vicinity of the village.

PETROPAULOVSKI'S SUCCESSFUL DEFENSE.

An interesting episode of the war between Russia, on the one side, and England and France on the other, occurred in 1854, at Petropaulovski, on the Kamchatkan Peninsula. Of this event Whymper, an English traveler and artist, gives the following narrative:

"It is well known that in 1855—during the Crimean war—Petropaulovski was visited by the Allied fleet. The record of that visit has been duly laid before the public, commented on, and forgotten; but it is not so generally known that our first attack, the previous year, was by no means a subject of congratulation for us, and (although well understood by naval officers, and especially by those who have served on the Pacific station) it has been kept uncommonly quiet. The fact is, that at the first visit the wretched little town made—greatly to its own surprise—a successful resistance, and is very proud of the fact. The inhabitants look upon the combat at Petropaulovski as one of the decisive battles of the world!

"The narrative I am about to lay before the reader was obtained on the spot, but not merely from the Russians. An Englishman—Mr. Fletcher—who had resided there for thirty years, and several of the foreign merchants who were in the town at the date of the attack, confirmed the Muscovite versions of the story.

"In the autumn of 1854 (28th August) six vessels of war—French and English—comprising the 'President,' 'Virago,' 'Pique,' 'La Fort,' 'L'Eurydice,' and 'Obligado'—arrived off Avatcha Bay; a gun, placed near the lighthouse at the entrance, was fired by the Russians, and gave the inhabitants of Petropaulovski notice to be on the alert. Admiral Price immediately reconnoitred the harbor and town, and placed the 'Virago' in position at a range of 2,000 yards.

"The Russians were by no means unprepared. Two of their vessels, the 'Aurora' and 'Dwina,' defended the harbor, and a chain crossing the narrow entrance shut it in. There were seven batteries and earthworks, mounting about fifty guns of fair calibre. The 'Virago' commenced the action with a well-directed fire, and several of the batteries were either temporarily or entirely disabled. The one farthest from the town, on the western side, was taken by a body of marines landed for that purpose. The guns were spiked. Four of the Allied fleet were specially engaged, and the Russians returned

their fire with spirit. There were three batteries outside and on the spit, two at the termination of the promontory on the western side of the harbor, and one in a gorge of the same which opens on Avatcha Bay. It is in this little valley that the monument to La Perouse stands. The town was well defended both by nature and art. The hills shut it in so completely that it was apparently only vulnerable at the rear. There, a small valley opened out into a flat strip of land immediately bordering the bay, and, although there was a battery on it, it seemed an excellent spot to land troops.

"Our vessels having taken up a new position, and silenced the batteries commanding it, 700 marines and sailors were put ashore. Half of them were English, half French; a large number of officers accompanied them, while they had for guides two Americans said to know the ground. They appear to have expected a very easy victory, and hurried in a detached and straggling style in the direction of the town, instead of proceeding in compact form, in military order. A number of bushes and small trees existed and still exist on the hill-sides surrounding this spot, and behind them were posted Cossack sharpshooters, who fired into our men, and either from skill or accident picked off nearly every officer. The men not seeing their enemy, and having lost their leaders, became panic-struck, and fell back in disorder. A retreat was sounded, but the men struggling in the bushes and underbrush (and, in truth, most of them being sailors, were out of their element on land) became much scattered, and it was generally believed that many were killed by the random shots of their companions. A number fled up a hill at the rear end of the town. Their foes pursued and pressed upon them, and many were killed by falling over the steep cliff in which the hill terminates.

"The inhabitants—astonished at their own prowess, and knowing that they could not hold the town against a more vigorous attack, were preparing to vacate it—when the fleet weighed anchor and set sail, and no more was seen of them that year! The sudden death of our Admiral is always attributed to the events of that attack, as he was known not to have been killed by a ball from the enemy.

"Before the second visit in May and June, 1855, every-body, except the foreign residents, had vacated the town. Early in the spring of the same year the Russian squadron had received orders to leave it to its fate at the break-up of the ice. The Russian Government had indeed given up all idea of defending so worthless a town, and, for two reasons, we also should have left it alone. First, it was an insignificant place, and victory could never be glorious; whilst, secondly, it has been—from the time of Cook to our own days—famous for the hospitality and assistance extended to our explorers and voyagers. All is not fair in war."

From this account—made as palatable as possible to the author's countrymen—it is evident that the Russians made a spirited defense and the Allies were badly "walloped." Nor does it seem logical that the former were preparing to evacuate when the latter showed their heels; certainly a "vigorous attack" must have been expected in the first place, and it would have been more consistent to have surrendered at once than to have taken the chance of being "astonished at their own prowess" and then cutting their stick. The author quoted is, however, quite excusable for the reluctance with which he chronicles the plucky defense made by the "wretched little town." From an article in the "Nautical Magazine" it appears that the English loss in killed and wounded was 107. The French loss was probably quite as great. It was a heavy blow to the pride of the Allies, and it is not astonishing that they had but little to say about it. The year following their defeat, another appearance was put in, with better success, as thus narrated:

"When therefore the Allies landed at their second visit they found an empty town. They, however, captured a Russian whaler, and burned some of the Government buildings. The latter, it is said, was done unintentionally, or more probably was the work of some wanton jack-tar. The batteries and earthworks were of course razed to the ground."

BEWARE of jealousy—also, small-pox, mad-dogs and Pharisees.

THE ALASKA HERALD.

A. A. STICKNEY. EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

VOL. V.

JULY 9, 1872.

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THE agonizing question, Are we to have a competing railroad across the continent? is settled. Stanford's little project, which he has nursed so carefully, and which he hoped was beyond contingency, for keeping all the transcontinental business in his own hands, has met with overwhelming defeat. Mrs. Frost, the anti-monopoly lecturer, offers to subscribe \$25,000,000, if needed, toward laying the Atlantic and Pacific Rail. Who will rail at woman, hereafter, for leaving "her sphere"? The Committee of Ninety-nine (Dewey err in subtracting S. P. from the original Old Hundred?) will of course call in a body and tender the thanks of a relieved and grateful city for this deliverance from the power of Satan & Co.

"A FRIEND" wishes to know if we offer any inducements for clubs. He thinks he can increase the circulation of the HERALD in his locality, provided we make it an object to solicit subscribers. In reply, we would say that the HERALD has but one club at present—a specimen of Siberian handiwork presented to our genial predecessor, and which constitutes one of the adornments of our sanctum. Clubs of this sort have their uses (not necessarily confined to the canine species, though formed in their interest,) and those who get them up are entitled to thanks, at least; but, for the other kind, we want none of them. The newspaper business is "clubbed" to death. Many of our contemporaries give away ninety five per cent. of their profits in premiums to club solicitors, and spend the other five per cent. in paying postage on the correspondence which the business involves—stealing the necessary stationery, of course. Our "Friend" means well, no doubt—but if he brings us any more "club" propositions, we shall test the virtue of Hahneman's theory, "Like things are cured by like."

WE acknowledge our obligations to Captain Charles Bryant for a description and history of the Pribyloff Group of Islands which we print in this number of the HERALD. To Capt. Bryant and Mr. J. A. Allen much credit is due for information relative the seal islands and their inhabitants. It may be here remarked that the Pribyloff Group constitute the principal remaining haunt of the fur seal, a source of wealth to Alaska and of ornament and comfort to thousands outside its boundaries. The cupidity of man has led to the extermination of the animal in almost all the localities to which it was wont to resort. A wise forethought has placed the chief remaining lying-in grounds under the care of a commercial company which is required, not only by law but self-interest, to refrain from careless and wasteful slaughter. It has been proved, by costly experience, that in no other way can the fur-seal species be preserved. The description of the islands is interesting and minute.

THE new postal law authorizes the Postmaster-General to issue one-cent cards for correspondence or for printed circulars, similar to those which have for some time been in use in England and throughout Europe. The card will be open, and among other uses, it is probable, it will be employed by hard-hearted tailors and others to facilitate collections, as it removes all pretext for concealing the nature of a message. Lines are provided on the face for the address, while the back is ruled for the letter, or bill, as the case may be. Another interesting feature of the new postal law is the reduction of postage on transient printed matter in the form of circulars and newspapers, from two cents to one cent. This will be a very beneficial change, as the old rate amounted almost to prohibition of a very convenient mode of advertising, and discouraged the sending of newspapers to any except regular subscribers.

VOTING IN THE TERRITORIES.

We boast that ours is a Government of and by the people; and yet it is clear that large numbers of the people have no voice in the election of their rulers. Passing over the disfranchised classes in the sovereign States of the Union, let us inquire upon what ground of justice or common sense the people of the Territories are denied the right to vote at Presidential elections. It will be admitted that nowhere within the domain of the Republic have the people a more vital interest in the question of who shall be placed at the helm than in the Territories. In older communities, which have attained the dignity of Statehood, the hand of the General Government is scarcely felt; local laws and local rulers accomplish, very nearly, the work of government; but in the Territories everything depends upon the Central Power. This is especially manifest in regard to the appointment of Territorial officers and their accountability for the manner in which they perform their duties. As now conducted, our Government exercises in the Territories a power quite as absolute as that of the Russian Czar. The people have no voice in choosing the Chief Ruler, and as a consequence have very little influence in procuring the appointment or dismissal of his subordinates. True, they may speak to the President through their Delegate in Congress, but his influence—representing a constituency without the national ballot—amounts to but little. As regards Alaska, even this privilege is not possessed, but it is hardly worth regretting.

There are high moral grounds for demanding the ballot for the Territorial settler. He is a pioneer of civilization, of republican ideas; with each step of his progress he enhances the comfort and prosperity of the world; by his energy and toil a new and perhaps hostilely-occupied portion of our country is made habitable and becomes a populous and productive member of the great national family. He endures hardship and braves peril from which many of his more highly-privileged brethren in "the States" would shrink in dismay; he overcomes obstacles and conquers difficulties which only the strong and brave dare encounter. Such a man commands our respect, and proves by his deeds that he is the peer of any in the land. How absurd to deny him the right to express his choice for President—a question in which he, above all others, is directly concerned.

Probably the venerable but now useless Electoral College will have to disappear from our governmental system before the measure we have here proposed can be conveniently adopted; it would seem that there need hardly be urged a new argument against that method of electing our rulers. When the plan was conceived, the "States" were jealous of their "sovereignty," and in yielding the form they thought to retain the substance of independent action. The idea of a Republic, whose citizens should constitute one people—of one nation, not thirteen or more nations—was not fully comprehended; therefore, when our Constitution was adopted, "the people" were not entrusted with the direct choice of their Chief Magistrate. Time and patriotism, however, have worked wonders. State lines are not erased, but the theory of State supremacy has been furnished a very respectable headstone. There is no reason now for the continuance of the Electoral College method. The citizen of Virginia and the citizen of Oregon should vote as American citizens, for President—not for State Electors. When the National Constitution undergoes this change, we trust the right of suffrage will be extended to the Territories, whether under civil or (as in the case of Alaska) military government.

THE schooner "John Bright," Capt. Archimanditroff, arrived at Unalaska on the 1st ult., from a voyage in search of supposed haunts of fur seal, two or three hundred miles to the southward of the Aleutian group. Capt. Archimanditroff has long been of opinion that extensive rookeries exist in that region. In December last the managers of the Alaska Commercial Company fitted out the "Bright" for a voyage of discovery, and the Captain has thoroughly explored the sea for hundreds of miles south of Unalaska, but without finding any sign of the fur seal. This is the third unsuccessful expedition of the kind made by the same company within the two years last past.

GOAT ISLAND, SAN FRANCISCO AND ALASKA.

As everybody else has had something to say about Goat Island, it might seem like an effort at eccentricity were we to withhold our opinion. We are glad to be able to differ somewhat from the majority—in fact, there is a sameness about the hundred and one daily inflictions on this topic that is painful. The Railroad Company is, of course, the concentrated essence of selfishness; it is black from the tip of its cow-catcher to the place where the "last man" gets aboard; it wants Goat Island as a site on which to build a city, and it wants San Francisco in order to put it out of the way of Goat Island; it is willing to spend a million or two in Mission Bay in order to throw our vigilant guardians off the scent and rob us of our heritage, and it has no intention of making use of its grant in that locality, except to prevent any other road from approaching the city front. Having read these things quite as regularly as our Bible for the past few months, certainly we are bound to accept them, and we do—for what they are worth. Still, there has faintly glimmered through all this dense blackness, at times, a ray of light and hope. May not that terrible island sink, some night, under the accumulated reproaches heaped upon it for having dared to thrust its Billy-goated form 'twixt the wind and our city's nobility? Or, if this is expecting too much as a voluntary expiation of its offense, cannot all of us who have faith like a grain of cabbage seed unite our efforts and send it drifting toward the Farallones? Failing in this effort, we can at least make a peremptory demand upon the Railroad Company that they shall cease to employ five or six hundred men in preparing their grounds, and desist from the erection of immense freight depots on this side of the bay, whereby we are to be misled as to their real designs. There are a few persons who see in Goat Island rather a safety-valve for San Francisco than a menace; who are glad the island is so situated that it can be used to advantage by a company whose real terminus is San Francisco, and thereby aid such a concentration of capital and facilities on the west side of the bay as shall make a rival city on the eastern shore forever impossible. Is it either truthful or wise to tell the world that San Francisco's very existence depends upon preventing the Company from bringing its road to the island, whence its freight trains are transferred to ferry boats, without breaking bulk, and landed in the city? At the very worst, an occasional ship might receive or discharge its cargo there; and who is so demented as to suppose that even were the Company compelled to abandon the Goat Island project and bridge the bay at Ravenswood, there would be any security to San Francisco against the same deprivation—or depredation, as it is usually considered—by other points, Oakland or Vallejo, for instance? As regards more serious inroads upon San Francisco's business, Goat Island, it is true, possesses better deep-water facilities than either of these, but they offer that which the island does not possess—the ground on which to build a city. With a small part of the island leased to the Company, Oakland will remain a mere way station, for she cannot become anything more except through such expenditures as a road terminating there would be compelled to make. San Francisco has nothing to fear from Goat Island. Let her encourage new and competing roads, and give every reasonable facility to all the lines which seek to enter her territory: let her silence the croakers who have made a mountain of a molehill, and whose unfounded clamor has done more to send real estate prices toward zero and paralyze general business than any railroad could have done if given the use of all the islands in the harbor. The Central Pacific must be credited with at least average discernment; it needs not to be told that it cannot live without San Francisco—that if it could destroy the city it would bring ruin upon itself in doing so.

We trust we shall not be thought officious in thus briefly alluding to the "great grab." Alaska's coast is dotted with islands as plentifully as fly-specks on a neglected window; and if one little island in California is to kick up such a bobbery, we shudder to think what may be the fate of our favorite Territory when her system of railroads shall be completed. Seriously, San Francisco and Alaska are so closely related in business that a blow could not be inflicted upon the former without being felt by the latter; and in adverting to this topic we have only in view the best interests of both, according to our honest convictions.

Since the foregoing was written, a "compromise" has been suggested, by which the Railroad Company shall give up its Goat Island project and build a bridge thirty miles from the city, receiving aid from the latter to the extent of \$2,500,000. If such an arrangement should be effected, we do not see how the city would be benefited in any manner. On the contrary, she would have to tax herself heavily to avert a danger which is merely imaginary.

THE celebration, in San Francisco, of the ninety sixth anniversary of American Independence was creditable to Grand Marshal Cole, M. D., and to the city. A new use for doctors has been developed, and we hope the success of the experiment this year may lead to an extended consumption of the article in Fourth of July celebrations. Dr. Cole has our thanks for an invitation to parade, but as we had been requested to address a delegation of Alents who had a little celebration by themselves, we were not able to grace the procession with our presence. Perhaps an extract from the speech hastily prepared by us for the assemblage which demanded our services on the Fourth may interest somebody. Judging from its effect upon the representative men who listened to its delivery, we deem it no egotism to predict that a perusal of the entire document by our constituency will so fire the northern heart that the usual supply of "blubber" may be intermitted the coming winter. We here give the exordium only:

Это отъявленные варвары, Евреи-вампиры, монамишеники—пренебрепочтенными граждана емые личинашей Для такихъ остей, какіе Республикн. для нѣтъ ничего священна г оничего, ннхъ нѣтъ поименованны директорами Компанн,—для ннхъ всякое варварна ство, морскіе или горн мекакъ Эти люди готовынавсакійграбежъ, благороднаго. [Снегз and лачер.]

ALEXANDER GOODENOUGH having had the good fortune to make a voyage from Seattle to San Francisco in a boat twenty two feet long and of a shape and general appearance never before seen by Californians, the navigator and his little craft have been a fruitful topic for local writers during the past fortnight. The boat is supposed to be an estray from Alaska, and is somewhat like a barrel in its model and mode of construction. Mr. Goodenough occupied the bungle-hole of this craft three weeks, alone, and with no other object than to attempt something which, if successful, would astonish both himself and the rest of mankind. He deserves a good talking-to for his fool-hardiness, but in view of the many outrages which his patronymic has been subjected to at the hands of journalistic punsters, we shall be good enough to let him off this time.

THE news comes from Constantinople that the Asiatic cholera has reappeared in Southern Russia. Its advent is thus earlier in the season than usual, and it has the more time to spread before the autumn frosts shall stop its progress. Turkey has taken precautionary measures against the scourge. Some of the leading New York papers are advising extra vigilance. Between the actual presence of small-pox and a not improbable westward march of cholera, there are abundant and urgent motives to keep the cities of the Pacific coast as free as possible from the impurities upon which contagious diseases feed. San Francisco is fortunate in having a Health Officer who is energetic and untiring; but the prevention of wide-spread sickness requires the prompt co-operation of the citizens. The remark will apply anywhere that the part of an "informer," in cases where a person becomes aware of neglect of duty by which the health of a neighborhood is endangered, is a most necessary and honorable one, however unpleasant; and those who shrink from calling the attention of the authorities to the negligence or parsimony of landlords or tenants whereby sewers and cesspools are allowed to become malarious, should be informed that all complaints which prove well-founded are treated confidentially. Let the worst that exists be stated at once to the Board of Health, for they have the will and ability to enforce cleanliness, which in these times is "next to godliness." San Francisco is a great distributing center, and the entire coast is interested in her physical quite as much as her commercial health.

THE United States sloop-of-war "St. Maty's" has been ordered to proceed from Panama to Honolulu, thence to Sitka, and from the latter port to San Francisco, where she will arrive in October.

THE ALASKA HERALD.

VOL. V.

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THE CO-YUKON INDIANS.

The Co-Yukon is the largest tribe on the Yukon river, and extends virtually from the confluence of the Co-Yukuk river to Nuklukayette, at the junction of the Tanana with the Yukon; for, although some of the intervening tribes have local names, yet they speak one dialect, and may fairly be considered as one people. They also inhabit the banks of the Co-Yukuk and other interior rivers.

In general appearance they somewhat resemble the Ingletees, but have a wilder and more ferocious cast of feature. The true Co-Yukon dress is a double-tailed coat, one tail before and one behind. If the reader will imagine a man dressed in two swallow-tail coats, one of them worn as usual, the other covering his stomach and buttoned behind, he will get some idea of this garment! Owing to inter-tribal commerce, Malemute clothing is much seen on the Yukon; but the style just mentioned is regarded as a Co-Yukon fashion, and, with various modifications, is adopted by the other tribes on the upper Yukon for at least a thousand miles of its course. The women's dress is more squarely cut; and they adopt very much a long ornament of Hy-aqua shells. This is worn on the nose, and runs through a hole made in the cartilage between the nostrils. Strange to say, higher up the river it is the men exclusively who adopt this ornament. The Co-Yukon dwellings are underground.

These people are much feared by surrounding tribes, and gave the Russians much trouble in the early history of Nulato. * * * We heard of brutal murders among themselves; and although we got along well enough with them, they are, undoubtedly, a wilder and more savage race than those of the coast. In the autumn of 1865, an Indian of this tribe went hunting in the mountains with two men, brothers, inhabitants of the same village as himself. In the woods he got them apart on some pretence, and succeeded in killing both. He returned to the village, seized their possessions in fish and furs, and bullied the widow of one of them into living with him. Some of the murdered men's relatives came from a distance to punish this monster; but he learned of their approach in time, and escaped to the forest, taking the woman with him.

These tribes mourn their dead one year, and the women during that time often gather together, talking and crying over the deceased. At the expiration of that term, they have a feast or "wake," and the mourning is over. One such entertainment took place at Nulato during our stay, and by special request was allowed to be held in the general barrack of the fort. It was to commemorate the death of a Co-Yukon child, and was a queer mixture of jollity and grief.

The poor old mother and some of her friends wept bitterly, while the guests were gaily dancing round a painted pole, on which strings of beads and some magnificent wolf-skins were hung. They kept up singing, dancing, and feasting to a fashionable hour of the morning; and one little savage, who had been shouting at the top of his lungs for hours, got up the next day without any voice at all—a case of righteous retribution. The decorations of the pole were divided among those who took part in the "wake." So vigorously did they dance, that the old oven, used in warming the building, shook to its foundations, and part of it fell in.

They do not inter the dead, but put them in oblong boxes, raised on posts, sometimes decorated with strips of skin hanging over them; sometimes with the possessions of the deceased (as a "baidarra," or other canoe, with paddles, etc.) on the top of the box. Small possessions are often put inside with the corpse. The tomb cannot be better described than as a four-post coffin! These are common to the coast tribes also.

They have certain superstitions with regard to the bones of animals, which they will neither throw on the fire nor to the dogs, but save them in their houses or caches. When they saw us careless in such matters, they said it would prevent them from catching or shoot-

ing successfully. Also, they will not throw away their hair or nails, just cut short, but save them, sometimes hanging them in packages to the trees.

The mode of fishing through the ice practiced by the Russians is much in vogue with them, and they also have an ingenious mode of catching reindeer in the mountain valleys. A kind of corral, or inclosure, elliptical in form, and open at one end, is made on a deer-trail, generally near the outlet of a wood. The farther end of the inclosed space is barricaded; the sides are built of stakes, with slip-nooses or loops between them. Herds of deer are driven in from the woods, and trying to break from the trap, generally run their heads into the nooses, tighten them, and so get caught, or are shot, whilst still bewildered, and running from side to side. Near the opening it is common to erect piles of snow, with "portholes," through which natives, hidden, shoot at the passing deer.

It is surprising, in this thinly inhabited country, how fast news of any kind will travel. Should a vessel call at St. Michael's, in a week or two it will be known on three parts of the Yukon. * * *

We once said, jokingly, that if supplies did not come in faster, we should have to eat up the plump babies of the settlement. Before many days elapsed, it was spread all over the country that we were cannibals, and devoured children wholesale! and many a serious inquiry was made about it. Generally speaking, we found it answered our purpose to joke and sing, and affect guity with them, but we had to be very careful what statements we advanced.

[From "Travel and Adventure in Alaska," by Fred. Whympers.]

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ALASKA



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No. 109.

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LETTER FROM SITKA.

[CORRESPONDENCE OF THE ALASKA HERALD.]

By the steamer leaving to-day (June 20th) for San Francisco, I drop you whatever news of interest I find here.

That which most moves us at present is the arrival of a large lot of goods and merchandise brought from the supposed wreck of the "California." The most of the goods are damaged and will have to be sold at whatever price they can bring. Our traders and merchants were in great expectation that their stock, as usual, would arrive all right, and had made arrangements for a large trade with the Indians here and hereabout. Our "great expectations" are dashed to the ground, and we shall have to make the most of it. The failure of the arrival of our merchandise affects us as seriously as would the failure of the crops affect California. Our harvest consists of the number of pounds of provisions, the quantity of tobacco, the number of boots and shoes, blankets and other "truck" we can import and dispose of. In this case, however, we shall not want for the necessities of life, nor will we go naked because of the disaster to the "California." Accidents will happen.

The "Idaho" takes away from this Capital some old familiar faces. Capt. Hamilton, Lieut. Mitchell, Lieut. Taylor, Dr. White and twenty-five men of Company I, Second Artillery, are among her passengers. We are sorry to lose them, one and all. Nothing tends so much to give us an attack of "home-sickness" as partings of this nature; but fate bids us remain. Without desiring to make distinctions, all of our people feel an especial bereavement in the departure of Dr. White, whose good nature, genial disposition and talents made him as popular as he was respected. The "Idaho" brought up fifty soldiers.

At present peace reigns in this city, but we narrowly escaped having a battle with the Koloshians recently. I will give you the particulars as concisely as possible: On the 1st inst. two soldiers and some Indians got into a difficulty about a broken egg. The Indians had a basketful, and the soldiers, in making an investigation with a view to purchase a few of them, broke one. The redskins took umbrage at this, and demanded pay for the whole lot. This the soldiers refused,

when one of them was slapped in the face by one of the Indians. The soldiers then set upon the Indian and gave him a thrashing. After this the redskins went to the Indian village, adjacent to the camp, and raised an alarm. In a little while the greatest excitement prevailed. A numerous body of Indians gathered about headquarters and presenting their case to the officer on duty, the two soldiers were arrested until the charges could be investigated. The Indians, not content with this, made hostile demonstrations and prepared for war. So earnest were they that preparations were made by the authorities to meet them. The revenue cutter *Reliance*, anchored here, got into position and opened her ports preparatory to pouring a broadside into the Koloshian camp. The troops on shore were eager for the fray. Everything looked as if a little blood-letting would result. Citizens were as eager as soldiers for a fight, and I may add that the citizens of Sitka, like those of other cities, are easily excited and not always mindful of consequences when their blood is up, and in this case the provocation given was by no means slight. Just as everybody expected hostilities to commence, a number of chiefs called on the Post Commander, Major Allen, and after a long confab departed. The result of the interview was of a peaceful character. During the whole excitement Major Allen retained his self-command, and to his good sense and coolness we are indebted for not having a general slaughter. He has been accused of cowardice for not firing upon the Indians, but, reason having returned to the community, the peaceful termination of the affair is looked upon as most auspicious. Had the troops or the revenue cutter opened fire upon the Indians, the punishment of the latter would have been easily enough inflicted, but it would have inaugurated a war the result of which, at the very best, would have been the loss of many lives and the prostration of business. As it was, one soldier, a sentinel, came near being shot by an enraged Indian. During the excitement three Indians were wounded.

When the Russians were in possession of this territory, they had a number of difficulties with the natives, but in almost every case they brought the troubles to a peaceful solution. It must be considered that the Indians are to us what the farmers are to San Francisco. They are the producers, and we live by them more than they live by us. It is our best interest to keep the peace with them. So far the authorities of the United States have been very fortunate in the management of the redskins here and elsewhere throughout Alaska. Under the Russian rule the Koloshians and other tribes received at certain seasons stipulated quantities of Russian rum. Having imbibed this, the Indians would sometimes forget the hospitalities extended to them and raise a row against their entertainers. The Government of the United States furnishes neither Russian rum nor liquors of any kind—indeed, the importation of these articles is strictly prohibited. Smugglers are closely watched, and when captured suffer the severest penalties of the law. The general peace which has prevailed throughout the Territory since it came into our possession is attributable to the honest efforts made to enforce the regulations against the sale of liquor to the Indians.

We who are permanent residents of Alaska and desire to promote its welfare, are deeply conscious of the necessity of living at peace with our Indian population. As to our being insulted by the Koloshians in the affair just narrated, admitting the facts, we cannot deal with untutored redskins as with civilized people. A little patience must be exercised, and a good example constantly set before them. We do not fear them, but prefer to retain the benefits of their labor.

In writing you this letter, I desire to prevent the withdrawal of confidence, by showing that there is the wish and ability to preserve order here. Our supplies principally come from Portland and San Francisco. If it is reported that we are engaged in an Indian war, our credit will be impaired and our best interests seriously injured. Our desire is peace, and we hope to maintain it.

M. PAVY has not yet started for the North Pole. M. PINART, the ethnologist, of Alaskan celebrity, has gone East.

GLANCES AT ALASKA.

From William H. Dall's "Alaska and its Resources." †

A SPECIMEN OF YUKON POETRY.

* * * The women are fond of making up songs of their own, which they hum over their work. Some of these are full of sentiment and not unworthy of preservation. The chorus always forms a prominent part. The following is a free translation, preserving the original rhythm, of one which I heard a Koyukon woman singing as she sewed. It is a fair specimen of many which were translated to me, some of which I preserved. It is the song of a mother hushing her child to sleep, and the air was slow and soft:

"The wind blows over the Yukon.
My husband hunts the deer on the Koyukon mountains.
Ahmi, Ahmi, sleep, little one.

"There is no wood for the fire.
The stone axe is broken, my husband carries the other.
Where is the sun-warmth? * Hid in the dam of the beaver,
waiting the spring-time?
Ahmi, Ahmi, sleep, little one, wake not!

"Look not for ukali, old woman.
Long since the cache was emptied, and the crow does not light
on the ridge-pole!
Long since my husband departed. Why does he wait in the
mountains?
Ahmi, Ahmi, sleep little one, softly.

"Where is my own?
Does he lie starving on the hillside? Why does he linger?
Comes he not soon, I will seek him among the mountains.
Ahmi, Ahmi, sleep little one, sleep.

"The crow has come, laughing.
His beak is red, his eyes glisten, the false one!
'Thanks for a good meal to Kuskokala, the Shaman.
On the sharp mountain quietly lies your husband.'
Ahmi, Ahmi, sleep, little one, wake not!

"Twenty deer's tongues tied to the pack on his shoulders;
Not a tongue in his mouth to call to his wife with.
Wolves, foxes and ravens are tearing and fighting for morsels.
Tough and hard are the sinews; not so the child on your bosom.
Ahmi, Ahmi, sleep, little one, wake not!

"Over the mountains slowly staggers the hunter.
Two bucks' thighs on his shoulders, with bladders of fat between
them.
Twenty deer's tongues in his belt. Go, gather wood, old woman!
Off flew the crow—liar, cheat and deceiver!
Wake, little sleeper, wake, and call to your father!

"He brings you backfat, marrow and venison fresh from the
mountain.
Tired and worn, he has carved a toy of the deer's horn,
While he was sitting and waiting long for the deer on the hillside.
Wake, little one, wake, for here is your father!"

* The warm principle of the sunlight, which they regard as a personal spirit.

SHAMANISM.

The belief in Shamanism is universal among the natives of Alaska, Eskimo as well as Indians. Even the Aleuts, long nominally converted to Christianity, still retain superstitious feelings in regard to it. It is essentially a belief in spirits who are controlled by the Shaman; who come at his call, impart to him the secrets of the future and the past, afflict or cease afflicting men by sickness at his behest, and enable him to advise others as to seasons and places of hunting, good or evil omens, and the death or recovery of the sick. These, however, are not spirits who were once men.

Many Indians—in fact, all the Tinnah that I have conversed with, who have not been taught by the English or Russian missionaries—

† A work replete with valuable information, minute but never tiresome—a wonder of comprehensiveness and perspicuity. Boston: Lee & Blanchard, 1870; pp. 638. For sale by Bancroft & Co., Market street, San Francisco; price, \$7 50.

do not believe in the immortality of man. Of those who have a dim notion of the kind none have any idea whatever of future reward and punishment, of any Supreme Power or Deity, of good and evil in a moral sense, or of anything which can be called a religion. Assertions to the contrary proceed from the ignorance or poetical license of the author, or from an intercourse with tribes who have derived their ideas from missionaries.

The support which the spiritual instincts of human nature demand is met among the Indians by a belief in Shamanism. All animals, woods, waters and natural phenomena such as the aurora borealis or thunder and lightning, are supposed to be either the abodes or the means of manifestation of spirits. The latter have power and knowledge limited by their respective spheres. The most powerful and beneficent of all are the objects of ridicule and contempt, as often as of fear or reverence, in the Indian legends which relate to them. The whole relation between the Indians and these spirits, as they believe in them, is one of self-interest and fear. They preserve all bones out of reach of the dogs for a year, when they are carefully buried, lest the spirits who look after the beavers and sables should consider that they are regarded with contempt, and hence no more should be killed or trapped. Other singular superstitions, the result of accident, some local incident or unexplained coincidence, are found to be peculiar to each narrow territory or small tribe.

The younger Indians look on these things with contempt and ridicule; it is only when starvation or sickness impends, or the continued threats of some greedy Shaman create alarm, that they pay any heed to them. It is with age alone that these superstitions become firmly implanted in their minds. The strange effects which firm belief and vivid imagination have frequently produced among civilized and intelligent human beings are too well known to require further confirmation. Hence it is not to be wondered at among ignorant Indians, whose imagination is untrammelled by knowledge of the simplest natural laws, that the self-deluding frenzy of the Shaman should, as it frequently does, produce seemingly supernatural effects, which confirm his influence.

Among the Indians who frequent the trading-posts many may be found who have imbibed a few indistinct ideas from Christian theology, without renouncing their native superstitions or gaining any comprehension of the cardinal principles of morality or religion. It is from intercourse with such that many of the popular delusions about the "Great Spirit" of the Indians have arisen. * * *

MISSIONARIES AND THEIR VALUE.

Mr McDonald during our stay [at Fort Yukon] performed several services among the Indians. He was an earnest and well-disposed man, a fair type of most missionaries to the Indians. His discourses were rendered into broken Slave by Antoine Houle. In the evening the Indians, old and young, gathered in the fort-yard and sang several hymns with excellent effect. Altogether, it was a scene which would have delighted the hearts of many very good people who know nothing of Indian character; and as such will doubtless figure in some missionary report. To any one who at all understood the situation, however, the absurdity of the proceeding was so palpable that it appeared almost like blasphemy.

Old Sakhniti, who has at least eighteen wives, whose hands are bloody with repeated and most atrocious murders, who knows nothing of what we understand by right and wrong, by a future state of reward and punishment, or by a Supreme Being—this old heathen was singing as sweetly as his voice would allow, and with quite as much comprehension of the hymn as one of the dogs in the yard.

Indians are fond of singing; they are also fond of tobacco, and for a pipeful apiece you may baptize a whole tribe. Why will intelligent men still go on, talking three or four times a year to Indians, on doctrinal subjects, by means of a jargon which cannot express an abstract idea, and the use of which only throws ridicule on sacred things—and still call such work spreading the truths of Christianity?

When the missionary will leave the trading-posts, strike out into the wilderness, live with the Indians, teach them cleanliness first,

morality next, and by slow and simple teaching lead their thoughts above the hunt or the camp—then, and not until then, will they be competent to comprehend the simplest principles of right and wrong. The Indian does not think in the method that civilized men adopt; he looks at everything as "through a glass, darkly." His whole train of thought and habit of mind must be educated to a higher and different standard before Christianity can reach him.

The Indian, unchanged by contact with the whites, is in my mind a child without the trusting affection of childhood, and with the will and passions of a man. Read by this standard, he may be fairly judged. One fact may be unhesitatingly avowed: if he can obtain intoxicating liquors he is lost. Neither missionaries nor teachers can save him while it is within his reach. A general glance at the condition of the American Indians at this time conveys only one idea, which is, that the trader outstrips all restraints and that the whole race is irrevocably doomed.

HOT AND MINERAL SPRINGS.

After alluding to the mineral waters at and near Sitka, Mr. Dall mentions others found in Alaska, as follows:

In Parenosa Bay, opposite Unga Island, on the south coast of Alaska, are several hot springs. Others are situated on Amagat Island, near Aliaska, and still others in Port Moller, on the north side of the peninsula. A lake of water containing sulphur in solution exists on Unimak. Hot marshes are found near Pogromnoi volcano. Numerous boiling springs on the northeast side of Akutan form a small rivulet, and an extinct crater is filled with water of a bitter taste. On a small island southeast of Akhun, hot springs are found between tide-marks. In Unalaska, near Captain's Harbor, a thermal spring exists, with a temperature of 94° Fahrenheit, containing sulphur in solution. Noises which sound like the reports of cannon are often heard, and have been mistaken for coming vessels. The natives have a tradition that long ago the mountains fought with each other, and Makushin remained victor.

Many hot springs exist in a small valley of Umnak. One of these rises two feet and falls again, four times an hour. The water is boiling, and there is no perceptible opening in the soil. Near Deep Bay are several springs ranging from 212° Fahrenheit to lukewarm. The Aleuts are accustomed to bathe in some of them.

Upon the island of Atka many such springs occur. The water of some of them contains lime and sulphur, but is less bitter than that at Sitka. These are five miles from Korovin Bay, and their temperature is about 167° Fahrenheit. At a greater altitude, upon Koni volcano are found mud craters two feet in diameter at the top, of a funnel shape, diminishing to five inches at the bottom. They are frequently full of mud in a state of ebullition. Sulphurous odors and subterranean noises, like the escape of steam, are always noticeable. If a stick is thrust into the ground and withdrawn, sulphurous vapors arise with great force. Between Korovin and Klucheff volcanoes is a verdant valley. Here the warmth arising from the hot springs renders the vegetation rich, and this, with the abundance of flowers, presents a marked contrast to the bare and sterile flanks of the volcanoes. Ascending, the traveler leaves perpetual summer for bare and forbidding lava rocks and eternal snow.

There are many hot springs upon the island of Adakh. Boiling springs on Kanaga have been used for cooking food by the Aleuts from time immemorial. Goreloi consists of a vast smoking cone eighteen miles around. It is supposed to be one of the highest in the archipelago.

Very active hot springs exist on Sitignak Island.

A lake on Beaver Island of the Pribyloff Group is said to be strongly impregnated with nitre.

As we may turn to the coasts of Alaska to study glaciers, at their very sides we may also give our attention to exhibitions of plutonic force and volcanic activity which are almost equal to any in the world.

The distance from San Francisco to Sitka, by the passage within the islands is about 1,650 miles. By the outer course, taken by large vessels, the distance is 1,300 miles.

A NOVEL SAVINGS BANK—FISHCAL FORETHOUGHT.

In the northeastern part of Siberia the inhabitants live chiefly upon salmon, which enter the streams, in summer, to spawn; then the natives take immense quantities of the fish, dry them, and lay by a supply to last till the next season. About every third or fourth year, on the average—though with considerable irregularity—the salmon do not appear, and the consequence is a famine, which, falling first upon the dog-teams of the people, disables the latter from drawing supplies from other quarters. To prevent the terrible sufferings which have arisen from this cause, the Russian Government established at Kolyma, a post on the Arctic Ocean, a sort of savings bank, with a capital of one hundred thousand dried fish, purchased from the natives and stored away; then a law was enacted compelling every male inhabitant of the settlement to pay into the bank, annually, one-tenth of all the fish he caught, and no excuse for a failure was admitted—this continuing as long as the fish seasons remained good; but when there was a failure of the salmon, and starvation impended, every depositor was entitled to borrow from the bank enough for his regular supplies, on condition of a re-payment next year.

At the last advices this bank had carried the people through two consecutive years of famine, and accumulated a capital of three hundred thousand dried fish, and was still accumulating at the rate of twenty thousand a year. It was thus on the road to wealth, besides proving such a fountain of beneficence to the people. It is the principle of Joseph's management in Egypt, with all the modern improvements required by the state of society in Siberia.

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THE ALASKA HERALD.

A. A. STICKNEY. EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

VOL. V.

JULY 24, 1872.

No. 109.

We have exciting news from Sitka. Blood has been shed—the nasal protuberance of a bold, bad Kolosh who provoked the ire of a couple of our “boys in blue,” furnishing the sanguinary fluid. The price of one egg with a broken shell was at the bottom of the difficulty, and it well-nigh led to the shelling of the entire Indian village. During the rumpus a sentinel was shot (at) by an Indian. Major Allen demanded that the latter be handed over by a time specified, on pain of the Indian settlement being blown into the middle of next world. No “blowing” intended and none done, although the offending savage was not brought in. All quiet at last advices. See letter from Sitka, on first page.

This number of the HERALD concludes the first quarter-year of its publication since the change of proprietorship. We have adhered to the purpose announced at the outset, to avoid unjust personalities and to study only the highest interests of Alaska by making the resources of the Territory familiar to our readers. The reward we have met with, so far, is an incentive to greater effort in future, and we trust something higher and better than mere pecuniary gain may result from our labors. While we would not estimate the influence of a newspaper by the extent, alone, of its circulation—for we know that much depends upon the class to whom its visits are made—still it is gratifying to see our circle of readers widening and extending with a rate of progress beyond our most sanguine expectations. We thank our friends for their many tokens of approval and good will, and shall try not only to retain the ground we have gained but to make our journal worthy a largely-increased list of readers.

OUR correspondents make frequent mention of the fact that the whole northwest coast of America, and especially the Alaskan coast, enjoys a much milder climate than is found in the northeastern portion of the continent. The great currents of the North Pacific and Bering Sea are the beneficent sources of this more amiable temperature. The Gulf Stream of the Pacific (which the Japanese recognize under the name of “Kuro Sirro,” or Black Stream,) divides on the western end of the Aleutian chain; a portion of it is carried eastward, strikes the continent and is deflected to the south. The moist, warm atmosphere this current brings with it gives to our Alaskan people their endurable climate, while its influence is felt as far south as Oregon, upon the snowy mountains of the coast. The climate of Scotland is said to very closely resemble that of the Aleutian district of Alaska, from which it may be inferred that in process of time quite a large population will find means of subsistence there, and that our “colony” (as Alaska has been called) may outgrow its present political trowsers and assume the dignity and apparel of a State. The day may be somewhat distant, and many of us may have ceased to be troubled about a falling temperature, but “Sawney” is a living demonstration that it is a possible event.

To THE casual reader it may seem unaccountable that Alaska should possess sufficient interest to the general public to call for the publication of a journal devoted mainly to its exposition; it is sometimes remarked to us, that beyond those engaged in its fish and fur industries, nobody cares what is transpiring there. This is a great mistake. All over the Union an interest is felt, and is increasing daily, as we have abundant and satisfactory evidence. Perhaps nothing has contributed so much to this result as the extended dissemination of the seeds of information acquired by Hon. William H. Seward during his visit to the Territory, some of which fell upon good ground and are now bearing their appropriate fruit. There are other names deserving of honorable mention—Dall, Bryant, Whymper, Allen and Pinart, among the number—gentlemen who have freely published the results of their explorations and studies, and whose writings have been read by thousands in the Eastern States and Europe. Some Californians imbibe the idea that because Alaska does not particularly interest them it is of no consequence; others are of opinion that California has the exclusive ownership, and no one, elsewhere, is concerned about it; but there is a respectable proportion of the American people on the other side of the continent, and they evince a desire for all the knowledge of Alaska that can be obtained. No doubt the ensuing five years will witness many remunerative investments in that favored region by Eastern men.

AMONG the Acts of the last Congress is one known as the “Commissioners Shipping Bill.” We have not received a copy of it, but are informed that—

“It provides for the appointment by the District Judges of a sufficient number of Shipping Commissioners, who shall supervise the articles of shipment entered into between the seamen and their employer. The bill comprises a large number of sections, and is designed to prevent every form of abuse whatever to which sailors are subjected. It is a measure that seeks to provide adequate remedies, and will, if carried out in its beneficent spirit, protect the children of the sea, who are so careless of themselves and their earnings, when on shore, from the rapacity of land-sharks and shipping agents. They are also enabled, by allotments, to secure to their families regular payments of a portion of their wages.”

If the Act shall accomplish what it proposes it will entitle its author not only to the gratitude of the unfortunate object of its care but to the thanks of all who are acquainted with the infamous practices by which Jack is systematically plundered. Drugging, beating and restraint of liberty are among the means employed to rob the seaman of the earnings of his perilous vocation. Charges of this nature have been recently laid before the marine authorities of California, but it has been found exceedingly difficult to procure convictions under the laws heretofore framed. The new Act appears to look especially to the means of prevention, by throwing a kind yet firm guardianship around the sailor when he finds himself in port, and providing him a business agent in place of his self-appointed managers—perhaps we should say, custodians. Such a law, rigidly enforced, will suppress, at once and forever, practices which are not only a disgrace to our civilization, but which find but few parallels in cruelty and barbarity among the savages to whom we profess such infinite superiority. We believe the leading purpose of the citizens who made the complaints above alluded to was to give the perpetrators of outrages upon the thoughtless “sons of the sea” a warning against further acts of oppression and robbery; probably conviction and punishment in those initial cases was not expected. Now that men, actuated by the highest philanthropy, have exhibited the nerve to make these statements of occurrences known and witnessed by them, we may hope that the warning will be heeded; and we trust that the new Act of Congress will furnish a system which shall do away with every incentive to such crimes against humanity in future.

THE exports of Alaska show a gratifying ratio of increase, and it is evident that hard work and the judicious employment of capital meet with fair returns. It is a mistake to suppose that the entire country is in the hands of a “monopoly”; with the exception of the little islands of St. George and St. Paul, there are no exclusive privileges. No doubt many persons have been deterred from engaging in Alaskan trade by the reports in circulation on this point; but having no purpose to subvert except the general weal, we cannot let such stories go uncontradicted. An open field and no advantages save those which follow the liberal use of brains and capital—this is the invitation Alaska extends to all.

WE learn that the brief extract from our Fourth of July oration published in the HERALD of July 9th, elicited the serious criticism of some of our Russian readers. We had flattered ourself that it would be as “deep” for them as for our English-reading friends, but it seems we were mistaken—with some difficulty they unraveled enough to lead them to believe we failed in being a first-class “blood-letter” (on paper) only through ignorance of the Russian language. A fearful warning against placing too much confidence in human penetrability.

ARNOLD of misplaced confidence (as above): We recall an incident which occurred to our friend Mark Twain while he was writing for *The Californian*. Mark undertook to enliven the paper by getting up a department of “Answers to Correspondents,” and among other things acknowledged the receipt of a “lot of doggerel” from a Dutch Flat contributor, of which he gave a specimen verse, commencing—

“The Assyrian came down like a wolf on the fold.”

Fancy his consternation when, the next week, he opened the *Gold Hill News* and found himself scathingly rebuked as an ignoramus whom it were base flattery to call a literary impostor, and the true authorship of the “Destruction of Senacherib” pointed out to him! Mark was in despair for a while—muttered something about having heard of “a man whose intellect was so dense that it would take the anger of common sense longer to bore into it than it would to bore through Mont Blanc with a carrot, but that his *Gold Hill* critic could discount that man and give the auger a year’s start!”—finally coming to the conclusion to “live it down” and thenceforth to do something “easier” for his sage-brush readers.

THE RULES GOVERNING THE FUR-SEAL FISHERIES.

Our obliging correspondent at Unalaska sends us a copy of the regulations adopted by the Alaska Commercial Company for the general management of the affairs of said Company in the islands of St. George and St. Paul. We confess in reading this document we find a degree of kindness and forethought on the part of the Company which we had not credited them with. "Corporations have no souls" is a stereotyped saying; but it seems in this instance to be inapplicable. Our Government having awarded the exclusive use and control of the seal fishery to the Company named, as the highest bidder, for the term of twenty years, further consults the public interest by laying a tax upon every skin exported, and the Treasury Department very properly exercises through its special agents a close supervision of the conduct of the lessees. The latter not only provide a fair rate of compensation, but make beneficent arrangements for the physical comfort and intellectual culture of the Aleuts in their employ. It is indeed gratifying to find that these facts exist; and we doubt not a business conducted upon principles so just and liberal will command the best wishes of all good citizens. Under the terms of the lease a large annual rental is paid, and the tax laid upon exports adds perhaps a quarter-million yearly to the revenue.

The system under which the seal fishery is conducted, as shown by these regulations, seems to be fully in accordance with the Act of Congress of July 1, 1870. If the regulations are enforced—and we have no reason to doubt that they are—there can be no complaint against the lessees of the islands.

The restrictions placed upon the killing of seals are of the highest importance. It will be seen that only males, and none under one year old, are allowed to be killed; also, that the greatest caution is observed lest the animals be frightened from their rookeries by the discharge of fire arms or by other causes of alarm. Without these precautions the islands would soon cease to witness the visits of the seals, for they are excessively apprehensive of danger, and when once driven from a rookery do not again seek its shelter. Perhaps not least in importance, as a precautionary measure, is the prohibition of the landing of spirituous liquors upon the islands. Evidently the use of the "ardent" could not be safely tolerated in a locality where the indiscretions it would lead to might cause incalculable mischief. The inhabitants of the islands are therefore "sealed" to the cause of temperance, and, with the means of improvement placed within their reach, it is to be hoped they will rapidly acquire the better features of civilized life.

The "Regulations" which follow, bear the signature of the President of the Company, John F. Miller, and are dated January, 1872. Our correspondent assures us that copies are plentifully distributed upon the islands, and their purport made known to all interested:

REGULATIONS.

1. The general management of the Company's affairs on the islands of St. Paul and St. George is entrusted to one General Agent, whose lawful orders and directions must be implicitly obeyed by all subordinate agents and employees.

2. Seals can only be taken on the islands during the months of June, July, September and October of each year; except those killed by the native inhabitants, for food and clothing, under regulations prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury. Female seals and seals less than one year old will not be killed at any time, and the killing of seals in the waters surrounding the islands, or on or about the rookeries, benches, cliffs or rocks, where they haul up from the sea to remain, or by the use of fire-arms, or any other means tending to drive the seals away from the islands, is expressly forbidden.

3. The use of fire-arms on the islands, during the period from the first arrival of seals, in the spring season, until they disappear from the islands in autumn, is prohibited.

4. No dogs will be permitted on the islands.

5. No person will be permitted to kill seals for their skins, on the islands, except under the supervision and authority of the agents of the Company.

6. No vessels other than those employed by the Company, or vessels of the United States, will be permitted to touch at the islands, or to land any persons or merchandise thereon, except in cases of shipwreck or vessels in distress.

7. The number of seals which may be annually killed for their skins on St. Paul Island is limited to 75,000, and the number which may be so killed on St. George Island is limited to 25,000.

8. No persons other than American citizens, or the Aleutian inhabitants of said islands, will be employed by the Company on the islands in any capacity.

9. The Aleutian people living on the islands will be employed by the Company in taking seals for their skins, and they will be paid for the labor of taking each skin and delivering the same at the salt house, forty cents coin, until otherwise ordered by the Secretary of the Treasury. For other labor performed for the Company, proper and remunerative wages will be paid, the amount to be agreed upon between the agents of the Company and the persons employed. The working parties will be under the immediate control of their own chiefs, and no compulsory means will ever be used to induce the people to labor. All shall be free to labor or not, as they may choose. The agents of the Company will make selection of the seals to be killed, and are authorized to use all proper means to prevent the cutting of skins.

10. All provisions and merchandise required by the inhabitants for legitimate use will be furnished them from the Company's stores, at prices not higher than ordinary retail prices at San Francisco, and in no case at prices above 25 per cent. advance on wholesale or invoice prices in San Francisco.

11. The necessary supplies of fuel, oil and salmon will be furnished the people gratis.

12. All widows and orphan children on the islands will be supported by the Company.

13. The landing or manufacture on the islands of spirituous or intoxicating liquors or wines, will under no circumstances be permitted by the Company, and the preparation and use of fermented liquors by the inhabitants, must be discouraged in every legitimate manner.

14. Free transportation and subsistence on the Company's vessels will be furnished all people who at any time desire to remove from the islands to any place in the Aleutian group of islands.

15. Free schools will be maintained by the Company eight months in each year, four hours per day, Sundays and holidays excepted, and agents and teachers will endeavor to secure the attendance of all. The Company will furnish the necessary books, stationery and other appliances for the use of the schools, without cost to the people.

16. The physicians of the Company are required to faithfully attend upon the sick, and both medical attendance and medicines shall be free to all persons on the islands, and the acceptance of gratuities from the people, for such services, is forbidden.

17. The dwelling houses now being erected by the Company, will be occupied by the Aleutian families, free of rent or other charges.

18. No interference on the part of agents or employees of the Company, in the local government of the people on the islands, or in their social or domestic relations or in their religious rites or ceremonies, will be countenanced or tolerated.

19. It is strictly enjoined upon all agents and employees of the Company, to at all times treat the inhabitants of the islands with the utmost kindness, and endeavor to preserve amicable relations with them. Force is never to be used against them, except in defense of life, or to prevent the wanton destruction of valuable property. The agents and employees of the Company are expected to instruct the native people in household economy, and, by precept and example, illustrate to them the principles and benefits of a higher civilization.

20. Faithful and strict compliance with all the provisions and obligations contained in the Act of Congress entitled "An Act to prevent the extermination of fur-bearing animals in Alaska," approved July 1, 1870, and the obligations contained in the lease to the Company executed in pursuance of said Act, and the regulations of the Secretary of the Treasury, prescribed under authority of said Act, is especially enjoined upon all agents and employees of the Company. The authority of the Special Agents of the Treasury, appointed to reside upon the islands, must be respected whenever lawfully exercised. The interest of the Company in the management of the seal fisheries being identical in character with that of the United States, there can be no conflict between the agents of the Company and the agents of the Government, if all concerned faithfully perform their several duties and comply with the laws and regulations.

21. The General Agent of the Company will cause to be kept books of record on each island, in which shall be recorded the names and ages of all the inhabitants of the islands, and, from time to time, all births, marriages and deaths which may occur on the islands, stating, in cases of death, the causes of the same. A full transcript of these records will be annually forwarded to the Home Office at San Francisco.

22. Copies of these regulations will be kept constantly posted in conspicuous places on both islands, and any wilful violation of the same by the agents or employees of the Company will be followed by the summary removal of the offending party.

t HENRY GEORGE, editor of the San Francisco Evening Post, is mentioned as a probable nominee for Congress on the Greeley-Brown ticket. The Yolo Democrat says: "We hope he will win, for we don't believe a more competent man could be selected."

BRIEF MENTION.

ALASKA.

THE United States authorities are making efforts to prevent the sale of whisky to the Indians, but it is a difficult task and requires more light-draft cutters to accomplish it. The coast-line is peculiarly favorable to illicit trade; yet it is well that a check, at least, is kept upon it, and it is to be hoped that a more adequate force will soon be provided.

Fort Wrangell is situated in the northwestern part of Wrangell Island, lat. 58 deg. 31 min. and lon. 132 deg. 23 min. There is here a good harbor; coal is found, and timber in abundance. The adjacent waters are remarkable for the vast numbers of fish which resort to it at intervals, particularly herring. Of this fish an Indian will secure a canoe load in fifteen to twenty minutes, with the aid of a pole having a three-pointed fork attached, which he uses as a rake. Fort Wrangell has a post-office, over which R. R. Lear presides.

Fort Tongas was made a military post by the United States in 1867. The harbor (Tayakoniti) which it commands is the first anchorage found in the southern portion of Alaska. A post office is maintained, Charles W. Walden being the Postmaster. A village of Tongus Indians is located at this point. There are no soldiers stationed here at the present time.

OUR Eastern readers who may wish to see portions of Alaska without incurring an outlay of money and time for the trip, can obtain some charming views of the country, its harbors, forts and public buildings, as well as faithful delineations of its inhabitants, by ordering a set of Muybridge's excellent photographs.

The best passage in the Aleutian Islands, for vessels bound for Bering Sea, is said to be between Unimak and Akhlon, known as the Unimak Pass; lat. 54 deg. 40 min. N., lon. 165 deg. W.

WASHINGTON TERRITORY.

Port Townsend and Seattle are "arming" against small-pox.

Fourth of July was celebrated in the principal towns in a spirited and becoming manner.

Fettis, proprietor of the Walla Walla and Lewiston stage line, has a petition twenty-four feet long for a daily mail line from Lewiston to Walla Walla.

Several persons have taken up claims on the prairies of the upper Humptulip. The soil is of an excellent character; large crops of elk and black bear are annually harvested.

We learn that the Billings and Wylie donation claims, on Budd's Inlet, have been designated as tracts of land from which a selection will be made by the Northern Pacific Railroad Company for a terminus for the branch road to the Sound by way of Olympia.

At the rate the Land Office at Olympia did business last month (says the *Tribune*) all the public lands in the Puget Sound basin will soon be disposed of. Speculators are gobbling up the land fast; but we believe their investments mainly embrace localities in close proximity to the water, thus leaving sections best adapted to agriculture for settlers. Ere long, however, these will be encroached on by the land-grabbers, so that no time should be lost in acquiring farms by those who wish to follow that pursuit.

OREGON.

A species of fish is found in Eastern Oregon, near Grand Ronde Valley, which very nearly resembles the imported gold-fish to be found in our markets.

A party is engaged in examining the Willamette river at Portland, to find the most favorable location for the proposed bridge over the river at that place.

We learn (says the *Salem Mercury*) that the prospects of the Santiam mines are flattering, as good ore in large quantities is being unearthed. Work is kept up night and day.

At least \$1,000,000 is the estimated value of the Dalles salmon fisheries, and the Dalles *Mountaineer* is in favor of reopening the treaty by which the whites got possession of them, and paying the Indians something like a fair compensation.

Coom Bay has a few wants—among them, a Collection District with a Collector's office on the Bay; a canal to connect the Coquille river with Coos Bay; a tri-weekly mail over the wagon-road, connecting with the daily line from San Francisco to Portland.

МЕХОВАЯ ТОРГОВЛЯ

ВЪ САН-ФРАНЦИСКО.

LIST OF PRICES FOR FURS,

IN SAN FRANCISCO.

Bear, black, prime, fine	....	....	skin, from \$ 3 00 @ \$5 00
Черный Медведь самый пушистый, —	отъ	до	
do do do heavy	....	do	2 00 do 3 00
жесткий			
do do seconds	....	....	do 1 00 do 1 50
второго сорта			
do do cubs	....	....	do 0 50 do 1 00
медвеженокъ			
do brown and grizzly, about 25 % c. less than black			
черный съ просвѣдо			дешевле чѣмъ черный
Badger	....	....	skin, from \$ 0 50 do 1 00
Барсукъ			
Fisher, prime, dark	....	....	do 2 00 do 5 50
Фишеръ первого сорта, черный			
do do pale	....	....	do 1 00 do 1 50
блѣдный			
do seconds	....	....	do 1 00 do 1 50
второго сорта			
Fox, Silver	....	....	do 4 00 do 50 00
Серебристая Лисица			
do Cross	....	....	do 2 00 do 2 50
Пятенная			
do Red	....	....	do 0 50 do 1 00
Красная			
do Kit	....	....	do 0 40 do 0 50
Маленькая			
do White	....	....	do 0 75 do 1 00
Бѣлая			
do Gray	....	....	do 0 40 do 0 50
Сѣрая			
Lynx	....	....	do 1 00 do 1 10
Рысь			
Marten, prime, dark	....	....	do 2 00 do 9 00
Соболь, черный			
do do pale	....	....	do 1 00 do 1 25
блѣдный			
do seconds	....	....	do 0 50 do 1 00
второго сорта			
do thirds	....	....	do 0 25 do 0 50
третьяго сорта			
Mink, dark, northern, prime	....	....	do 0 40 do 5 75
Норка черная, сѣверная, первого сорта			
do pale, southern	....	....	do 0 50 do 0 75
Бѣлая, южная			
do seconds	....	....	do 0 40 do 0 55
второго сорта			
do thirds	....	....	do 0 20 do 0 25
третьяго сорта			
Muskrat	....	....	do \$0 05 @ 0 10
Выхухоль			
Otter Sea, prime, dark silvery	....	....	do 15 00 do 75 00
Бобръ Морской, первого сорта,			
do do do	....	....	do 5 00 do 10 00
второго сорта			
do do do brown	....	....	do 5 00 do 10 00
черный			
do do do pups	....	....	do 0 50 do 1 00
блѣднаго цвѣта			
Otter, land, prime, dark, northern	....	....	do 1 50 do 5 50

THE ALASKA HERALD.

Vol. V.

JULY 24, 1872.

No. 109.

UNGA AND KADIAK ISLANDS.

[CORRESPONDENCE OF THE ALASKA HERALD.]

Having lately made a trip among the islands along the Alaskan Peninsula, it has occurred to me a few of my notes by the way might be acceptable, though they present no items of sensational news.

I found affairs quiet, the natives in most respects contented, and generally a prosperous condition of things. The village of Unga has a population of about 200 Creoles. The Creoles of Alaska are the offspring of Russian and Aleutian intermarriage. In Unga and elsewhere many of the Russians brought from Siberia thus provided themselves with families. As a rule, the Creoles are bright and intelligent; they are, at Unga, occupied in fishing and hunting, for the purpose of traffic as well as daily food.

An eager desire is evinced to learn the language and arts of the white races, the children availing themselves of every opportunity to learn to speak English. There is no school at Unga, but the leading men would support one if they could procure a teacher. A school is greatly needed to prepare the young to become useful and intelligent citizens of the Republic. A little Russo-Greek church is about the only public building. Some San Francisco merchants have trading posts there. There is enough of competition to make trade profitable for the natives.

On Kadiak Island a regular priest is stationed, and quite a handsome Russo-Greek church adorns the village of Kadiak. The natives, like those at Unga, are for the most part fishermen and hunters; that which is said, above, of the educational necessities and the disposition to maintain schools, is applicable here. Earnest effort should be put forth to supply these people with teachers.

Kadiak, Wood and Adignek, all adjacent, have a population of from 2,000 to 3,000 inhabitants.

At all the settlements I visited, both native and white settlers were attempting to raise agricultural products. On both Unga and Kadiak Islands splendid lettuce, cabbage, turnips, onions, beets and other vegetables were growing. Potatoes are seen, but they are "small potatoes" indeed. It is thought apple-trees of the hard variety will thrive at Kadiak.

While cruising about I extended my voyage to Unalaska. This is one of the most promising places in the Territory, with a population of about 600. It is rapidly becoming the headquarters of whalers, who make it a resort to replenish their supplies and take on wood and water. Fishing and hunting constitute the chief source of wealth. The sea-otter trade is becoming of great importance at Unalaska.

I am of opinion that, according to population, this is the most moral Territory in the Union. Theft and crime are almost unknown. Suicide and abortion are never heard-of. The "social evil," except where introduced at the seaports, does not exist. As to the honesty of the Alaskans, well-informed travelers declare that jewelry, money and watches are as safe in the hands of the Aleuts as if locked up in the Bank of England. Their hospitality is proverbial. That they will drink strong liquors when they can procure them, is true; and it is equally true that the appetite, once aroused, is almost insatiable; but against this weakness they are to some extent—and should be altogether—guarded by restrictions upon the traffic carried on with them by the whites.

J. H.

PHOTOGRAPHS OF ALASKA.

Just previous to the late General Halleck's departure East, he made a tour of inspection to Alaska Territory, and, by instruction of the Secretary of War, was accompanied by our celebrated photographic artist Muybridge, who made a series of the most picturesque and valuable photographs we have ever seen. The Hon. Wm. H. Seward thought very highly of them and addressed Mr. Muybridge a very complimentary letter in acknowledgment of his appreciation. They comprise about three dozen stereoscopic views of Sitka, Fort Wrangle, Fort Tongass, etc., portraits of Indians, illustrations of Indian life and flying views from ship board; giving a far better idea of the aspects of the country than a volume of reading matter.

The price is three dollars coin per dozen and for this amount we will forward a dozen or more, postage free to any part of the world.

There are also about a dozen larger sized views of the same subject 7 by 9 inches of equal if not superior merit to the stereographs; these we will forward free of postage upon receipt of \$1.25, coin, each.

Orders for Pictures, as above, may be sent, care of the Publisher of the HERALD, and will meet with prompt attention.

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ALASKA



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The Herald is issued semi-monthly. Orders for copies may be left at the office, 113 Leidesdorff street (Room No. 3), or with White & Bauer, News-Dealers, 413 Washington street. Letters and communications should be addressed: A. A. Stickney, Editor Alaska Herald (Post Office Box, 821).

LETTER FROM BELKOVSKY.

[CORRESPONDENCE OF THE ALASKA HERALD.]

By a friend who leaves here in a day or two for San Francisco, I forward you some notes of general information. We are so far away from the base of supplies, and communication therewith is so infrequent, that whenever the opportunity presents itself we like to avail ourselves of it. Although so distant we do not forget that we owe firm allegiance to the American Eagle. In proof of this, the last Fourth of July was celebrated in characteristic style throughout the Territory. Of course there was not an unusual amount of powder burned, nor did tons of fire-crackers startle the natives into patriotic delight, but there were "drinks all round" and specimens of Alaskan oratory that fascinated and charmed all who heard them. Wherever there was an abundant supply of *vodka* (whisky), there was the rejoicing greatest; for in this cold climate it is almost impossible to keep the spirits up unless you can get certain other spirits down. We no longer get supplies of that strong and vigorous alcoholic stimulant called Russian rum, but we do not seriously feel its want if we can get even a limited quantity of *vodka*. This, however (and perhaps fortunately for us) is scarce, either in the Russian or Bourbon brands, and it is not infrequently brings from \$10 to \$20 per bottle. The natives distill a liquor called *quass*, from sugar and flour. The effect of this *quass* upon the human system differs according to the thickness of the blood and the mental condition of the imbibor. Some assert that it makes them dull and stupid, and acts upon them like a dose of morphine; others become as lively and frisky as fleas, while under its influence a few become inspired and get into the poetic vein. As a liquid it has been compared to a mixture of diawater and ginger pop, having the fizzle of the latter and the thick, sullen look of the former. But no matter, it has the effect of intoxicating, and does very well when we cannot get opium, tobacco or the best brands of Kentucky whisky.

To change the subject, and speak of matters and things about Belkovey, I will state that at present this burg is almost deserted by its male inhabitants. The men are all away, fishing and hunting, so that the village and adjacent points contain some 400 or 500 grass widows, some of whom are extremely graceful and good-looking. These women, especially the Creoles, have beautiful hands—small, white, delicate, aristocratic hands, such as a French painter would delight to pencil. I am told by those who have visited Sitka that the Creoles have the most beautiful little hands and feet of any women in the world. This may be disputed in certain quarters, and I will not undertake to be the umpire; but if true, no doubt the women of Alaska will yet find some amorous poet to sing their praises. Your correspondent, in behalf of himself, can say that many of the Aleutian women are extremely pleasant and just as coquettish as some of their more civilized sisters. In what I say of the handsome grass widows of Belkovsky, I do not mean to induce a hegira of bachelors from your city, for the few white men here now are jealous of the sacred trust confided to them; and the departure of the lords of creation from their homes, being an accustomed deprivation, does not, as in some other communities, open up a prospect of divorce suits.

Unless the traveler were well posted he would scarcely know that any people lived here. The houses are all built in the ground, and the natives live in these caves, as happy and contented as do the

actions of royalty in their places. The chief indication of civilization here is the Russian church, which may be seen at a distance from the sea. There are also two or three stores belonging to traders. Beyond these one might sail in front of Belkovsky, and, if not posted, would scarcely dream that along the shore there was a village underground.

We have some news from the Shumagin Islands which may be interesting to you. During the month of June a number of the cod-fishing fleet were there hard at work, among them the "Roscoe," "Wild Gazelle," "Flying Mist" and "Legal Tender." They had very good success. The season promises to be an excellent one.

Dr. Dull and his surveying party were at Unga on the 4th of July, on board the schooner "Humboldt." They are busily engaged in prosecuting their portion of the Coast Survey. It is the intention of Dr. Dull to reach San Francisco by next September. All were in excellent health. As to the benefits to accrue from this survey, they no doubt seem of more interest and importance to scientific men than to the general public, yet they will ultimately prove of great practical value. The chief of the expedition has written a valuable and very readable work on Alaska, and it is not improbable that he may give the public another (smaller) work as the result of his experiences along the peninsula of Alaska.

During this summer the weather has been extremely cloudy and foggy all along the Alaskan coast. The reports say that it has rained almost constantly, and that the sun has been in obscurity nearly all the time. The atmosphere in this locality has partaken of the general characteristics of the country. We have got used to it, though, and as we do not expect to enjoy the balmy clime of Italy, we are not disappointed. If we can procure plenty of furs and plenty to eat (and of both we have fair supplies), we do not grumble. Generally speaking, we take the world easy here, and are reconciled to our fate. We are happy and virtuous, if not wealthy. B.

PETRO gives this description of the Sea Elephant, or Proboscis Seal: It has the enormous dimensions of twenty, twenty-five, and even thirty feet in length, with a circumference of from fifteen to eighteen feet. Its color is sometimes grayish, sometimes blue-gray, and more rarely dark-brown; it is earless; has great whiskers, composed of strong, coarse hairs, very long and twisted somewhat like a screw, with other similar hairs over each eye; eyes large and prominent; strong, powerful paws, margined with five small black nails; a very short tail, almost hid between two flat horizontal fins. When in a state of repose, its nostrils, shrunk and pendant, serve only to make the face appear larger, but when he rouses himself, respires violently, is about to attack, or wishes to defend himself, the proboscis becomes elongated in the form of a tube to the length of about a foot. Females are destitute of this organization, and have the upper lip even somewhat cleft. In both sexes the hair is exceedingly coarse and close, and hence cannot be compared in value with the finer skins of many other seals.

THE "Dickens Dictionary" will be a curiosity in its way. It is a duodecimo of nearly six hundred pages, and contains an alphabetical list of Dickens' short stories and novels, with date of publication; outlines of the incidents in each of the novels proper; a classified list of the principal characters in Dickens' works; an index of stories, incidents, persons and places; and extracts from biographies of Dickens, which are explanatory of some points in various stories.

THE small-pox season in San Francisco is over; the coming epidemic takes the form of slings, which the juvenile population are practicing with—not gin slings, but humble, though very effective, imitations of the weapon which sent the great and good Goliath to grass some years since. Having no giants who will stand any such nonsense, to practice on, the boys make out as well as they can with Chinamen. Next!

THIS little anecdote, like many another good thing, is going the rounds without credit. It would make any man laugh who was not "given over to hardness of heart" and a sour stomach:

KICKED BY A MULE.

Jake Johnson had a mule. There was nothing remarkable in the mere fact of his being the possessor of such an animal; but there was something peculiar about this mule. He could kick higher, hit harder on the slightest provocation, and act uglier, than any mule on record.

One morning, riding his property to market, Jake met Jim Boggs, against whom he held an old, but concealed grudge. He knew Boggs' weakness lay in bragging and betting; therefore he saluted him accordingly.

"How, are you, Jim? Fine morning."

"Hearty, squire," replied Jim. "Fine weather. Nice mule that. Will he do to bet on?"

"Bet on? Guess he will. I tell you, Jim Boggs, he's the best mule in this country."

"Great smash! Is that so?" ejaculated Jim.

"Solid truth, every word of it. Tell you, confidentially, Jim, I am taking him to town for betting purposes. I'll bet he can kick a fly off from any man without hurting him."

"Now, look here, squire," said Jim, "I'm not a betting character, but I'll bet you something on that myself."

"Jim, there's no use; don't you bet. I don't want to win your money."

"Don't be alarmed, squire; I'll take such bets as them every time."

"Well, if you are determined to bet, I will risk a small stake—say five dollars."

"All right, squire; you're my man. But who will he kick the fly off? Nobody's here but you and I. You try him."

"No," says Johnson; "I have to be by the mule's head, to order him."

"Oh, yes!" says Jim. "Then probably I'm the man. Well, I'll do it; but you are to bet ten against my five, if I risk it."

"All right," quoth the squire. "Now, Jim, there is a fly on your shoulder. Stand still." And Johnson adjusted the mule.

"Whist, Jervey!" said he.

The mule raised his heels, and Boggs rose in the air like a bird and alighted on all fours in a muddy ditch by the roadside.

Rising, in a towering rage, he exclaimed: "Yes, that is a smart mule! I knew the darned cuss couldn't do it. You had that all put up. I wouldn't be kicked like that for fifty dollars. You can just fork over them 'ere stakes for it, any way."

"Not so fast, Jim! Jervey did just what I said he could—that is, kick a fly off a man without its hurting him. You see the mule ain't hurt a particle. However, if you're not satisfied, we will try it again."

"No, I'll be darned if we do!" growled Jim. "I'd rather have a barn fall on me at once than have that critter kick me again. Keep the stakes; but don't say anything about it."

And Boggs limped off in bitterness of soul, murmuring, "Sold again! and kicked by a mule!"

A CORRESPONDENT of the Springfield Republican makes the following statement:

While visiting a friend in a Western city, it was the daily practice of the host to convene his family for morning and evening devotions, and at the close the whole family united in audibly repeating the Lord's Prayer. A small terrier dog had been a pet in the family many years, and when the response commenced would join by uttering a low whine, modulating his voice in unison with the others, and emphasizing the amen with a peculiar snap. To a stranger unaccustomed to this canine development of the religious element, the scene was so intensely ludicrous that his dogship was never permitted to exhibit his remarkable gift of prayer when visitors were present, except when overlooked, as on the occasion of my visit.

AS A STOUT OLD LADY got out of a crowded coach in front of the Russ House, the other day, she exclaimed, "Well, that's a relief, anyhow!" To which the driver, eyeing her ample proportions, replied, "So the 'osses think, mum."

THE two most precious things on this side the grave are reputation and life. But the most contemptible whisper may destroy the one, and the weakest weapon take away the other.

A WIDOWER was rejected by a damsel, on the ground that she didn't want a "warmed-over" man.

AN individual in this city (says the New York Figaro) writes to us as follows: "Will you please tell me if there is any word which rhymes with 'loosed'? I am very anxious to know, and I cannot think of any myself." We are somewhat indisposed to help this miserable being, because we are morally certain that he is hatching out some kind of a terrific poem with which to torment newspaper editors who never did him any harm. We will give him what assistance we can, however, with the express understanding that he is to commit suicide as soon as he gets it. There are only a few words which rhyme with "loosed." One of these is "loosed." But that word should be used carefully. It would not appear to advantage in a tender love poem, or in lines upon the death of a very dear friend. It is in some sense a humorous word, and would of course be very appropriate in a comic poem. If our friend contemplates writing a comic poem we should like to have early information of the fact so that he can be dispatched at once, before he perpetrates the outrage. We will brain him ourselves with an axe in order to save the human race from such misery. The word "roost" also rhymes pretty well with "loosed," but it, too, requires cautious manipulation. Suppose, now, you were writing a hymn, and you jammed in the word "roost" because you were crazy to find a rhyme for "loosed," and that hymn should be placed in a church collection. It would cause disgraceful merriment in the sanctuary, and the Sunday school boys would laugh and have fights with the sexton when he tried to put them out. Therefore, we recommend the word "sluiced," which would work very well in a sentimental poem; or, "reduced," which would suit a labor poem on the eight-hour system; or, "noosed," which might answer for a poetic description of an execution [or a wedding]; or, "refused," which, although a little rickety as a rhyme, would exactly describe the condition of the completed poem the very minute it got into an editor's hands.

PROF. AGASSIZ comes to the conclusion that the continent of North America was once covered with ice, thereby agreeing with Prof. Hitchcock and other eminent geological writers concerning the glacial period. In proof of this conclusion, he says that the slopes of the Alleghany range of mountains are glacier-worn to the very top, except a few points which were above the level of the icy mass. Mount Washington, for instance, is over 6,000 feet high, and the rough, unpolished surface of its summit, covered with loose fragments, just below the level of which glacier marks come to an end, tells that it once lifted its head above the desolate ice and snow. In this region, then, the thickness of the ice cannot have been much less than 6,000 feet, and this is in keeping with the same kind of evidence in other parts of the country; for when the mountains are much below 6,000 feet, the ice seems to have passed directly above them, while the few peaks rising to that height were untouched. Prof. Agassiz argues that the glacier was God's great plow, and when the ice vanished from the land it left it prepared for the hands of the husbandman. He thinks the hard surfaces of the rocks were ground to powder, and the elements of the soil were mingled in fair proportions; granite was carried into lime regions, lime was mingled with the more arid and unproductive granite districts, and a soil was prepared fit for the agricultural uses of man. All over the populous regions there are evidences to show that at one period the heat of the tropics extended all over the globe. The ice period is supposed to have been long subsequent to this, and next to the last before the advent of man.

A GENTLEMAN, using his best endeavors to escape treading on the long walking-train of a lady, did not succeed, when the lady turned upon him with the remark that he had better charter an omnibus if he didn't know how to walk. "Madam," he responded, "I humbly beg your pardon; I thought you had passed some time ago."

A MAN in New Fairfield, Ohio, who failed to get a thirty-cent pineapple for a quarter of a dollar, wanted to know "whether we were breathing the pure air of freedom, or being strangled with the fetid breath of an unholy despotism." The storekeeper said there none of that sort of pine-apples in the market.

"HENRIETTA," said a landlady to her new girl, "when there's bad news, particularly private afflictions, always let the boarders know it before dinner. It may seem strange to you, Henrietta, but such things make a great difference in the eating in the course of a year."

THE conquest of Siberia from the Tartars was effected in 1582. In 1581 the Cosack General Yermak added Western Siberia to the possessions of the Czar. August 6th was the anniversary of the General's death, which occurred in 1584.—Gazetteer.

PERSEVERE AND PROSPER.

BY JOHN O. SAXE.

"To the manly will there's ever a way!"
Said a simple Arab youth;
"And I'm going to try, this very day,
If my teacher tells the truth."

He's always saying—the good old man—
"Now, please remember, my dear,
You're sure to win, whatever you plan,
If you steadily persevere!"

I mean to try it—upon my life!
If I go through fire and water;
And since I wish to marry a wife,
I'll have the Caliph's daughter!"

So off to the Vizier straight he goes,
Who only laughed at the lad,
And said him "Nay"—as you may suppose—
For he thought the fellow was mad!

And still, for many and many a day
He came to plead his case,
But the Vizier only answered "Nay!"
And laughed him in the face.

At last the Caliph came across
The youth in the Vizier's hall,
And, asking what his errand was,
The Vizier told him all.

"Now, by my head!" the Caliph said,
"Tis only the wise and great
A Caliph's daughter may ask to wed—
For rank with rank must mate;

Unless, mayhap, some valiant deed
May serve for an equal claim,
(For merit, I own, should have its meed,
And princes yield to fame.)

In the Tigris once a gem was lost—
'Twas ages and ages since—
A ruby of wondrous size and cost,
And fit for the noblest prince.

That gem, my lad, must surely be
Somewhere beneath the water—
Go find it, boy, and bring it to me,
'Then come and marry my daughter!"

"And so I will!" the lad replied,
And off to the river he ran;
And he dips away at the foamy tide
As fast as ever he can.

With a little cup he dips away—
Now, what's the fellow about?
He's going to find the gem some day
By draining the Tigris out!

And still he dips by day and night,
Till the fishes begin to cry:
"This fellow is such a willful wight!
He'll dip the river dry."

And so they sent their monarch to say—
A wise and reverend fish—
"Now, why are you dipping our water away?
And what do you please to wish?"

"I want the ruby, sir!" he cried;
"Well, please to let us alone,
And stop your dipping," the fish-king cried,
And the gem shall be your own!"

And he fetched the ruby of wondrous size
From out of the foamy water;
And so the lad obtained his prize,
And wedded the Caliph's daughter!

MORAL.

This pleasant story was meant to teach
That pluck is more than skill;
And few are the ends beyond the reach
Of a strong, untiring will.

Русские, собравшись въ Нью-Йоркъ, основали "РУССКІЙ КРУЖОКЪ," какъ съ цѣлю объединенія Русскихъ, живущихъ въ Нью-Йоркъ и другихъ мѣстахъ Соединенныхъ Штатовъ, такъ и съ цѣлю взаимной помощи. Двери засѣданій "Русскаго Кружка" открыты для всѣхъ, желающихъ посѣтить Собраніе. Всѣ пренія и дѣла "Кружка" ведутся на русскомъ языкѣ. Дѣйствительнымъ членомъ "Русскаго Кружка" можетъ быть только Русскій. Въ почетные члены принимается всякій, безъ различія національностей. Письма и корреспонденціи, присылаемыя на имя "Кружка," адресуются такъ:

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THE ALASKA HERALD.

A. A. STICKNEY, EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

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No. 110.

A RUMOR has gained credence that the North San Juan boundary question has been decided by Emperor William of Germany in accordance with the views and claims of the United States. Such a decision is regarded by well-informed persons at Washington as a very probable event, but no official advices have yet been received that a decision of any kind has been arrived at. The final argument has been submitted, and Bancroft's facts and conclusions have been laid before the arbitrator in a paper of characteristic ability and clearness. It is not presumed that His Majesty will give the voluminous evidence submitted by both parties a personal examination, but will commit this portion of the work to competent agents, upon whose report he will carefully deliberate and give judgment. The former treaty declared that the boundary should be the channels which separated the islands from the continent, though it was at first the intention to name the Haro Channel, and it was an imperfect knowledge of the country that led to a different designation. Either the Rosario or the Haro Channel must now be chosen, any intermediate channel as a basis of compromise having been refused by the United States Commissioners. Mr. Bancroft has been able to show that the Haro is the "principal" channel (the point upon which the controversy is expected to turn), having a flow of five times as much water as the Rosario, and being nowhere less than four miles wide, so that vessels of either Government can pass through without touching the territory of the other, and keep more than three miles from the other's sacred soil. The whole matter being thus simplified, the average mind is filled with wonder that so many years of discussion—sometimes assuming a sanguinary tone—should have been thought necessary, and so vast a quantity of diplomatic ink have been required, for its solution. We think the best question for the high contending parties to refer to Kaiser William is, the cash value of all Great Britain's possessions lying between Washington Territory and Alaska, with the outlying islands. The "chasm" which separates our people on the Pacific Coast is not now a "bloody" one, but it suggests unpleasant possibilities and the American eagle worries himself just a little as he waits for it to be filled up.

A NUMBER of clergymen recently met in San Francisco to discuss the "Hoodlum" problem. As usual, the burden of complaint was that the youth of our cities are converted into rowdies, thieves and murderers by the action of the trade societies, limiting the number of apprentices to be taught the various mechanical arts. One gentleman hoped an institution would be founded in which boys might find at all times the opportunity for such tuition, and thus be removed from the streets and the haunts of vice. These philanthropic gentlemen seem always to overlook an avenue of employment which can be much more readily opened, and which, in this country, cannot be uncomfortably crowded for a century to come, at least. Why not establish farming-schools in various parts of the State? These would be self-supporting, and in their turn would greatly enhance the labor demand of the mechanical industries; they would incidentally, also, afford a refuge for adults incapacitated for more work than their daily wants require. The State should own land enough for this purpose, and it should be its care that none of its people—however virtuous—are compelled to want the necessities of life. The condemned criminal is fed and clothed; would it not be well to prevent the idleness and dissipation which lead to crime? and is it to be expected that the working men and women of the land can accomplish this work of prevention for the youth by simply inducting the latter into their trades with the prospect of soon being without employment themselves? Other classes have a duty in this matter, and it is time they cast about them for some plan which would distribute the burden, if such it be, equally. We think the farm-school is the thing. True, there are Reformatories where the details of agriculture are taught; but we need Preventories, where no badge of disgrace shall attach to the student and laborer, and where that trade which most of all up-builds personal independence and strengthens the State can be thoroughly learned. The subject is worthy more extended comment than our space at this time permits—it concerns the welfare of every portion of our country, and especially of those newly-opened regions which California and other States are to supply with inhabitants as the years go by.

THE LIQUOR TRAFFIC IN ALASKA—MISSIONARY WORK.

We are sure no one who read the last number of the HERALD failed to be impressed with a sense of responsibility and duty to our Indian charges in Alaska, as the following from an intelligent observer came under his eye:

"The Indian, unchanged by contact with the whites, is in my mind a child without the trusting affection of childhood, and with the will and passions of a man. Read by this standard, he may be fairly judged. One fact may be unhesitatingly avowed: if he can obtain intoxicating liquors he is lost. Neither missionaries nor teachers can save him while it is within his reach. A general glance at the condition of the American Indians at this time conveys only one idea, which is, that the trader outstrips all restraints, and that the whole race is irrevocably doomed."

The profits arising from the liquor traffic offer a very great temptation to traders, and there is a class of individuals to whom moral and humane considerations are as nothing when weighed against immediate self-interest. These creatures listen to no entreaty and laugh at laws which are not backed up by adequate means of enforcement. The honorable, legitimate trader, who looks further than to the gains of a season or two, deplors the existence of such a class, and will give his aid to bring the reckless violators of law and the permanent interests of the country to justice. The Indians of Alaska should be spared the fate which has befallen their brethren wherever the white man has been permitted to introduce alcoholic stimulants for the purposes of gain and plunder. To appeal to no higher sentiment than that which calculates the actual value in hard cash of everything, animate and inanimate—it is plain that these Indians are worth being cared for by our Government. Their places as hunters and fishermen (considering the nature of the country they inhabit) cannot well be supplied, and in permitting them to be destroyed by alcoholic poisons, a source of supply is impaired which is important to the social and commercial wants of civilized life. Neither fear nor favor should stand in the way of their protection from the scourge of intemperance. There is no lack of means for procuring the products of their forests and waters, without the exchanging of whisky therefor; nothing, however fanciful, in their list of purchases, can so blight them and finally impoverish their trade.

To those who can listen to arguments founded upon duty and justice, it may be unnecessary to say that any and all of God's creatures are worth saving; but besides being the offspring of a common Parent and designed to reflect His image equally with all other human beings, it may be truthfully said that they are, as a rule, less savage and cruel than most other tribes of the Indian race, and also much more teachable and ready to copy the manners and customs of their white instructors. The Indians of Alaska are not so stupid as the Diggers of California; nor are they brutal and malignant, as a people, like the Apaches of Arizona. A hopeful field is therefore open to intelligent cultivation, with every promise that a few years of patient, judicious teaching may redeem the people from the ignorance and superstition to which they are born thralls.

This thought recalls the remarks of the writer quoted above, upon missionary teaching, which will bear repeating:

"Indians are fond of singing; they are also fond of tobacco, and for a pipeful apiece you may baptize a whole tribe. Why will intelligent men still go on, talking three or four times a year to Indians, on doctrinal subjects, by means of a jargon which cannot express an abstract idea, and the use of which only throws ridicule on sacred things—and still call such work spreading the truths of Christianity? "When the missionary will leave the trading-posts, strike out into the wilderness, live with the Indians, teach them cleanliness first, morality next, and by slow and simple teaching lead their thoughts above the hunt or the camp—then, and not until then, will they be competent to comprehend the simplest principles of right and wrong."

No doubt some of our clerical friends regard this kind of advice as little better than downright heresy; but in our view it is practical common sense. To encounter an untutored red man with a sermon upon some abstruse question of theology is not proof of more intelligence than is needed to sustain a man within the realms of

A FREE REPORT OF A FREE DISCUSSION.

civilization; and yet persons are sometimes sent beyond the border who look upon the "plan of salvation" as the easiest thing in life to understand and the first thing to be laid before their uncultivated hearers. Why, we know red men who claim to be of a vastly improved order, who would have to receive the great truths of Christianity in small installments, or strangle; and what can be expected of their unpretending brethren of the forest and glade?

To be an effective missionary among the Indians, evidently one must adopt as his motto, "Make haste slowly," and must not despise the humble arts by which the physical man is made wholesome and healthful. These attended to, and made part of his every-day life, he will gradually open his spiritual ear to the lessons of the Gospel.

THE SEA OTTER.

The sea otter possesses historic interest, its quest having led the Russians from Ochotzk to Kamchatka, and thence over the Aleutian chain to the opposite coast of America. It formerly outranked the fur-seal in commercial importance, and still occupies a high place in the affections of traders. At maturity its skin measures about six feet in length and four feet in breadth. It has a soft fur, black, but frequently beautified with tippings of white; its eyes are of a dark brown hue; front teeth sharp, catlike, back teeth rounded and adapted to the purpose of crushing bones and shells. The sea otter lives principally upon fish. During the winter it confines itself to the ice near shore or seeks the shore itself. In summer it frequently ascends rivers as far as fresh water lakes, the male being accompanied by but one female; the latter is gravid eight or nine months, and generally brings forth but one at a birth. The sea otter sometimes attains a weight of eighty pounds. The manner of its capture is thus described by Dall:

"In Alaska the Aleuts or other natives are the otter-hunters. A large number of bidarkas take provisions for a day or two, and when the weather is calm, put out, often out of sight of land. When arrived on the banks most frequented by these animals, the bidarkas form in a long line, the leader in the middle; they paddle softly over the water, so as to make no disturbance. If an Aleut sees an otter's nose, which is usually the only part above the surface, he throws his dart and at the same time elevates his paddle perpendicularly in the air. The ends of the line dart forward, so as to encircle the animal in a cordon of bidarkas, and every one is on the watch for the second appearance of the otter. The same process is repeated until the animal, worn out with diving, lies exhausted on the surface, an easy prize for his captors. The skin belongs to the hunter who first struck it, or to him who struck nearest the head. If two wounds are inflicted at the same distance from the nose, that on the right side has the preference. Guns are not used, as they are said to scare away the otters."

The Russians directed their attention to the capture of sea otters on the Alaskan coast at an early period. In 1788, 3,000 skins were obtained by Delareff in Cook's Inlet; and in 1794, Barnoff's expedition to Bering Bay took away about 2,000. The animal was formerly abundant on the Kamchatkan coast and on the American coast as far south as Lower California; but, owing to its habits, it is difficult to prevent indiscriminate slaughter, and it is now scarcely known in many localities where it was once abundant. We have no accurate information of the number of skins now annually taken, but some estimates place it at from four to five thousand. In San Francisco the skins bring from \$15 to \$75 each, according to class and quality. At one time, in Europe, they were sold at from \$200 to \$500 each, but the competition with other furs has reduced their value to, say, \$20 to \$85.

A CITIZEN of the Tenth Ward, San Francisco, passing a family grocery during the recent small-pox visitation, heard a man hail the grocer from a wagon: "I got small pox eggs last night." The sense of horror experienced in receiving this intelligence of a new mode of distributing one of the most loathesome diseases known to humanity, can be imagined. A moment of disgust and terror, and then the listener was relieved by finding that the occupant of the wagon had not overcome that Teutonic perverseness which substitutes a *p* for a *b* upon all possible occasions.

It was our good fortune, not long since, to listen to a debate upon the subject of thought-reading—the discussion embracing not only the existence of the faculty but the feasibility of cultivating it. One speaker thought the ability of each individual to read the mind of another was inherent, but that ignorance on this, as many other points, was not infrequently bliss. For instance, lovers would appear at great disadvantage were thoughts like these discernible: "I wish he would 'pop,' it's very tiresome to live an old maid's life, and he's better than nobody." "She's ogling me fearfully—wonder if she takes me for an idiot? however, I'll keep her on the string till I see if there's no other chance." Heirs expectant, and gouty, rich old uncles would sometimes have very unpleasant revelations—the former betraying his impatience at the tenacity with which the latter held on to vitality, while the old codger's exposed cerebrum would indicate that he knew very well that "only mercenary motives procured him attentions and proffers of sympathy from the young scapegrace." Still, the world would soon reach a higher plane of morality under the influence of thought-reading, and the speaker concluded that the good to be attained more than balanced the little unpleasantnesses that for a time would occur.

While it was sagely admitted by most of the speakers that facial changes, modulations of voice, the expression of the eye, etc., were outward manifestations commonly understood and quite serviceable, a number avowed their belief in a medium of thought-reading and thought-reading as much superior to these commonplace devices as is the electric telegraph to a system of flag signals. They spoke of a "brain wave," which, awakened to activity in one cranium, moved on until it met a similar current evolved by another brain, with which it blended in sympathy, and through which persons were enabled to influence their friends at any distance. The statement was made by a physician (who remarked that this was his first appearance on any stage), that while his wife was many miles from him he became aware through this brain current that she was unwell, and he immediately telegraphed her a prescription by the same mental process. An exchange of letters by mail soon took place, and proved that the "messages" were genuine and correct.

Viewed in this light, thought-reading would include within its scope the minds of those only who were in harmony, and would not interfere with business—would cut no figure in a horse trade, and would be at the safest imaginable distance from a transaction in stocks.

We all know that wonderful coincidences are occasionally noted, and that superstitious persons attribute everything of the kind to a superhuman agency. Some of the brain-wave theorists claim to be above this weakness; with them every apparent difficulty is easily overcome—and the interchange of thought and information by persons who are thousands of miles apart is just as simple and natural as the flashing of a command from the brain to the great toe.

We were much interested in the discussion of this subject; but, as usual, doctors disagreed, and we were unable to decide. It is worthy of mention that this belief in a mental current susceptible of use and adaptation to the affairs of life is gaining ground, and that while some spiritualists accept it without abandoning the "beautiful faith," others find in it the source of the inspiration heretofore attributed to their friends who have "passed on." A scoffer volunteered the remark (*sotto voce*) that the transition from spiritualism to "brain-waving" was an easy and natural one.

As the discussion terminated we withdrew, with the conviction that if any of our Alaskan friends, in visiting San Francisco, have a Sunday afternoon at their disposal, they may occupy it profitably by visiting the "Lyceum for Self-Culture" at Dashaway Hall.

WE are apt to charge upon the fair sex the sin of unfair comment upon the foibles of the absent. That their dearest friends "catch it" when their backs are turned, is a common belief. However true or untrue this may be, we are certain the folds of a Dolly Varden can not enwrap more hypocrisy than we recently witnessed under the attire of robust manhood. Riding in a street car, we observed two gentlemen near the front entrance, in conversation. Presently a man entered the car and took a seat near the rear door. Nos. 1 and 2 glanced that way—a sudden bound, and both the new-comer's hands were grasped in the most demonstrative friendship; he was made to crowd into a seat (or rather, to crowd an innocent party out of one,) where he could tell his friends "all about it—where he had been—what he had been doing—what luck he had met with." A lively fire of questions, answers and congratulations was kept up as the trio ex-

Bear, black, prime, fine	.....	7 skin, from \$	3 00 @ \$5 00
Черный Медведь самый пушистый,—отъ		до	
do do do heavy	....	do	2 00 do 3 00
жесткій			
do do seconds	....	do	1 00 do 1 50
второго сорта			
do do cubs	....	do	0 50 do 1 00
медвежонокъ			
do brown and grizzly, about 25 p c. less than black			
черный съ просвѣдомъ		дешевле чѣмъ черный	
Badger	....	7 skin, from \$	0 50 do 1 00
Барсукъ			
Fisher, prime, dark	....	do	2 00 do 5 50
Фишеръ перваго сорта, черный			
do do pale	....	do	1 00 do 1 50
блѣдный			
do seconds	....	do	1 00 do 1 50
второго сорта			
Fox, Silver	....	do	4 00 do 50 00
Серебристая Лисица			
do Cross	....	do	2 00 do 2 50
Пятенная			
do Red	....	do	0 50 do 1 00
Красная			
do Kitt	....	do	0 40 do 0 50
Маленькая			
do White	....	do	0 75 do 1 00
Бѣлая			
do Gray	....	do	0 40 do 0 50
Сѣрая			
Lynx	....	do	1 00 do 1 10
Рысь			
Marten, prime, dark	....	do	2 00 do 9 00
Соболь, черный			
do do pale	....	do	1 00 do 1 25
блѣдный			
do seconds	....	do	0 50 do 1 00
второго сорта			
do thirds	....	do	0 25 do 0 50
третьяго сорта			
Mink, dark, northern, prime	....	do	0 40 do 5 75
Норка черная, сѣверная, перваго сорта			
do pale, southern	....	do	0 50 do 0 75
Блѣдная, южная			
do seconds	....	do	0 40 do 0 55
второго сорта			
do thirds	....	do	0 20 do 0 25
третьяго сорта			
Muskrate	....	do	\$0 05 @ 0 10
Выхухоль			
Otter Sea, prime, dark silvery	....	do	15 00 do 75 00
Бобръ Морской, перваго сорта,			
do do do	....	do	5 00 do 10 00
второго сорта			
do do do brown	....	do	5 00 do 10 00
черный			
do do do pups	....	do	0 50 do 1 00
блѣднаго цвѣта			
Otter, Land, prime, dark, northern	....	do	1 50 do 5 50

THE ALASKA HERALD.

VOL. V.

AUGUST 9, 1872.

No. 110.

FROM UNALASKA.

We make the following extracts from a letter from Unalaska, believing the writer will sanction this appropriation of his friendly misadventure to the uses of the reading public:

"A copy of your paper of June 9th has been handed me, in which I find an interesting letter from this place. We are glad to know that 'a chief's among us, takin' notes,' since he seems so thoroughly conversant with our portion of the country, and gifted with a facile as well as an honest pen. One of the greatest drawbacks to the prosperity of this Territory has been the imperfect knowledge of its resources, except as regards the seal-bearing islands; and as these constitute but an infinitesimal part of our purchase from Russia, it is well to have your readers familiarized with other portions of Alaska. I do not underrate the value of those islands, however, and I have no sympathy with that feeling which would ask the Government to hold them at arm's length, like a 'grab bag,' and invite everybody to make a dive, taking no precautions against wastefulness or over-reaching greed. The seal fisheries were 'farmed out' in order that they might be preserved and their value increased, upon which a clamor was raised against the 'monopoly' that had the shrewdness to outbid all other applicants for the exclusive privileges offered to competition. It is now, I think, pretty well understood by the country at large—as it always was by intelligent men here—that the leasing of the seal islands to some company was a necessity; and we know that, had they been thrown open to unrestricted entry and despoilment, not a seal would now be found there. The Government could not have adopted a better policy, in my judgment, than that which it copied from its Russian predecessor in ownership; and the large revenue it is now deriving is among the least of the benefits secured.

The prohibition of the sale of whisky to the Indians gave great offense to a few persons who thought they should be allowed to make rapid fortunes, regardless of the means to be employed. To any one who has seen, as I have, the terribly demoralizing effect of spirituous liquors upon these poor people—who is aware of the insatiable appetite they possess for rum—there can be no doubt of the wisdom and necessity of the prohibition. Alcohol is bad enough in its influence upon white men—crazed brains, wrecked fortunes, ruined homes, are its record everywhere—but those who have seen it only in the land of the 'pale-face' can form but a faint conception of its demoniac power. The northern red man will drink until powerless to hold the cup to his lips, and if you give him the opportunity will return to the tempter again and again until death releases him from a fascination which he cannot resist. Of course this is not always the result, but it happens more frequently than with any other people I have ever known; and the natives of Alaska have far greater facilities for becoming intoxicated, without going beyond their simple methods of distillation, than is usually supposed. Certain it is that they need stringent prohibitory laws and a thorough enforcement of them, not only as regards importation and sale, but home manufacture.

I did not intend to say so much, but merely to congratulate you upon the appearance and tone of your paper; and certainly, as a resident of this Territory, I may congratulate its people upon having so fair a representative in the newspaper field. Were our means of communicating with other points in the Territory better, I should strongly urge you to bring the HERALD to this place, for publication; we have a growing and prosperous town, now numbering about six hundred inhabitants, and would be proud to have a newspaper published here; but as mails go—or rather, refuse to go—I suppose your present location gives you a better opportunity to hear from the various points of interest than you would have either at this or any other place in Alaska. Presuming that your correspondent 'Selah' will advise you of all local incidents worth mentioning (and, in fact, compelled to admit that we have no 'city' sensations to note at present), I will not trespass further upon your patience.

"Yours truly,

J. K."

THE ELECTIONS to be held during the present year are as follows: New Mexico, Sept. 1; California, Sept. 2; Vermont, Sept. 3; Maine, Sept. 9; Colorado, Sept. 10; Dakota, Indiana, Iowa, Nebraska, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Oct. 8; South Carolina, Oct. 15; West Virginia, Oct. 24; Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, Tennessee, Virginia, Wisconsin, Nov. 5; Arizona, Nov. 8; District of Columbia, Nov. 27. Presidential Electors will be chosen in all the States, November 5th.

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ALASKA



HERALD

VOL. V.

SAN FRANCISCO, AUGUST 24, 1872.

No. 111.

The Herald is issued semi-monthly. Orders for copies may be left at the office, 113 Leidenborff street (Room No. 3), or with White & Bauer, News-Dealers, 413 Washington street. Letters and communications should be addressed: A. A. Stickney, Editor Alaska Herald (Post Office Box, 821).

FROM THE SHUMAGIN ISLANDS.

[CORRESPONDENCE OF THE ALASKA HERALD.]

Having the opportunity to send you a few notes, I will put them together with the hope that your readers will find them interesting. The vessels which have been here during the fishing season brought us files of the ALASKA HERALD, and, without wishing to flatter, I must say that we read each number with avidity, and complimented you upon the sensible and solid articles contained therein. Newspapers are a great luxury to us here, and we trust you will not forget to forward us HERALDS whenever you can.

After this brief introduction, I will tell you what there is of special importance in the way of our codfishing interests. Several of the fleet from San Francisco have been engaged at points around the islands, among them the "Legal Tender," "Wild Gazelle," "Roscoe," and "Flying Mist." It is said that they will average a catch of 35,000 codfish each. By some the season has been considered a good one, while others have put it down as middling.

There has been a great deal of rough weather along the Shumagin Islands during the summer. The strong south and southerly winds are the most severe here, and often prevent the fleet from carrying on operations. The storms brought by these winds are not infrequent, and compel vessels to leave their anchorage for sea. The atmosphere is thick with fogs, and the rains are constant and heavy during these winds. The sun is seldom seen, and for the past three months has appeared only twice. You may rest assured that when we do see "the divine light of heaven," as the poets have it, the heart goes out in thanks for the small favor granted. A good sun-bath is a luxury we do not often indulge in, and which can only be properly appreciated by people in our situation.

Speaking of the winds, it is a strange fact that what we call the south winds are the coldest and chilliest that we endure. These are the winds that bring us our severest storms, foggiest weather and heaviest rains. In other countries the south winds bring calm, warm and beautiful weather. There must be a wind whirlpool somewhere along the Aleutian coast which changes the current of the air and the temperature of the climate. Perhaps as the lovers of science advance this way they may be able to discover the causes which make our south winds feel as if they came right from the North Pole. In this as in a thousand other matters of great scientific interest, Alaska offers an inviting field of observation.

The few Americans on the islands are not, however, so much interested in science as they are in codfish. In catching the latter and making it marketable, their time, during the fishing season, is pretty well occupied. From daylight until dark—and daylight and darkness are considerably mixed here—the hands are engaged in catching and salting.

Codfish are taken by men in small boats, who go to the fishing grounds and bait for their harvest of the sea. They fish with lines, and use what are known as eleven and twelve-inch hooks. Halibut and cuttle-fish are the best bait. A good fisherman, if he is "lucky," will haul up 400 codfish in a day, and this is considered a splendid catch; to procure 300 on an average every day is very satisfactory. Having brought the catch on board, the fish are immediately salted, packed away, and are not again touched until the cargo lands at its destination.

White men make better fishermen than the Aleuts, although the

latter, when they are trained, do very well. The "Legal Tender" has a crew of Aleutian sailors, who work to the satisfaction of their employer. The natives are accustomed to water almost from infancy, and their subsistence is largely drawn from the sea; they like to work, however, in their own way. When they fish and hunt after the fashion of their fathers they are experts, but when the appliances of modern times are put in their hands they wield them rather clumsily.

One of the vessels now fishing here will leave a portion of her crew at a point on Falmouth harbor, where they will winter. Five hardy, adventurous fellows will compose the little colony. It is their intention to hunt during the winter, and it is thought they will make a profitable season. When the vessel returns from San Francisco next summer she will call at the colony and take on board the hunters and their stock of furs. No doubt these adventurous hunters will have an eventful time of it. In all probability they will not see any other white men for the entire winter.

It may seem to your readers that life on this coast cannot be very enjoyable; and yet the white men here appear to be as happy as they could hope to be anywhere in the world. You hear very little growling or complaining. Our wants are few, and we scarcely know what care is. I know of more than a dozen men engaged in fishing and hunting along the Peninsula, who are well educated and who have had excellent opportunities, and they declare, one and all, that they never wish to return to the fashionable world. Nor do they appear to be cynical, either; they are sociable, genial fellows. Freedom from restraint, and the open hospitality of the Aleuts, seem to have a charm for them, which they do not wish to abandon. Alaska has proved to be the Mecca of peace to some old Californians. Is it to be wrested from them by the "march of civilization"? I remember the anecdote of a physician who, finding his patient had slept well, had an even pulse and a good appetite, produced his pencil and tablets and remarked, "We'll soon cure all that." Probably our "cure" will come, in the course of time; but we do not care to anticipate. Z.

In Siberia large numbers of tusks of an extinct species of elephant of unusual size are exhumed. The ivory procured from this source plays an important part in manufactures; in fact, influences the cost of many articles, which would otherwise be beyond the reach of average purses. Specimens of these mammoth tusks have been exhibited, ten feet in length and weighing 185 pounds. The tusk of the hippopotamus is most highly esteemed for dentists' uses. Of elephant ivory, the African is most valued. Walrus ivory is readily procured on the coasts of Alaska, and is largely used by cutlers. A species of palm found in Peru furnishes a very good substitute for this article. It contains a fluid, which is clear and insipid when first expressed, but which gradually becomes sweet and milky, and at length acquires solidity, so as to be as hard as ivory.

TOM SCOTT (the Pennsylvania Railroad King), Col. Williamson of Louisiana, Gov. Throckmorton of Texas, Senator Sherman of Ohio, Representative Kelly of Philadelphia, and Col. John W. Forney of "two papers, both daily," mounted the platform at Union Hall, San Francisco, on the evening of the 22d inst., and explained the programme of the Texas Pacific Railroad. About 2,500 persons gave them welcome, and every proposition looking to a connection with their road was responded to with hearty applause. The gentleman named left for San Diego yesterday morning.

BISMARCK proposes to stop the tide of emigration from Germany to America by procuring stringent laws and stern imperial decrees. He might as well attempt to turn the current of the Rhine by directing an eighth-inch stream against it.

INVALIDED.

Ah! to be able to rise,
And leave the wearisome room,
And be once more under sunny skies,
Away from this dull, close gloom.

I dream of lying at ease
Among the ferns and the grass,
And looking up through the long branched trees,
Watching the small clouds pass.

I pull the blossoms that grow
In the soft moss under my hand,
And welcome the health-giving winds that blow,
Cooling the summer land.

And ah! it is all so bright,
And the bliss of the moment so great!
God's pity! the dream has taken its flight,
And I turn, with a sigh, to wait.

"MAX ADELER" SCINTILLATIONS.

We draw upon "Max Adler's" department in the Philadelphia "Sunday Dispatch" for the following paragraphs:

A newspaper in Washington Territory appeals to the East to "Send us Wives!" The editor is probably not aware that polygamy is prohibited in this part of the country, and that it will consequently be impossible for any generous, whole-souled philanthropist among us to comply with his request. Hardly any man here has more wives than he absolutely wants. The practice of marrying half-a-dozen at a time was abandoned as soon as it was discovered that William Penn left so many widows that charitable people were compelled to build the Penn Widows' Asylum in order to give them a decent and comfortable home. Now, if it had been mothers-in-law that they want in Washington Territory, there would have been no trouble. Almost any man can spare a mother-in-law, and we know a man who has been married several times who would be willing to send three or four away to a distant land forever and ever, to oblige a friend. We are not entirely destitute of generosity, here at the East.

That little affair of Needham's, that some of the papers have been telling about, certainly was unpleasant—at least for Needham. Needham owned a deep-mouthed watch-dog which always "bayed him welcome home" and snatched mouthfuls of chops out of the legs of strangers. Needham took that faithful animal along with him one day to watch his clothes while he went in swimming. Needham bathed for an hour, and the dog meanwhile went to sleep on Needham's garments. When Needham came out, the dog did not recognize him in his nude condition, and refused to let him come near the garments. Every time Needham would grab for a suspender or sock, the dog would bite a mouthful out of his arm or leg, and whenever Needham made a dive for a boot or undershirt, that animal would seize him by the calf and shake him. So Needham stood there in the sun nearly roasted, and he spent the afternoon dodging in and out of the water to avoid the Dorcas societies and female students at the boarding-school, and the factory girls coming down the road. At last, when the dog went to sleep, Needham crept behind him, caught him suddenly by the tail, and flung him across the stream. Before the dog could swim back, Needham got most of his clothes upon his bleeding body and limbs, and the dog came sidling up to him, looking as if he expected to be rewarded for his extraordinary vigilance. Needham has disposed of that dog—he has traded it off for a litter of bull pups. And yet they say that the Dog is man's most faithful friend! Needham doesn't think he is.

We rarely undertake to decide bets unless the stakes are placed in our hands, and then our decision is invariably given with strict impartiality against both parties. But we are called upon now to arbitrate in a dispute in which we feel called upon to take sides. A young man writes to us to say that "A friend very absurdly contends that Oliver Goldsmith wrote the 'Star-Spangled Banner,' and I have

bet ten dollars that such was not the case. Please say whether it is or not." Of course there can be but one reply to this. The man's friend is right. Oliver Goldsmith was an Irishman, and he penned the words of this famous song in his native tongue. The first verse ran somehow in this manner:

"Ochone dhudeen acushla colleen bawn whisht machree,
Comme soogah mayourneen, ye shpulpeen megonegal."

Goldsmith used to wander about the country singing these thrilling words, and accompanying himself upon the flute and the base drum. He was apprehended upon a charge of Fenianism, but escaped to this country on the back of his favorite charger, Goldsmith Maid, where he sold the copyright of the song to General Washington, who translated it into English and sang it for the first time at the battle of Bunker Hill, which conflict he watched from the top of the monument with an opera glass. These facts are not given in Mr. Westcott's History, because Gen. Washington, in his interview with the author, requested that they should be suppressed, for fear that his translation of the song from its sweet original tongue to the language of Ireland's enemies might lose Gen. Washington the Irish vote. We publish them fearlessly because we don't want the Irish vote, but are rather eager to have the young man who has won his bet divide the profits with us. Our aim is the dissemination of truth, and we are going to disseminate it whenever we see a chance of making five dollars.

Down in Norfolk they have just had a race between a couple of one-legged men, and a correspondent asks us if we can give him any idea of the time made by the contestants. He says the distance was four squares, of about one hundred yards each. Supposing that a two-legged man steps one yard at every stride, which is about correct, and can go four hundred yards in four minutes, a one-legged man manifestly can step half the distance, but of course cannot maintain the same rate of speed. But here, if we can have recourse to algebra, we may obtain valuable assistance. Suppose the one-legged man to be represented by x , and the two-legged man to be represented by y . Call the distance $2ab$. If, then, we multiply the one-legged man by the distance, and divide the result somehow by the two-legged man, we have $x y$ divided by $2ab$ —or something of the sort. Then $2ab - x y$ multiplied by the one-legged man again gives us an equation of some kind from which we subtract— But it just occurs to us that the solution can probably be obtained more quickly by writing to one of the one-legged men in Norfolk. Answer next week.

Some weeks ago a man with a hand-organ and a bear was arrested up in Clearfield county for not having a license. The arrest was made in front of the office of the county paper, and the sheriff asked the editor to let him place the organ and the bear in the shinctum while he took the man to the magistrate's office. Permission was given. That bear is in there yet. When the editor returned from dinner he opened the door and found that the bear had broken loose and smashed the whole interior of the establishment into microscopic smithereens. When the bear saw the editor, it thought it would go to dinner also; but the eminent journalist slammed the door suddenly, locked it, and groped his way down stairs six steps at a jump. The bear has had nothing to eat since that time, and the paper has been suspended, while the editor and the Sheriff and their friends spend their time standing on ladders, bombarding that animal through the windows, and firing up through the ceiling and down the chimney at him. The bear roams around and roars, and chews up startling editorials about Horace Greeley and the campaign in North Carolina, and eats up the poetry and smashes the advertisements. It will cost that editor about six thousand dollars to fix up his place when the bear dies, and it is whispered around among his confidential friends that he will probably not support that Sheriff the next time he runs for office, nor will he encourage the introduction of the menagerie business into Clearfield county.

AN imperial decree published in the St. Petersburg Journal of July 25th, dismisses M. de Catacazy from the Diplomatic Service of Russia. The Czar disclaims any knowledge of or consent to the publication of the ex-Minister's pamphlet against Secretary Fish.

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All handsomely mounted on tinted cardboard.

Upon receipt of price, views will be carefully selected and for-
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Just previous to the late General Halleck's departure East, he made
a tour of inspection to Alaska Territory, and, by instruction of the
Secretary of War, was accompanied by our celebrated photographic
artist Muybridge, who made a series of the most picturesque and
valuable photographs we have ever seen. The Hon. Wm. H. Seward
thought very highly of them and addressed Mr. Muybridge a very
complimentary letter in acknowledgment of his appreciation. They
comprise about three dozen stereoscopic views of Sitka, Fort Wrangle,
Fort Tongass, etc., portraits of Indians, illustrations of Indian life and
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of the country than a volume of reading matter.

The price is three dollars coin per dozen and for this amount we
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THE ALASKA HERALD.

EDUCATION IN ALASKA.

A. A. STICKNEY, EDITOR AND PUBLISHER

VOL. V.

AUGUST 24, 1872.

No. 111.

TRAIN—the unquenchable—is again on wheels, and, having reached the Pacific coast, we hope he will visit Alaska. Although her citizens are unjustly denied a voice in the Presidential election, they have rights under the American flag which should be respected. Train is the man we want—in Alaska; his florid imagery and burning eloquence eliminate an atmospheric warmth which even an iceberg may not withstand—although, upon occasion, he can be cool enough, as one of the advanced guard of free-lovists was lately made to comprehend. In a neat little card which accompanies the miniature of this remarkable man, we find the following torturing conundrum: "Is it possible to elect a President who does not drink, smoke, chew, swear, gamble, lie, cheat, steal?" etc. We are afraid not—things are going to the bad, generally, and one of our subscribers not only refused to pay a bill, the other day, but demanded that the collector should allow him indirect damages for the small amount of Russian in the paper which he couldn't read. But let us take heart-o'-grace, George; the comet miscalculated or miscarried, but this kind of foolishness can't last forever. The saints shall inherit the earth at last, and virtue shall wear the crown. If the "Man of Destiny" is not then recognized, we shall lose our faith in photography and our innocent belief in printers' ink.

AND—now we think of it—why shouldn't *all* the Presidential candidates go to Alaska? Each one proposes to be the President of all the people, and not a mere dispenser of patronage to a favored few. How important, then, to mingle with the masses, and learn their various needs. Among those who will await with breathless anxiety the result of the November contest, we may mention the Nukluklahyets, the Chigachignuts, the Stakhinkwans, the Yukatats, the Tatschignos and the Kolosbes—names which we select as easy for practice, and with which the statesmen of our country are far less familiar than they should be. We trust our suggestion will be adopted, and we are entirely willing to throw the candidates upon the proverbial hospitality of our Alaskan fellow-citizens, bespeaking a round of conviviality and good cheer from Cape Oummaney to Point Barrow.

THE story of Elisha, the forty-two bad boys and the two she-bears, has lately been cited by a clergyman in San Francisco as an evidence of the existence of the Hoodlum element in society at a very early period. Considering this early start and the rate of progress which mankind is making in all directions, the wonder is that in our time a baldheaded man can with safety show himself in public. Perhaps this high privilege is less attributable to an imperfect development of boy-nature than to a deflection of the current of youthful energy. The advent of a people who exhibit a marked excess of that filament the loss of which made the prophet a shining mark must be considered. Whatever the cause, we sigh as we reflect that the authenticated she-bear treatment did not pass into practice instead of history. Special sermons may direct the attention of a few parents to the devious ways by which their children foreshadow an increased consumption of hemp; but the occasional descent of a brace of inspired grizzlies would work a prompt and complete eradication of the monster evil of the period. Let not our shiny tops beguile themselves. In a day they think not the boys may revive the prejudices of early times, or the Chinaman may withdraw his tail from circulation. By all means let us have the bears in training. Alaska can furnish any number desired, and their ability to discriminate between good and bad boys is of the highest order.

STANLEY is "not without honor save in his own country." A Nebraska paper thinks the "Herald" Commissioner wrote the Livingstone letters himself. The English press and people have now no doubts, whatever they had at first, and are doing themselves honor by their grateful and cordial acknowledgment of Stanley's services.

UNDER Russian rule efforts were made to afford the Indians and Creoles of Alaska the means of education. A school was established at Kadiak before the beginning of the present century, and in 1805 Count Resanoff at the same place founded the "House of Benevolence of the Empress Maria," which, notwithstanding its cumbrous title, implanted germs of knowledge in many native minds. Father I. Veniaminoff, a good and zealous man, established a school at Unalaska in 1825, and, during the many years of his residence in the country, never remitted his efforts to advance the people in morals and in letters. He was transferred to Sitka and made Bishop in 1834; to his influence a number of schools owed their origin. An ecclesiastical school was opened at Sitka in 1841, and five years later it was invested with the title and rank of "seminary." A general colonial school was provided in 1860. Without mentioning a number of other schools which were founded, enough have been cited to show at least a degree of solicitude on the part of the Russian Government which stands in marked contrast to the apathy of American statesmen. The Russian Church still feebly endeavors to occupy the educational field, but the Illyriac character is gradually fading out, and (with the exception of the schools maintained by the American Commercial Company on the fur-seal islands) but little effort is being made to teach the people of Alaska to read the English language. Why our Government, which boasts the free school as its cornerstone, permits the years to go by without expending a dollar or making an effort in this direction, is unaccountable. A change of language and the acquisition of knowledge under new forms cannot be self-effected; paternal aid is a necessity of the situation. We feel it our especial duty to call the attention of members of Congress to this subject, for upon them will rest the responsibility for a continuance of the do-nothing policy which now prevails. Aside from the question of placing educational facilities within the reach of the white and mixed races in the Territory, we would ask why is so little consideration given to the Indians of Alaska? Is it because they are less vicious or dangerous than the petted tribes of other sections? Let us direct our educational labors to those who give promise of being permanently benefited by them, and who by all the means in their power make known their desire to be instructed. Commencing at the seaboard, in a practical, sure-footed way, let us gradually extend a knowledge of our language, laws and arts, until the whole of that vast country shall be redeemed from its dense ignorance and heathenism.

THE Union Pacific Railroad Company refuses to forward any more fruit cars by passenger trains, and express charges being so high as to absorb all the profits, fruit-growers are left with no alternative but to rely for a time upon home consumption. This will make the project of a competing line a still more fruitful theme for discussion. Meantime, an increased trade with Alaska is anticipated. As yet our northern people have not brought their peaches to perfection, nor are cherry trees a prolific source of temptation to the young G. Washingtons of the Territory; there is still a market for much of the fruit of California, at fair straight prices.

THE San Francisco "Evening Post" has recently changed its motto. All well-appointed newspapers have mottoes—some have "Liberty and Union," some "Death before Dishonor." The "Post" has been content with "Price One Cent," but now boldly announces that its price is *two cents*. With this stiffened moral backbone comes an increase in the afternoon's service of news, politics and general information, with a better arrangement of the various departments, and, in fact, all the features of a first-class evening journal. The enlargement of its garments was compulsory. May its buttons soon experience another strain.

OUR attention was called, a few days since, to an article in a Russian paper, in which comments were freely made upon the Czar's interference in the question of the Turkish succession, forbidding a war as the result. Perhaps the editor will be able to tell us what he knows about Siberia during the coming winter.

THE Horticultural Society of California is an association which is destined to give an impetus to æsthetic education throughout the Pacific Coast; and nowhere has the study of the beautiful been neglected so woefully as here, amid business excitements and hand-to-hand contests for material wealth. We were among the fortunate ones who accepted the invitation to inspect the new hall of the Society, on Wednesday evening last, prior to the public opening. The large room, near Post, on Stockton street, has been transformed into a garden wherein bloom the loveliest flowers of a favored clime; the space being so apportioned as to afford delightful walks and convenient studies. The members of the press were hospitably dined and winced, in the course of the evening; but we think they could have found little to disparage, even if they had not been thus hit below the belt of their good judgment. The exhibition—which is chiefly floral—is to continue three weeks. An admission fee of 50 cents is charged; women ticket, admitting a gentleman and lady, \$5; juveniles are admitted at lower rates. We hope the Society will give a few free exhibitions for those who are unable to pay. As a moral lever, the display of so much floral wealth and artistic taste lifts for a moment the stone of the sepulchre, and opens the heart to pure and healthful influences. If the Society is not able to confer so great a boon upon the poor, perhaps some of the religious congregations of San Francisco will devote a Sabbath's collection to so good a purpose.

THE organization of the California Atlantic and Pacific Railroad Company has been effected, with Alvinza Hayward as President, and a five per cent. subsidy will be asked as a stock subscription from San Francisco to aid the work. Donahue & Co.'s Colorado Road is also forging ahead, having some \$5,000,000 subscribed, and proposes to receive a donation of twice that amount from the city and county, under certain guarantees as to route of road, location of depots, etc. It is a lively fight, and an issue not anticipated when the One Hundred commenced operations; it is also complicated with a proposal to give Stanford & Co. \$2,500,000 to build a bridge at Ravenswood, now favored by a majority of the Executive Committee. Bro. Pickering, of the "Call," as a member of the Committee, walks into the last-named proposition without any "it is said" about it; charges "packing" and all that sort of thing, and believes the people will not suffer themselves to be traded out of their rights by influential schemers. We are afraid "the people" are hardly reliable now; they seem to think that the Committee have deliberately resolved to talk them to death, and we understand a large party is being made up to seek the quiet solitudes of Alaska and remain there until assured that the Old Hundred have made their last shuffle.

THE trade of San Francisco with Siberia is increasing, and no doubt the measures recently taken by the Czar of Russia to survey and open up that portion of his dominions to free settlement will rapidly augment the exchange of wares and products. Eventually some of the ports of Alaska, under American energy and influence, will become supply points for their Asiatic neighbors, but this not an immediate prospect; nor will there arise any city to the northward of San Francisco—on Puget Sound or elsewhere—that can take from the city by the Golden Gate her supremacy as a distributing center unless she contemptuously neglects the connections and intimacies which alone can assure it. No advantage of location can avail unless every district that should naturally be tributary is recognized and assisted to pour its wealth into her lap. And as she reaches out for the raw product, she should also provide for its conversion, so that both manufactures and commerce shall contribute to her growth and prosperity.

THE "Daily Chronicle," of San Francisco, announces that it will soon have in use a press on which 12,000 copies per hour can be printed, enabling its readers to get later news and earlier papers. Improvements to the value of \$40,000 are being made, and the wide-awake newspaper exhibits a healthy "pulsation."

THE fish-hatching Commission, which is to supply the Eastern States with salmon from the Columbia river, will begin operations, on June 1st, next month.

MIGHT BE WORSE.

While so many good people deplore the wickedness of the age, it is worthy of remark that never did society interest itself to so great an extent as at present in ameliorating the condition of those to whom nature has not been bountiful. That the blind, the sick and the maimed are systematically provided for, is part of every day history. Cases of neglect or inadequate attention there are, no doubt; but criticism is not now directed so much to the financial burdens entailed as to a rigid scrutiny of the conduct of all who are charged with the safe-keeping and instruction of the wards of the public. No reasonable expenditure is grudged, and no taxation is more cheerfully met than that which goes to support asylums and infirmaries. Sacred history tells us of miraculous interposition whereby the blind were made to see and the dumb were made to speak. Man cannot call to his aid, in our day, an agency so prompt and involving so little personal effort; but large hearts, active brains and gentle hands are doing much to make the path of life pleasant to many who were born to darkness or who inherited only pain and want.

Not infrequently the information comes from lands far apart, that discoveries have been simultaneously made of appliances tending to mitigate the isolation of blindness or to supplement a defective organism. We have recently been apprised of the invention, both in England and the United States, of a method whereby deaf mutes can be taught to utilize their powers of utterance so as to dispense with the sign language. The pupil cannot get the sound, but he watches his instructor closely and rehearses until he is unintelligible, when memory stores away the lesson as easily as it would the shape of a piece of wood which he had been taught to fashion. In every civilized country good men and women are trying to reduce the aggregate of misery by patient, unremitting effort; and another century's advent will find many nations so far advanced that physical want will wait only upon vice or wilful disregard of personal duty. At least, this is the outlook from our point of observation; we cannot regard the world as hopelessly lost when every day witnesses some new charity founded and some kindly bulwark erected for the weak and needy.

We were not a little puzzled to make out the purport of an extract from our own columns, recently, in the "Amerikan," of Racine, Wisconsin, but finally unraveled it with the aid of a native of Bohemia whose mother language the paper represents. A larger paper of the same nationality, the "Slavie," is also printed in Racine, and we are assured by our friend the translator that both are ably conducted and very interesting journals. But of all the languages which one of the uninitiated ever attempted to decipher, this Czesky (or Cheesky) is the most hopeless—Ojibwa perhaps excepted. The Latin character (with every other letter accented) is used, which serves as a temptation to struggle with the words, in the expectation of discovering a resemblance, in the course of a column or two, to some English synonym. Give an ordinary reader Transcrit or the Egyptian hieroglyph, and he will surrender at once, but this Czesky bait will draw him on for an hour or two with a promise to the eye, when it will be found to have yielded up about as much of its meaning as it would have done had he sat on it for the same length of time and then taken a dose of lobelia. However, we have quite a number of good citizens to whom it is as easy as Dutch cheese, and when we see them devouring it eagerly, we repress any disposition to tomahawk them, hoping for that happy time when the striking carpenters of Babel shall have expiated their offense, and the good old universal language shall be restored.

OWING to non-arrival of our Sitka letter, we have not so much Alaskan intelligence as usual. However, a very interesting letter from the Shumagin Islands will be found on our first page, to which we invite attention. In regard to editorial paragraphs, for which more than the usual space is available, modesty forbids, etc.

A sign in Mission street, San Francisco is inscribed: "Dr. — Teeth extracted, 50c. Children, 25c."

Bear, black, prime, fine	....	....	Pr skin, from \$	3 00 @ \$5 00
Черный Медведь самый пушистый,—отъ			до	
do do do heavy	....	....	do	2 00 do 3 00
жесткий				
do do seconds	....	....	do	1 00 do 1 50
второго сорта				
do do cube	....	....	do	0 50 do 1 00
медвеженокъ				
do brown and grizzly, about 25			Pr c. less than black	
черный съ просвѣдо			дешевле чѣмъ черный	
Badger	....	....	Pr skin, from \$	0 50 do 1 00
Барсукъ				
Fisher, prime, dark	....	....	do	2 00 do 5 50
Фишеръ перваго сорта, черный				
do do pale	....	....	do	1 00 do 1 50
блѣдный				
do seconds	....	....	do	1 00 do 1 50
второго сорта				
Fox, Silver	....	....	do	4 00 do 50 00
Серебристая Лисица				
do cross	....	....	do	2 00 do 2 50
Пятенная				
do Red	....	....	do	0 50 do 1 00
Красная				
do Kitt	....	....	do	0 40 do 0 50
Маленькая				
do White	....	....	do	0 75 do 1 00
Бѣлая				
do Gray	....	....	do	0 40 do 0 50
Сѣрая				
Lynx	....	....	do	1 00 do 1 10
Рысь				
Marten, prime, dark	....	....	do	2 00 do 9 00
Соболь, черный				
do do pale	....	....	do	1 00 do 1 25
блѣдный				
do seconds	....	....	do	0 50 do 1 00
второго сорта				
do thirds	....	....	do	0 25 do 0 50
третьяго сорта				
Mink, dark, northern, prime	....	....	do	0 40 do 5 75
Норка черная, сѣверная, перваго сорта				
do pale, southern	....	....	do	0 50 do 0 75
Блѣдная, южная				
do seconds	....	....	do	0 40 do 0 55
второго сорта				
do thirds	....	....	do	0 20 do 0 25
третьяго сорта				
Muskrate	....	....	do	\$0 05 @ 0 10
Выхухоль				
Otter Sea, prime, dark silvery	....	....	do	15 00 do 75 00
Бобръ Морской, перваго сорта,				
do do do	....	....	do	5 00 do 10 00
второго сорта				
do do do brown	....	....	do	5 00 do 10 00
черный				
do do do pups	....	....	do	0 50 do 1 00
блѣднаго цвѣта				
Otter, land, prime, dark, northern	....	....	do	1 50 do 5 50

THE ALASKA HERALD.

A. A. STICKNEY..... EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

VOL. V. AUGUST 24, 1872. No. 111.

AMONG OUR EXCHANGES.

Arkansas must be making great educational progress. We infer so much from the contents and tone of the "Journal of Education," the July number of which has been kindly sent us. The editor, Thomas Smith, is equal to the supervision of such a work, and he has an abundance of good materials to select from. The publication also speaks well for the typographic art of Little Rock, and reminds us that "the East" is rapidly being rivaled in printing facilities by the cities of the West.

Samuel R. Wells (380 Broadway, New York) is an inexhaustible font. His last (and, we think, best) outpouring is entitled "The Science of Health, a new monthly devoted to health on hygienic principles." Within the covers of each monthly number, enough information is contained to enable the reader to attain the age of Methuselah, if so disposed and his neighbors are willing. \$2 per year.

The "Sunday Dispatch" continues its "History of Philadelphia," which has reached Chapter 282 and year 1782—incidentally comprising many subjects and events not strictly local. The "Dispatch" is a good paper; it is alive to current topics and solid business, but always relieves the latter by contrasts of humor. "Max Adler" regularly spreads a collation which cannot be safely set down to in a tight waistcoat. We commend the "Dispatch" (at \$2.60 per year) to all old Philadelphians, and to anybody else who may desire a newspaper of rare merit.

Olympia, Washington Territory, has reason to be proud of her newspapers. The "Transcript," which we receive regularly, is an excellent journal of home news and an earnest advocate of all local interests. It is neatly printed, also—a point which is of far more importance than many publishers are aware.

Speaking of neatly printed newspapers, the "Journal" of New Britain, Conn., fairly glitters among our exchanges like the bright, new coinage we do not always develop from our trousers' pocket. A paper so tastefully dressed would be a welcome guest, were it far less interesting in its contents than the "Journal."

And *apropos* of "Guests," Whitney, 111 Summit street, Toledo, Ohio, introduces to his friends, monthly, the "Musical Guest," a magazine which, for \$1, furnishes seventy-two pieces of new and choice music per year, worth in sheet form \$18. The "Guest" is deservedly popular, and no family will regret having placed it among its regular callers.

The "Waverley Magazine," of Boston, publishes a great many good stories, but no continued and no immoral ones. It has attained an immense circulation, and is uniformly commended by its readers. The "Waverley" costs a little more per year than most of the Eastern weeklies, but it contains so great a quantity of reading matter that each number would make a respectable-sized book.

The "International" magazine, Philadelphia, is republishing, from the "Cornhill," a story of the marvelous, marvelously well told, entitled "Pearl and Emerald." It gives also, each month, selections from the best articles in many other foreign publications. One may be sure of finding nothing but cream in the "International," and although much that cannot be compressed within any re-print is by no means skimmed-milk, those who have but little leisure for reading find it useful to have the very best selections made for them and furnished in convenient shape.

The "Sacramento Union" is a complete transcript of Pacific coast life. The weekly issue presents twelve large pages, closely occupied with news from every county of California and every point of interest in the adjoining States and Territories. The "Union" expresses its opinions without any trimming, and commands the respect of its opponents for its persistent advocacy of whatever measure or policy it approves, regardless of consequences to itself. We do not agree with the "Union" in all things, but we never question the sincerity of its utterances. It is a fact of no small significance that all who have in years past been connected with the establishment—and their name is legion—cherish recollections which cause them to rejoice at the evidences of continued prosperity which the "Union" exhibits. When

we entered the office, as a type, a two-page supplement, bringing up the fortnight's steamer news from "the States," was quite a satisfactory achievement, and the "extra" giving the advance items of this same news entailed so much work that the other Sacramento paper alternated with the "Union" in getting it out—they didn't think it worth while to indulge in useless competition. Now, we believe, it is no uncommon thing for the "Union" to throw off three double-sheet dailies in a week, and a weekly of twelve to sixteen pages.

Tennessee sends us some excellent publications—among them a member of the "Christian Advocate" family, from the size and vigor of which we are sure that if the Southern people are mad (as they may well be between the carpet-baggers and Kuklux), there must be much Methodism in their madness. The "Farmers' Advocate," from Jackson, in the same State, is a monthly, of sixteen very large pages, and the fact that it can live and furnish so great a quantity of valuable reading matter for \$1 a year argues that agriculture in the South means something more than the two or three plantation staples of former times.

The Cincinnati "Times" proposes to obey the injunction of the Father of his Country, and "watch over the preservation of the Union with a jealous eye;" besides which it disports itself throughout the entire field of useful and entertaining literature, gathering here a little and there a little, and offering the entire collection for a two-dollar evidence of Uncle Sam's indebtedness. There are thousands of people on the Pacific coast who retain an interest in the country they once looked upon as their "Western" home, and if they have anything to spare after paying for the HERALD and their county paper, we recommend the "Times."

From Salt Lake we receive a mammoth weekly called "The Tribune." It devotes much space to the mines of Utah and other interests of a material nature, but at the same time contrives to keep polygamy and its advocates in a lively perspiration. The "Tribune" has a foeman worthy of its steel in the "Herald" of the same city. The women of the Territory have lately been sharpening their quills, and the papers teem with feminine argument and satire. What they know about "sealing" would be invaluable in Alaska.

The Santa Cruz "Sentinel," under the veteran Kooser of unblemished name and graceful pen, grows in usefulness as it grows in years. No subject that interests the coast counties of California is overlooked by the "Sentinel," and its influence is widely felt and acknowledged. (Glancing at the paper, however, we observe, that friend Kooser has a partner; instead of deserting Santa Cruz after achieving its honors, as the manner of some is, he attaches himself still more closely to his little field.)

We have lingered among our exchanges longer than we intended, and still must forego the pleasure of referring to the characteristic features of a number of excellent journals at this sitting. We thank our friends of the press for their courtesies—the more noteworthy because we are at present able to return the compliment only twice in each month. When our northwest coast shall receive the facilities for more frequent and regular communication, we hope to make a much better paper and publish it weekly.

Peters' Musical Monthly for August contains nine selections of new music, which can be had for thirty cents. In sheet form they can be procured as follows: Meet me, Maggie; song and chorus (Hays), 40 cts. Bright Star that Crowns with Beauty; song (Kucken), 30 cts. Do not weep so, Sister, Darling; song and chorus (Stewart), 30 cts. My Heart is Weary; ballad (Gounod), 50 cts. Jocus Polka; four hands (Strauss); 35 cts. Sunlight Schottische (Goote), 80 cts. George's Waltz (Kinkel), 35 cts. Rosalba Polka Mazurka, Kleber, 40 cts. Love's Caresses; morceau elegante (Kinkel), 40 cts. Annual subscription, \$3. A one-dollar greenback will purchase five back numbers. Address J. L. Peters, 590 Broadway, New York.

THE brig Percy Edwards, Captain Josselyn, arrived at San Francisco recently, fifty days from Nicolaeffski, laden with skins and wool. Nicolaeffski is a town of 12,000 inhabitants, at the mouth of the Amoor river; it is strongly garrisoned and has an extensive trade, although its harbor is frequently obstructed by shifting sandbars, so that cargoes have to be landed at De Sandries, a point several miles distant.

ALASKA



HERALD

VOL. V.

SAN FRANCISCO, SEPTEMBER 9, 1872.

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FROM UNALASKA.

[CORRESPONDENCE OF THE ALASKA HERALD.]

"A sail in sight!" and we take out our glasses to discover where from. The report of "a sail" in this far distant port creates considerable excitement among the limited American population, and also among the natives. It was so on this occasion, and soon we discovered that the schooner attracting our attention was from Norton Sound. She leaves for San Francisco on the 7th of August, and so I forward some items which I hope will prove interesting.

From St. Michael, on Norton Sound, the latest news is of a cheering character. As the Indians who make their headquarters there in the summer season come from a great distance in the interior, they bring with them valuable furs. Last winter the stock procured by them was very large, and they received a fair remuneration therefor. At St. Michael there are two or three American traders, and there is competition enough to make it profitable for the natives. So far the Indians and the white men have got along peaceably together. We heard once from San Francisco that a report had been started about some Indians killing two white men at this point, but I assure you that no such event has occurred. The few white men here know it is for their interest to keep the natives friendly, and they are not so foolish as to war against their own interest. Speaking of the last winter's stock of furs, the Indians say that the season was the best they have had for years. Beaver, marten, mink, fox and deer were among the principal furs. Prospects, the natives say, are good for another rich product of furs the coming winter.

St. Michael was formerly a strong Russian garrison, but as the law of force no longer controls the affairs of this Territory, it has been abandoned. The present dwellers at the fort are not very numerous in the winter, but during the summer months it has quite a population. Among the peculiar possessions of the inhabitants are the sledge dogs, which here, as in Siberia and other points, are used as beasts of

burden; they are strong, hardy animals, and live principally upon fish. They will not eat meat, unless reduced to starvation. Dried fish is their chief diet, and they are exceedingly fond of it. One of their peculiarities is that they never bark, but they sometimes make a fearful howling; they are not as affectionate by nature as the dog domesticated amongst civilized people, but some of them, nevertheless, are great pets and become devotedly attached to their masters. In these northern climes sledge dogs are, to all intents and purposes, as useful to the natives as are horses to Americans; without them it would be difficult to subsist.

During the past summer there have been immense quantities of ice all along Norton Sound. One vessel was delayed four days in an ice blockade. Coming down from the Arctic, these ice-bergs, in their voyage, present one of the grandest sights ever witnessed. Whenever the sunlight falls upon them, they dazzle the eye with a splendor exceeding the greatest power of the imagination. Sometimes these icebergs come together and crash with a force that is appalling; the roar resembles thunder, and seems to rebound with a prolonged power far beyond the thunder-clap. To gaze upon these mountains of ice from the deck of a vessel surrounded by them, produces one of the most solemn sensations that can move the human heart.

Everything is quiet at this point. Dr. Dall, who is connected with the United States Coast Survey on the Pacific, and also with the Smithsonian Institute at Washington, was here during the summer, and left for the Shumagin Islands. Himself and party were in excellent health. It was the intention of Dr. Dall to reach San Francisco in the latter part of August, but he thought it possible that he might be delayed until some time in September. He will have a most interesting report to make of his sojourn in these northern colonies.

On the 1st of July the schooner "Hutchinson" was cruising about Norton Sound, and left that region for St. Paul and St. George Islands on the 9th. She arrived from the islands a few days ago, and sailed on the 4th inst. for the islands again. At St. Paul and St. George the condition of affairs is promising; the natives, as you are aware, depend entirely upon the fur-seal trade for support. In some respects the dwellers on the islands are better off than are the inhabitants of other parts of Alaska, having schools in which their children are taught the English language. Although very eager to learn English, no opportunity is afforded, with the exception mentioned. Even at this place, which is one of the largest and most important port towns in Alaska, no move has been made to establish a school. A subject of so much consequence as this deserves the attention of philanthropists or of the Government, and I our people have reason to feel grateful for the HERALD's persistent effort in behalf of educational aid. It has been proposed that a few of the powerful sects should send missionary teachers here. My experience is that they would not be acceptable. Both the Russian priests and the Aleuts, who are most devout Greek Catholics, would have an aversion to the influences that would naturally be linked with sectarian education.

We have three active volcanoes on this end of the Aleutian group, one on Unalaska island, at a point 5,474 feet above the level of the sea, another on Unimak, with an elevation of 8,000 feet, and the third on Akutan. In clear weather—a rare condition of atmosphere in this climate—some of the volcanoes can be distinctly seen. Each of them emits immense volumes of smoke, and fire (the natives say) issues from the volcano on Unimak. We hope these volcanoes will attract visitors from San Francisco, for we are anxious to have our wonders appreciated. We claim to be ahead of California in some things, and do not intend to let our native modesty keep us in the background.

J. Z.

THE portraits of Presidential candidates, which are conspicuously placed in front of club rooms and wigwags, to enthrall the masses, are almost invariably caricatures. It is said that they are the work of house painters, who thus take sweet revenge for never having had their guild represented in the White House. If so, they certainly 'get even,' but it's a little rough on the future President.

HIGHWAY ROBBERY.

Robbed on the highway boldly,
Robbed in a ruthless way;
Robbed without cry or parley,
Robbed in the open day!

This I remember only:
A strange and subtle spell;
A glance like summer lightning,
And voice like silver bell.

I gave no cry nor struggle,
Called not for aid aloud;
Sought not the law's protection,
Nor pity from the crowd;

But gave, quite unresisting,
The treasure I have lost;
Nay more, forgave the robber
Whose path my own had crossed.

"Six feet," strong and stalwart,
Captured by "five feet one;"
Bound by a tether finer
Than ever spider spun!

My captor wore a bonnet
Misty and blue and small;
Outside it, rose or feather
I cannot tell at all.

But pearls, and stars, and roses,
And curling rings of gold,
Were somewhere 'twixt the bonnet
And the throat-tie's silken fold—

And words with silver echoes
Rang as she passed me by,
And then my heart, unguarded,
She bore off bodily.

'Twas thus the robber met me,
One sunny Saturday—
Robbed me in open daylight,
Upon the broad highway.

SAVED BY A HAIR.

A very little thing will sometimes save a man's life, as the following story will show. While reading the evening paper I noticed something which interested me at once. "What's this?" I said, as my eye alighted on a startling paragraph:

"MYSTERIOUS MURDER.—J. Randolph, one of our old and wealthy citizens, was this morning found dead in his room, having been murdered during the night. Edgar Morton, a clerk in his employ, and who, report says, was soon to be married to his daughter, has been arrested for the murder, and circumstances are said to be strongly against him."

Now, although I am usually among the first to hear of criminal news, from the nature of my business, this was the first intimation I had received that such a murder had been committed, having been out of town during the day. As I had been on the best of terms with Mr. Randolph and his whole family, it occurred to me at once that my advice would be sought.

"And so this is the way that Edgar Morton repays his benefactor and the father of his affianced bride! Yet no! it cannot be. I will stake my life on that young man's innocence."

As I spoke, there came a gentle tap at the door, followed almost immediately by the entrance of a lady, deeply veiled, who at once threw aside her veil, disclosing the face of my deceased friend's daughter, Cecile Randolph.

"Excuse me, Mr. Ferguson, for entering uninvited; but urgent business impels me."

"Be seated, Miss Randolph," I said, rising and handing her a chair. "O, Mr. Ferguson!" she sobbed forth, burying her face in her hands, "That I should ever be obliged to come to you on such an errand as this!"

I endeavored to quiet her, and partly succeeded, when I drew from her what few particulars she knew regarding her father's death.

"He retired last night, at his usual hour, apparently in good spirits, and no sound was heard during the night to cause any alarm. In the morning, as he failed to appear at breakfast, a servant was dispatched to summon him. Knocking at the door and receiving no answer, he finally opened it and advanced into the room. What a sight did he then behold! My poor father lay upon his bed, with his throat cut from ear to ear! Death must have come to him suddenly—so suddenly as to prevent any outcry—and the unknown assassin had no trouble in making his escape."

"But," I said, "I can't see why any one should suspect Edgar of the murder."

"That is the most mysterious part of the sad affair. When Edgar was told of the murder, he turned very pale, reeled, and would have fallen to the ground had not support been given him. Some of the ignorant beholders of this scene thought his actions denoted guilt, and an officer was summoned, who at once insisted on searching his room. A razor, on which were several spots of blood, was found concealed under the carpet, together with an old suit of clothes belonging to Edgar, which were bespattered with blood. This was considered sufficient evidence to warrant his arrest, and he now lies in jail, charged with the awful crime of murder. Oh, Mr. Ferguson! if you can do anything to save him, and at the same time bring the guilty perpetrator of this deed to justice, I will amply reward you."

"Do you know any enemies of your father, or of Edgar, who would be likely to commit such a crime either for money or revenge?" I asked.

"Oh, sir," she replied, "it was not done for robbery, as everything in the room was as father left it the night before. His watch and pocket-book, the latter containing quite a sum of money, were found under his pillow, where he always placed them, so that the crime must have been committed to gratify a fiendish thirst for revenge."

"Now, then, who of all your acquaintances could do such a thing?"

"I can not possibly say. Father had not an enemy in the world to my knowledge, or Edgar either, unless, perhaps, it might be Conrad Smithley, my poor father's book-keeper and trusty clerk; but it would be impossible for him to do such a deed."

"What reason have you to suspect that he is not Edgar's friend?"

"Only this: Some time ago, Conrad, whom we have always regarded as one of the family, proposed for my hand, and I told him it was not mine to give. 'I suspected as much,' he muttered; and then, whilst his face grew dark, and his features assumed an appearance perfectly fearful, he continued, 'But you shall never become the wife of Edgar Morton while I have life to prevent it.' He then wheeled about, and abruptly left my presence. I was considerably alarmed, and thought of speaking to father about it; but during the forenoon he returned and begged my forgiveness for the words he had used, and made such professions of sorrow in regard to them that I freely forgave him, and have since thought no more of the matter."

"The fact is quite clear to me," I said, "I know this fellow well, and the sort of company he keeps, and I should not be surprised to find that he had committed the murder. His plan included Morton's execution as the murderer, the possession of your hand and the estate, so there was no motive for small robbery—at least, this is my reading of the case. Now, then, I want to see the body of your father and the room in which the deed was done."

"Well, sir," she said, rising and preparing to accompany me, "you will find everything as it was when first discovered; the officer concluded not to disturb anything until after the inquest, which takes place to-morrow forenoon."

Wrapping myself in my greatcoat, we set out, and, after a brisk walk of ten minutes, reached the palatial residence of my companion. I was at once shown to the room of the murdered man, and then be-

gan making such an examination as only a detective knows how to make. Circumstances of the most trivial character, which would be overlooked by an ignorant person, are often seized upon by a skillful detective, and sometimes constitute most damning evidence of guilt. In this case, however, everything had been done in the most skillful manner, and I could not succeed in making any discoveries.

I was about to leave the room in despair, when, glancing toward the bed, I noticed what appeared to be a light scratch on the neck of the murdered man, just above the gaping wound which had so cruelly let out his life's blood. On examination, I found it to be nothing more than a hair, which had in some manner probably become loosened from the head of the assassin, and had settled on the neck of the victim, where it now lay, a silent, yet truthful witness, pointing out the guilty wretch to the eye of justice. The hair was of a deep red color, which was totally unlike that of any of the household. It was, indeed, the same color and shade as that of Conrad Smithley.

I placed it carefully in my pocketbook, and, saying nothing to any one of my discovery, started for the residence of Smithley, intent on doing a little acting. I found him, as his attendant said, ill in bed, and on no account must he be disturbed. "Only a ruse," I thought, "to divert suspicion." Stating to the woman that I wanted to see him but for a moment on the most urgent business, she finally reluctantly consented to my entrance. I found him lying upon a bed apparently in great pain. In my youth I had studied medicine, and was consequently well informed on such matters, and I saw at once, with a quick glance, that he was only feigning sickness. He started up somewhat angrily as I entered, but I silenced him with a motion of my hand.

"Conrad Smithley, this is a desperate game you are playing, but it will avail you nothing."

"What do you mean?" he exclaimed, springing to his feet, his sickness all gone.

"I mean that the game is up, and the murderer of John Randolph is discovered."

As I had anticipated, he sank into a chair, and, burying his face in his hands, sobbed out, "Lost! lost!"

"Do you confess the murder, then?"

Recovering himself a little, he gasped, "What proofs have you?"

"Enough to hang you, and nothing but a confession can procure you a lighter punishment." I then rapidly detailed to him the circumstances which led me to the conviction that he was John Randolph's murderer—his threats, his motives, and finally the unmistakable evidence he had left of his presence at the murdered man's bedside. This last link in the chain completely overwhelmed him. He was not an experienced criminal, and he saw no hope of escape.

"I confess," he said, "now that concealment is no longer of use."

I took him at once into custody, and soon had the satisfaction of seeing him change places with Edgar Morton, who was overjoyed at his release.

Conrad Smithley was tried for murder, and, knowing that any defense would be useless after his confession to me, pleaded guilty, and threw himself upon the mercy of the Court, which sentenced him to imprisonment for life.

About a year after, I received an envelope containing an invitation to the wedding of Cecile Randolph and Edgar Morton, who lived long and happily together, and never ceased thanking me that Edgar was saved by a hair.

THE past fortnight has witnessed a number of heart-breaking disasters. The steamer "Metis," off the coast of Connecticut, was run into and sunk by a sailing vessel, with a loss of thirty-one lives. The collision occurred at a late hour of the night, when nearly all on board were asleep. Another steamer, the "Bienville," was burned on the passage between New York and Aspinwall, and ten lives lost. At Yokohama, on the 24th ult., an event occurred, which though not saddened by the fatality which marked the disasters on the Atlantic, will be deeply regretted: the burning of the splendid steamship "America" to the water's edge. She had arrived in port but a few hours before. Loss of ship and part of cargo, about \$1,500,000.

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Just previous to the late General Halleck's departure East, he made a tour of inspection to Alaska Territory, and, by instruction of the Secretary of War, was accompanied by our celebrated photographic artist Maybridge, who made a series of the most picturesque and valuable photographs we have ever seen. The Hon. Wm. H. Seward thought very highly of them and addressed Mr. Maybridge a very complimentary letter in acknowledgment of his appreciation. They comprise about three dozen stereoscopic views of Sitka, Fort Wrangle, Fort Tongass, etc., portraits of Indians, illustrations of Indian life and flying views from ship board; giving a far better idea of the aspects of the country than a volume of reading matter.

The price is three dollars coin per dozen and for this amount we will forward a dozen or more, postage free to any part of the world.

There are also about a dozen larger sized views of the same subject 7 by 9 inches of equal if not superior merit to the stereographs; these we will forward free of postage upon receipt of \$1.25 coin, each.

EDW. J. MUYBRIDGE, Photographic View Artist.

Orders may be sent, care of Publisher ALASKA HERALD.

STANDARD LITERATURE.

"Whitney's Musical Guest" is published monthly at Toledo, Ohio, at \$1 a year. In musical literature it holds a high place, and in new and beautiful compositions it satisfies the most exacting. The number for September presents a lively song entitled "Courtship through the Meadow Bars," by Frank Howard; a sacred melody by A. J. Abbey, "It is Better Farther On;" "Good Luck," by Mathias; a "Be-witching Schottische;" two choruses for children—"Come Ye that Labor," and "Home of the Blest," etc. Specimen copies, ten cents. Address W. W. Whitney.

The "Transatlantic" magazine, Philadelphia, gives, each month, selections of the best articles from many foreign publications. One may be sure of finding nothing but cream in the "Transatlantic," and although much that cannot be compressed within any re-print is by no means skimmed milk, those who have but little leisure for reading find it useful to have the very best selections made for them and furnished in convenient shape. Terms, \$3 per annum, currency.

Peters' Musical Monthly contains nine selections of new and choice music, which can be had for thirty cents. In sheet form they can be procured as follows: Meet me, Maggie; song and chorus (Hays), 40 cts. Bright Star that Crowns with Beauty; song (Kucken), 30 cts. Do not weep so, Sister, Darling; song and chorus (Stewart), 30 cts. My Heart is Weary; ballad (Gonod), 50 cts. Jocus Polka; four hands (Strauss), 35 cts. Sunlight Schottische (Goote), 30 cts. Georgie's Waltz (Kinkel), 35 cts. Rosalba Polka Mazurka, Kleber, 40 cts. Love's Caresses; morceau elegant (Kinkel), 40 cts. Annual subscription, \$3. A one-dollar greenback will purchase five back numbers. Address J. L. Peters, 500 Broadway, New York.

Samuel R. Wells (380 Broadway, New York) is an inexhaustible fount. His last (and, we think, best) outpouring is entitled "The Science of Health, a new monthly devoted to health on hygienic principles." Within the covers of each monthly number, enough information is contained to enable the reader to attain the age of Methuselah, if so disposed and his neighbors are willing. \$2 per year.

The "Waverley Magazine," of Boston, publishes a great many good stories, but no continued and no immoral ones. It has attained an immense circulation, and is uniformly commended by its readers. The "Waverley" costs a little more per year than most of the Eastern weeklies, but it contains so great a quantity of reading matter that each number would make a respectable-sized book.

THE ALASKA HERALD.

A. A. STICKNEY, EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

Vol. V.

SEPTEMBER 9, 1872.

No. 112.

WE have received, through the courtesy of Secretary Delano, a copy of the "Report of a visit to the Sioux and Ponka Indians on the Missouri river, made by William Welsh." Mr. Welsh's journey was made at the request of the Mission Board of the Episcopal Church. Those who favor the plan now on trial, of placing the nomination and supervision of Indian Agents under the control of the principal religious organizations, will find much in Mr. Welsh's report to encourage them. The Episcopalians, particularly, seem to have been successful in the work allotted to them. It is unfortunate, however, that political asperities still interfere with a whole-hearted, earnest effort to promote the moral and physical welfare of the Indian. Our system of government, with all its benefits to the white race, has one feature which works an incidental hardship to the red man, by allying him with a new "Father" every four or eight years. We never have an Indian policy; we have experiments, but they are scarcely given a practical test before a change of rulers substitutes new ones in their places. If the religious bodies of the country shall show that they possess sufficient wisdom and discretion to supervise our Indian affairs, and take them out of the arena of party politics, it will be a blessed thing for all concerned, white and red. We confess we have doubts of the success of the "peace policy" as regards certain tribes, but these exceptional savages need not stand in the way of fair experiment in other quarters. As to the sects which shall take the Indians under their surveillance, we presume no jealousy will be felt; whether the Indian Agent be a "dipper" or "sprinkler," a Catholic, or a Protestant, a Quaker or a Unitarian, he will feel that the good name of his church is involved in his conduct, and that he is closely watched. We believe this movement in behalf of the red man sprang from the purest and best motives, and trust it will not be interfered with until it shall have had a full and fair trial.

THE increasing cost of coal is regarded as of serious moment in Great Britain. Attention is being directed to all the modes whereby a saving in the use of the article can be effected. Indeed, so important a bearing does the price of this single commodity exercise upon all the great industries, that fears of heavy losses in manufactures and trade are beginning to be expressed. Of course there are causes besides the advance in coal for an increase in the price of manufactured articles; the high price of labor has been alluded to by a contemporary as most prominent among these causes, but it is presumable that an important advance of wages in Great Britain would be followed by a similar movement on the Continent. Some of the British trade journals express a hope that by practicing more rigid economy in the use of coal, their manufacturers will still be able to compete with those of other countries which have an abundant supply. It is evident, however, that America, with her practically exhaustless beds of coal and iron, is to be largely benefited by the decline in the production of the English mines. And as "all roads lead to Rome," so do all these facts and comments point to Alaska. Her coal deposits (which it is claimed include not only a serviceable and abundant semi-bituminous article but a quality of anthracite absolutely unequalled) will soon take rank among her most valuable resources, provided those who have the recently discovered mines in charge are not deceived as to their extent and do not content themselves with exhibiting specimens. We do not doubt that had large quantities of the ligneous coal of Cook's Inlet been placed upon the market five years ago it would have made Alaska famous and attractive as a coal-producing country. Assays made in 1868 showed that, all things considered, it was about as good as anthracite, notwithstanding its woody appearance.

WE are indebted to Mr. JOHN MUNRO, of the Revenue Service, for late Glasgow papers. Mr. MUNRO is an efficient officer and at the same time a courteous gentleman, proving that even a "Toiler of the Sledge" may do his duty without being abrupt or tyrannical.

A SHORT SERMON.

WE can hardly hope that our mundane sphere shall rapidly approach perfection so long as the HERALD is able to turn its calcium light upon the human pathway but once in a fortnight. How the world gets along at all under this deprivation is a source of constant wonder to our too-partial friends; but we shall not now investigate the mystery, as we desire to make an application of the fact itself before it gets cold. We have a serious purpose in view—hence these tears. Within our range of observation we can point to a number of individuals who are all "business;" they have no time for anything outside the foundry, shop, store or office. They have been devoted for years to their chosen pursuit, and will continue until furrowed by a stroke of paralysis or discharged by a shock of apoplexy. Body and soul they seem to belong to "the house." Sometimes the love of money is the root from which has grown this insatiable appetite for business; but far more frequently inordinate self-conceit is the controlling element. Some of these people actually believe that were they to allow themselves the slightest respite from the toils and cares of their vocation by entrusting to fresher hands the work they have been doing so long, the entire fabric of their hope and pride would totter and fall to pieces before they could get beyond the city's confines. Not only would this not happen (as shown when some inexorable decree removes one of these devotees from his counting-house or other business-stair), but they would gain so much in mental and physical health by a change of scene and by filling their lungs with untainted air, that even in a pecuniary sense they would profit by the digression. However, once confirmed in this exaggerated opinion of one's value, or given up to a calling for the money there is in it, only a great revolution in trade or the approach of the Messenger who accepts no excuse, will effect a change. In a few years Providence will be charged with having "removed from among us our esteemed fellow-citizen, ere manhood's noon had been passed," etc. Strange that obituaries should be so given to lying!—more strange that the daily examples of premature helplessness and sudden death should have so little influence upon a certain class of laborers. We know that many persons are compelled to toil, whether weak or strong, for the bread that it is to keep life and their little ones in company—it is not of these we speak. The monomanies of trade—and we must say of the press, too—who, but for an unrestrained greed or a belief that they are absolutely indispensable, might take occasional rest or retire from business before taxing beyond reason their bodily and mental powers: these are the prospective suicides who have subverted the purpose of a paragraph, and therefore cannot be said to have lived wholly in vain.

EASTERN papers mention the fact that one of Bret Harte's stories is to be dramatized; also that Bret is writing a play which will soon be produced at Philadelphia. A correspondent of a Chicago paper, alluding to the \$10,000-a-year contract which has terminated, gives it as his opinion that "such agreements, involving a stipulated number of articles, at a fixed price, are irksome to a man of genius, cramp his movements, and deaden his ambition." The implication is, of course, that Mr. Harte's literary work, during the past year, has not been remarkably excellent. Perhaps the writer expected a "Heavenly Chinee" every month. However, we imagine it must be rather more pleasant to be "cramped" on \$10,000 a year than on just enough to keep the wolf from the door. Bret has some reason to consider the public a donkey and treat it accordingly. He gave it, through the columns of "The Californian," in 1864 and 1865, "John Burns of Gettysburg," "A Second Review of the Grand Army," and many other of his finest conceptions and happiest embodiments; yet the donkey brayed him never a word until he held before him the grotesque Ah Sin, with his "peculiar" ways. We do not mean that Bret had not secured recognition as a true poet and as a humorist of rare ability; but "reputation" means an appreciative circle of cultivated people—"notoriety" means everybody who can read and shout. Reputation is desirable above all things. Notoriety pays. We are very glad Harte has achieved both.

AT the anniversary meeting of the Young Men's Christian Association, lately, Dr. Stone made the suggestion that the members should "take the ladies into a full partnership." It is simply shameful that there should be any occasion for such advice, but we are glad to know that the good young men have determined to accept it in letter and spirit. The imputation which it involves would be less remarkable had not many of the "young" fellows reached that period when foreheads extend over to the back of the neck.

THE visit of Prof. Agassiz to the Pacific Coast is an event worthy all the interest and all the demonstrations it has elicited. For many years the scientific world has regarded him as among its most devoted and advanced students. The exploration of the Andes, a few years since, seemed the crowning achievement of his life; but it did not content a mind so full of great thoughts and noble aspirations. Not until the decrepitude of age forced him to desist, will Professor Agassiz give up his studies, for the acquisition of knowledge only stimulates to further pursuit. The reference to the South American expedition recalls the poetical bouquet thrown to the Professor by Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes, as the party left Boston. As an ingenious and characteristic production it will always have an interest; while its republication just at this time will, we doubt not, be regarded with favor by our readers.

How the mountains talked together,
Looking down upon the weather,
When they heard our friend had planned his
Little trip among the Andes!
How they'll bear their snowy scalps
To the climber of the Alps,
When the cry goes through their passes,
"Here comes the great Agassiz!"
"Yes, I'm tall," says Chimborazo,
"But I wait to hear him say so—
That's the only thing that lacks—he
Must see me—Cotopaxi!"
"Ay! ay!" the fire peak thunders,
"And he must view my wonders!
I'm but a lonely crater
Till I have him for spectator!"
The mountain hearts are yearning,
The lava torches burning,
The rivers bend to meet him,
The mountains bow to greet him;
It thrills the spinal column
Of fossil fishes solemn,
And glaciers crawl the faster
To the feet of their old master!

Heaven keep him well and hearty!
Both him and all his party!
From the sun that boils and smites,
From the centipede that bites,
From the hail-storm and the thunder,
From the vampire and the condor,
From the gust upon the river,
From the sudden earthquake shiver,
From the trip of mule or donkey,
From the midnight howling monkey,
From the stroke of knife or dagger,
From the puma and the jaguar,
From the horrid boa-constrictor
That has scared us in the picture,
From the Indians of the Pampas,
Who would dine upon their grampas,
From every beast and vermin
That to think of us sets us squirming,
From every snake that tries on
The traveler his pison,
From every pest of Nature,
Likewise the alligator,
And from two things left behind him,
(Be sure they'll try to find him)—
The tax-bill and answer—
Heaven keep the great Professor!

* * * * *
God bless the great Professor;
And Madam, too, God bless her!
Bless him and all his band,
On the sea and on the land,
As they sail, ride, walk and stand—
Bless them, head and heart and hand,
Till their glorious raid is o'er,
And they touch our ransomed shore!
Then the welcome of a nation,
With its shout of exultation,
Shall awake the dumb creation,
And the shapes of buried bones
Join the living creatures' prana,
While the mighty megolosaurs
Lead the palaeozoic chorus—
God bless the great Professor,
And the land his proud possessor—
Bless them now and evermore!

A COUNTRY OF VARIED RESOURCES.

ALASKA is not "owned by a single firm;" nor are her resources limited to the skins and oils obtainable upon two small islands, as has been charged. Here are a few of the products of her soil and waters, which invite the investment of capital and the employment of muscle: Gold, silver and copper are found, but there has been no thorough work from which the extent or value of the ores could be estimated; the "indications" are considered very fair. Coal of good quality, and so located as to be conveniently and cheaply shipped to market, exists in abundance. The timber of the Territory includes yellow cedar, of a quality superior to the cedar of Puget Sound for shipbuilding, which is perhaps the highest praise it could receive. Forests of this matchless "camphor-wood" (as it is sometimes called, from its fragrance) cover the sides of mountains near the sea, while hemlock, fir and other varieties of timber not valuable for export but serviceable in many ways, are also plentiful. A peculiar kind of kelp grows on the coast north of Avinoff, from which iodine and carb. of soda are obtained; so abundant is this sea-weed that it would be considered a source of immense wealth were it found in some European countries. Then, in the way of fish, the cod, salmon halibut and herring present their claims, with a score of others. The codfish of the Shumagin Islands is superior to the Eastern article, and the supply is unlimited. A species of small fish called the yulikon is remarkable for its plenteousness and as being the fattest member of the finny tribe—so greasy that the Indians use it, after drying, as a torch; they light the tail, and that and the backbone serve as a wick, the "lamp" burning for some time. In valuable oils there are whale, walrus, seal and other descriptions for manufacturing and lubricating purposes, to say nothing of the "bar's grease," essential to every well-furnished toilet, and the cod-liver oil which furnishes consumptives with a new pair of lungs yearly. The fur-bearing animals of Alaska comprise both the land and sea-otter, the walrus, bear, wolf, deer, fox, marten, mink, muskrat, nearly every kind of seal, sk— in short, all the desirable and beautiful species one could ask for. Walrus ivory and whalebone constitute a source, also, of considerable profit. It has hardly penetrated many minds yet that myriads of birds of the richest plumage exist "away up there," but such is the fact, and in regard to numbers, it is said that if the surplus "down" of Alaska were collected and distributed, no person on the Pacific coast need repose on any harder bed.

We think all intelligent men will agree that a country possessing these sources of employment and wealth, and embracing an area of half a million square miles, must in time attract a considerable population. The capabilities of the soil promise to afford table supplies and sustenance for stock, at least in the southern districts. It is certain that Alaska has a great deal besides fur seals; it is equally true that no exclusive privileges have been granted save in the two little fur-seal islands. As to this "exclusive" privilege, we have already expressed our views, but as we continue to receive inquiries, we will briefly recur to the subject. Government has leased the seal fisheries to a number of persons who are incorporated under the name of the "Alaska Commercial Company." This Company is permitted to kill 25,000 seals on St. George and 75,000 on St. Paul, per annum, and no more. The lease is for twenty years, if faithfully complied with, and was awarded to the Company named because it was the highest and best bidder. Our Government plainly foresaw that if free permission to kill the fur seals were given, the islands would not show a trace of those valuable animals in a few years. The fur-seal has to be treated with the utmost caution, and if a rookery is once destroyed by reckless or incompetent hunters, it is never revisited; the seal leaves, if he escape his pursuer, not to find a home on some happier shore but, nine times out of ten, to perish in the sea. This has happened so often that it is an established fact; and when almost the last remaining haunt of these creatures came into the possession of our Government it determined to exercise the same care with which the Russians had guarded it. So far, the plan works well; the seals are killed under such restrictions as to season, numbers, age and sex, and

with precautions against disturbance of the rookeries, that there is no probability of losing the treasured species. Our Government, also, instead of having a burdensome and expensive Territory upon its hands, derives more than enough revenue from the islands which have fortunately been made the home of the fur seal to pay all the expenses to which it is subjected for military and other service in Alaska.

HOW A VAMPIRE WAS OVERCOME.

Soldiers often figure, in ghost stories, as overcomers of vampires. One of them, for instance, is on his way home on a visit, when he passes a graveyard. All is dark around; but on one of the graves he sees a fire blazing. Guessing that this is the work of a lately deceased wizard, of whose evil deeds he has heard terrible accounts, he draws near, and sees the wizard sitting by the fire making boots.

"Good evening, brother," says the soldier.

"What have you come here for?" asks the wizard.

"To see what you are doing."

The wizard throws his work aside and cries, "Come along, brother! Let's enjoy ourselves; there's a marriage feast going on in the village."

"Come along," says the soldier.

Our story proceeds to say that they went to where the wedding was, and were treated with the utmost hospitality. After eating and drinking, the wizard got into a rage. He drove all the guests out of the house, threw the bride and bridegroom into a deep slumber, took an awl, and made a hole with it in one of the hands of each, and then drew off some of their blood in a couple of vials. Having done this, he went away, taking the soldier with him.

"Why did you fill those vials with blood?" asked the soldier.

"In order that the bride and bridegroom might die. In the morning there will be no waking them; and no one but myself knows how they can be restored to life."

"How's that to be done?"

"By making cuts in their heels and pouring some of their own blood into those wounds. Whatever I wish, that I can do," he went on bragging.

"I suppose it's impossible to get the better of you?"

"Impossible? No! If a man were to make a bonfire of aspen boughs, and burn me in it, he'd get the better of me. Only he'd have to look sharp about it, for snakes and worms, and all sorts of vermin would crawl out of my inside, and crows and magpies and jackdaws would come flying about, and all these would have to be caught and flung into the fire. If so much as a single maggot were to escape, in that maggot I should slip off."

All this the soldier stored up in his mind. He and the wizard went on talking until they reached the graveyard.

"Well, brother," said the wizard, "now I must tear you up; otherwise you will go repeating all this."

"What are you talking about?" replied the soldier. "You're very much mistaken in thinking you'll tear me up. I'm a true servant of God and the emperor!"

Upon this, the wizard gnashed his teeth, howled aloud, and sprang at the soldier, who drew his sword and laid about him lustily. They fought till the soldier was all but exhausted; then suddenly the cocks began to crow, and the wizard fell lifeless to the ground. From his pockets the soldier took the vials of blood, and then went on his way. Next morning he went to the house in which the wedding feast had had been held, and there he found every one in tears, for the bride and bridegroom lay dead. Carrying out the instructions he had received from the wizard, he brought the young people back to life. Instead of weeping, there immediately began to be mirth and revelry. But the soldier went to the "starosta" and told him to assemble the peasants and prepare a bonfire of aspen wood. Well, they took the wood into the graveyard, tore the wizard out of his grave, placed him on the wood, and set it alight, the people all standing around in a circle, holding brooms and shovels and fire iron. When the pyre

became wrapped in flames, the wizard began to burn; then out of him crept snakes and worms and all sorts of vermin, and up came flying crows and magpies and jackdaws; but the peasants knocked them down and flung them into the fire, not allowing so much as a single maggot to escape. And so the wizard was thoroughly consumed, and the soldier collected his ashes and strowed them to the winds. From that time there was peace in the village.—*Cornhill.*

ШЕХОВАЯ ТОРГОВЛЯ

ВЪ САН-ФРАНЦИСКО.

LIST OF PRICES FOR FURS,

IN SAN FRANCISCO.

Bear, black, prime, fine	....	....	skin, from \$ 3 00 @ \$5 00
Черный Медведь самый пушистый, — отъ	до	2 00	do 3 00
do do do heavy	....	....	do 2 00
жесткий	....	....	do 1 00
do do seconds	....	....	do 1 00
второго сорта	....	....	do 0 50
do do cube	....	....	do 1 00
медвеженокъ	....	....	do 0 50
do brown and grizzly, about 25 % c. less than black	....	....	do 1 00
черный съ просвѣдо	....	....	do 0 50
Badger	....	....	skin, from \$ 0 50 do 1 00
Барсукъ	....	....	do 2 00
Fisher, prime, dark	....	....	do 5 00
Фишеръ первого сорта, черный	....	....	do 1 00
do do pale	....	....	do 1 50
блѣдный	....	....	do 1 00
do seconds	....	....	do 1 50
второго сорта	....	....	do 1 00
Fox, Silver	....	....	do 4 00
Серебристая Лисица	....	....	do 50 00
do Cross	....	....	do 2 00
Пятнистая	....	....	do 2 50
do Red	....	....	do 0 50
Красная	....	....	do 1 00
do Kitt	....	....	do 0 40
Маленькая	....	....	do 0 50
do White	....	....	do 0 75
Бѣлая	....	....	do 1 00
do Gray	....	....	do 0 40
Сѣрая	....	....	do 0 50
Lynx	....	....	do 1 00
Рысь	....	....	do 1 10
Marten, prime, dark	....	....	do 2 00
Соболь, черный	....	....	do 9 00
do do pale	....	....	do 1 00
блѣдный	....	....	do 1 25
do seconds	....	....	do 0 50
второго сорта	....	....	do 1 00
do thirds	....	....	do 0 25
третьяго сорта	....	....	do 0 50
Mink, dark, northern, prime	....	....	do 0 40
Норка черная, сѣверная, первого сорта	....	....	do 5 75
do pale, southern	....	....	do 0 50
Блѣдная, южная	....	....	do 0 75
do seconds	....	....	do 0 40
второго сорта	....	....	do 0 55
do thirds	....	....	do 0 20
третьяго сорта	....	....	do 0 25
Muskrat	....	....	do \$0 05 @ 0 10
Выхухоль	....	....	do

THE ALASKA HERALD.

Vol. V.

SEPTEMBER 9, 1872.

No. 112.

BRIEF MENTION.

A deer weighing 283½ pounds has been killed near Victoria, Vancouver Island.

A whale about thirty feet long upset a boat in Port Townsend Bay, recently.

The Washington Territorial University will open on the third Wednesday of the present month.

A party of engineers has been fitted out to locate the Utah, Idaho and Montana Railroad between Corinne and Helena.

Shirley and Brown, the land pirates, continue to outrage the people of Washington Territory and British Columbia.

A stone quarry at Nanaimo is claimed to yield the best free stone on the Pacific coast, and to have a continuous extent of seven square miles.

Prof. Davidson has selected Pollard's Peak, near Summit station, on the California and Nevada line, as the site of the great National Observatory.

In Salt Lake the Gentiles have organized a Vigilance Committee, which has assumed a formidable character.

James Dwyer, a well-known pugilist, died at Portland, Oregon, on the 29th ult., aged 25 years.

In the Weiser river valley, Idaho, there are bands of Indians numbering 1,000 to 1,500, all armed with rifles and revolvers. They belong on different reservations and are a terror to the whites.

At Los Angeles 213 bars of base bullion have been received from Cerro Gordo, and thirteen sacks of Wallapai (Arizona) silver ore have been received.

At Saucelito, Cal., two surveying parties, numbering twenty men, have been busily engaged lately, completing the detailed plans for the Central Pacific lines. Soundings of the water front have been taken.

From July 1st to September 5th ten vessels were loaded at Vallejo, Cal., direct for England, taking \$32,865 cents. During corresponding period in 1871, eleven vessels took 250,000 cents.

Down in Maine an editor thus concludes a two column article on the importance of a proposed sidewalk: "We would say more on this subject but for want of words—ideas gave out some time ago."

Under the provisions of the second section of the Act of July 2d, 1864, the Northern Pacific Railroad Company have located fifty-six acres for station grounds, side tracks, etc., on Scatter Creek, about a mile from the track and eighteen miles from Olympia.

Seattle has a population of 2,000, does a business of over a million dollars a year, has several large stores, six churches, two public schools and a university, and claims to be the commercial metropolis of Washington Territory.

The Register and Receiver of the Olympia Land Office (says the "Transcript") sold on the 28th of August, 90,000 feet of saw logs, seized at Meiggs & Gawley's logging camp on Skookum Bay; Gen. Stevens was the purchaser, at fifty cents per thousand feet. Another raft, of 100,000 feet was seized at the camp of Willey & Fredson, and was sold on the 31st. Government officers are determined to put a stop to the cutting of timber on public land.

J. Neeley Johnson, formerly Governor of California, died recently at Salt Lake City. He was personally very popular. The Know-Nothing wave elevated him to the governorship. During his term, the Vigilantes rose in San Francisco, making it his duty to call out the State militia; but the Vig's didn't go down, although ordered in due form. Since his official term expired, Mr. Johnson has been quietly engaged in professional duties. His funeral was largely attended.

The famous young mare "Aurora," which beats the world, was procured for Gov. Stanford by Jim Eoff, from H. M. Houston, the clothier, for \$3,000. Jim pocketed an advance of \$7,000 in the transfer. Houston bought her from Lamott, the latter, for \$700. Lamott gave a countryman \$200 for her. It would take many thousands to buy her now, if she were in sporting hands. The "Chronicle," from which we condense, hints that Stanford was "sold" when he bought the mare, but it has turned out very well for "the Gov." In fact, things generally do come out right for the old boy. He started in life on oil, and his wheels have never lacked grease.

Schooner "Montana," Jacobson, 23 days from Unalaska, with 65 cases furs to J. C. Jansen, arrived at San Francisco Sept. 1st.

The bark "Buena Vista," Black, 21 days from Kadiak, with 1,000 tons of ice to A. R. Co., arrived at San Francisco on the 5th inst.

The "Wild Gazelle," Henderson, 12 days from Shumagin Islands with 61,000 codfish to T. W. McCollum & Co., arrived on the 8th inst.

Rafferty, of Oregon, has sold his two-legged calf to a showman for \$100. It won't pay; too many on exhibition already.

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ALASKA



HERALD.

VOL. V.

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LETTER FROM PETROPAULOVSKI.

[CORRESPONDENCE OF THE ALASKA HERALD.]

It gives me great pleasure to be able to send you some news from this part of the great Russian Empire; and I can hardly doubt that the business relations we maintain with your merchants and traders will lend an interest to my letter, even though it fall short of the perfection attained by professional correspondents. On one or two occasions during the summer your journal has been received here, and I desire to make some return for the gratification its perusal has afforded me. If you have ever been what is termed "out of the world," you can realize what we feel when we get a glimpse of said world even through the newspapers. It is like receiving a letter from some dear friend who tells us about home and its old relations.

Some of us who are not loudest in praise of our native land, or most given to proclaiming from the housetops how dearly we love it, when living beneath its flag, feel quite as deeply as the noisiest patriot who splits the ears of political groundlings; and when our footsteps have taken us far from the spot which gave us birth, our thoughts often revert to the once familiar scenes, and we long to rejoin the friends we left behind us. Whenever the American flag appears in our harbor we instinctively feel an inexpressible pride and glory in our beloved country. It speaks to our hearts and emotions, and we hail it as a harbinger of good tidings.

What shall I say to you now of Petropaulovski? Would you believe that away up here, where we can almost look upon the North Pole, and where visitors from the Arctic Ocean are most frequent, during the Summer season we have some of the most lovely and enchanting scenery on the earth? We, at least, think we have. This is the month of August, and everything looks so green and beautiful that one can hardly realize how different a scene will be presented when Winter resumes its long and icy reign. The contrast is most striking. In Winter the very heart of Nature is frozen. In Summer the grass waves luxuriantly, the stately forests are inspiring in their rich foliage, the birds regale us with their songs, the sun comes out with warmth and power; the heart of Nature is unlocked, and, like a beautiful bride, she appears in all her glory.

Sometimes, when business does not occupy my attention, I stroll out among the rolling hills, covered with birch, larch and other trees. The air is pure, fresh and vigorous, and it would seem as if all this could never fade and perish. Our bay, too, is marvellously beautiful in these tranquil Summer days. Indeed, even to the hard, practical business man, the whole seems like a pleasant dream. We cannot get all the poetry of our natures extinguished, though we have to figure on our stocks of clothing, our supplies of boots and shoes, our barrels of pork, our furs and our fishes.

Our Winters we spend more agreeably than you might suppose. Balls and parties and social courtesies are indulged in. The Russians

are courteous and hospitable people, and they extend to foreigners a cordial welcome to their social gatherings. If the stranger is a man of education and good breeding, his society is eagerly sought; but none are excluded unless by their own conduct. Money does not make the man here, although in the changes of fate, or whatever you call it, we all come here to make money. Our social life is free and refined, though you might be led to think that we are somewhat barbarous on account of our isolation. Indeed, I have never met more congenial and cultivated people than at this very place. Their society makes up for many things which one must expect to be denied when our distance from European and American social and business centers is remembered.

Your readers may desire to know something about the agriculture of this country. After your patriots have done their duty at the polls in November, and when the result of the great contest shall have been announced, no doubt many will be glad to find some out of the way corner of the earth where what they know about the tricks and schemes of politicians may be forgotten. If so, they may come here with the assurance that agricultural pursuits will at least yield a support quite as valuable as that which they gave to their candidate. At this place we do some satisfactory gardening, raising cabbages, peas, lettuce, carrots, turnips and some other vegetables. We grow potatoes, but they do not attain to very large proportions. Oats and wheat are not among our staples, but rye is our main reliance for bread, and I need hardly inform your readers that it is an excellent substitute for wheat. We have about twenty kinds of berries and a species of wild cherry, quite palatable. The most useful berry is that known as the "marushka." It is picked in large quantities, near the close of Autumn, and frozen for the Winter's use.

We have plenty of cows and other cattle, and never suffer for milk or tunderloin. There are some horses, but not of the finest breed. We are, you will perceive, tolerably well supplied with the necessities of life here, and by liberal importations of tea, sugar, etc., contrive to live quite comfortably. Commerce is our main dependence, but we like to vary our occupations a little, and are not wholly without opportunities.

In our relations with the Capital of all the Russias we cannot boast of great intimacy. We have long intervals of "waiting for the mail," owing to the great distance and the many difficulties in the way. When the mail does come, there is a sensation in camp. Orders, changes, appointments, etc., interest the "outs" and the "ins." However, the mail is not so much of a terror as it would be were the tenure of office as uncertain as it is in a republic. In Russia personal influence must be very powerful to effect the removal of an officer who has been tried and not found wanting. The old officials, therefore, are pretty safe in their sinecures.

In a religious sense we are well provided for. The Russian authorities never forget to pay special attention to the spiritual wants of their subjects. The Russo-Greek priest is to be found everywhere, and everywhere exercises a powerful influence over the masses, in binding them, heart and soul, to the Czar. Indeed this may be said to be the power that holds Russia, in all its vastness, together. People who speak a common language and profess the same religious belief have these additional influences, with the love of country and their

social ties. While thousands upon thousands of exiles in Siberia have no political sympathy with Russia, yet in religion they are bound to the Czar, for he is their spiritual father, the representative of God upon earth, and to violate his commands is to bring upon them the anger of God himself. In a word the Czar is to the Greek Catholic what the Pope is to the Roman Catholic. More, the Russian Government is strongly patriarchal, and hence the Czar is bound to provide, not only for the spiritual but the physical wants of his subjects. The priests are the faithful and devoted mediators between the central power and the people. They are the schoolmasters who educate the masses to implicit obedience to the laws, whatever they may be.

Not a few of the educated exiles are free thinkers, and have the most ultra ideas as to liberty and government. Every country, I suppose, has its impracticables, who are not infrequently men of talent and even of genius. That they should be found among those whose focal life-thought is the restraint exercised by the Government, is not surprising. Mental as well as physical food must be varied in order to be healthful.

THE CZAR'S STRATAGEM.

Czar Ivan, who reigned over Russia about the sixteenth century, frequently went out disguised, in order to discover the opinion which the people had of his administration. One day, in a solitary walk near Moscow he entered a lonely village, and, pretending to be overcome by fatigue, implored relief from several of the inhabitants. His dress was ragged, his appearance mean; and what ought to have excited the compassion of the villagers, and insured his reception, was productive of refusal. Full of indignation at such inhuman treatment, he was about to leave the place, when he perceived another habitation, to which he had not yet applied for aid. It was the poorest cottage in the village. The Czar hastened to it, and knocked at the door; a peasant opened it and asked him what he wanted.

"I am almost dying with fatigue and hunger," replied the Czar. "Can you give me lodging for one night?"

"Alas!" said the peasant, taking him by the hand, "you will have but poor fare; you come at an unlucky time. My wife is about to become a mother; but come in. You will at least be sheltered from the cold; and such as we have you are welcome to."

The peasant then made the Czar enter a little room full of children. In a cradle were two infants sleeping soundly; a girl three years old was sleeping on a rug near the cradle; while her two sisters, the one five and the other seven years old, were crying and praying to heaven for their mother, who was in a room adjoining.

"Stay here," said the peasant to the Czar. "I will go and get something for your supper."

He went out, and soon returned with some black bread, eggs and honey.

"You see all I have to give you," said the peasant; "you are welcome to partake of it with my children—I must go to my wife."

"Your charity, your hospitality," said the Czar, "must bring down blessings upon your house. I am sure heaven will reward your good deeds."

"Pray to Heaven, my good friend," replied the peasant, "pray to Heaven that my wife may get well. That is all I wish for."

"And is that all you wish, my friend, to make you happy?"

"Happy! judge for yourself; I have five fine children; a wife that loves me; a father and mother, both in health; and my labor is sufficient to keep them all."

"Do your father and mother live with you?"

"Yes, they are in the next room with my wife."

"But your cottage here is so very small."

"It is large enough; it can hold us all."

The peasant then went to his wife, who, an hour after, was happily past all danger. Her husband, in a transport of joy, brought the newborn child to the Czar.

"Look," said he, "what a fine, hearty child he is. May Heaven preserve him, as it hath done my others!"

The Czar, sensibly affected at the scene, took the infant in his arms, and said:

"I know, from the physiognomy of this child, that he will be quite fortunate; he will arrive, I am certain, at great eminence."

The peasant smiled at the prediction, and that instant the two eldest girls came to their new-born brother; and their grandmother came also, to take him back. The little ones followed her. And the peasant, laying himself down upon his bed of straw, invited the stranger to do the same. In a moment the peasant was in a sound and peaceful sleep; but the Czar, stirring up, looked around, and contemplated everything with an eye of emotion—the sleeping children and their sleeping father. An undisturbed silence reigned in the cottage.

"What a happy calm! what delightful tranquility!" said the Czar. "Avarice and ambition, suspicion and remorse, never enter here. How sweet is the sleep of innocence!"

In such reflections and on such a bed did the Emperor of all the Russians spend the night. The peasant awoke at the break of day, and his guest, taking leave of him, said:

"I must go to Moscow, my friend. I am acquainted there with a benevolent man, to whom I shall take care to mention your kind treatment of me. I can prevail upon him to stand godfather to your child. Promise me, therefore, that you will wait for me, that I may be present at the christening. I will be back in three hours at the farthest."

The peasant did not think much of this mighty promise, but in the goodness of his heart he consented to the stranger's request.

The Czar immediately took his leave. The three hours were soon over, and nobody appeared. The peasant, therefore, followed by his family, was preparing to carry his child to church; but as he was leaving his cottage he heard on a sudden the tramping of horses' feet and the rattling of many vehicles. He knew the imperial guards, and called his family to come and see the Czar go by. They ran out in a hurry, and stood before the door. The horsemen and carriages soon formed a circular line, and at last the stage-coach of the Czar stopped outside the good peasant's door. The guards kept back the crowd which the hope of seeing their sovereign had collected in the narrow street.

The chariot door was opened, the Czar alighted, and advancing to his host thus addressed him:

"I promised you a godfather. I am come to fulfill my pledge. Give me your child, and follow me to church."

The peasant stood like a statue, now looking at the Czar with the mingled emotions of astonishment and joy; now observing his magnificent robes and the costly jewels with which they were adorned, and now turning to the crowd of nobles that surrounded him. In this profusion of pomp he could not discover the poor stranger who had lain all night with him upon the straw. The Czar silently enjoyed his perplexity for some moments, then addressed him thus:

"Last night you performed the duties of humanity; to-day I am come to discharge the duty of a sovereign, to reward virtue. I shall not remove you from a situation to which you do so much honor, and the innocence and tranquility of which I envy, but I will bestow upon you such things as may be useful to you. You shall have numerous flocks, rich pastures and a house that will enable you to exercise the duties of hospitality with pleasure. Your new-born child shall be my ward, for remember," he continued, smiling, "that I prophesied he would be fortunate."

The good peasant could not speak; but with tears of grateful sensibility in his eyes, he ran instantly to fetch the child, brought him to the Czar, and laid him respectfully at his feet. The excellent sovereign was quite affected; he took the child in his arms and carried it to the church; and after the ceremony was over, unwilling to deprive him of his mother's care, he took him to the cottage, and ordered him to be sent to him as soon as he could be weaned.

The Czar faithfully fulfilled his engagement, caused the boy to be educated in his palace, provided amply for his future settlement in life, and continued ever afterward to heap favors upon the virtuous peasant and his family.—A. U.

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THE "WAVERLEY," MOSES A. DOW, EDITOR:

The "Waverley Magazine," of Boston, publishes a great many good stories, but no continued and no immoral ones. It has attained an immense circulation, and is uniformly commended by its readers. The "Waverley" costs a little more per year than most of the Eastern weeklies, but it contains so great a quantity of reading matter that each number would make a respectable-sized book.

One of Bufford's splendid engravings, issued especially for the "Waverley," entitled "The Farmer's Friend" (size of picture 20x24 in.) is sent gratis to every person remitting the annual subscription of \$6, or, to those preferring it, 100 pieces of popular music in book form. Sixteen back numbers, \$1. Office, No. 5 Lindall st., Boston, Mass.

AGNES LIVINGSTONE, daughter of Dr. Livingstone, has received a letter from her father, in which he says:

"I have written two letters to Mr. Bennett. I meant to keep the materials to myself, but because the expedition was expensive I gave Mr. Stanley what would help him to write a book. In his hands it is harmless, for Americans are good and generous friends."

A dispatch dated London, Oct. 22d, informs us that on the evening of the 21st the Royal Geographical Society gave a banquet to Stanley. Many of the nobility and a large number of American gentlemen were present. Among the latter was Mark Twain.

DR. DALL, in "Alaska and Its Resources," says of the codfish of the Pacific:

"There appear to be two kinds of cod in the Pacific fisheries, both of which are distinct species from the Atlantic cod. As a rule, the heads are larger in proportion to the bodies than in the latter. The first of the two kinds referred to is small, but of good quality, and appears to frequent the banks during the entire year. The other and larger species arrives on the banks about May 10th, and leaves them about September 10th. These are a little smaller than the Ochotok fish, but dry heavier, averaging about four pounds. The Shumagin fish are the best in quality, and most of the Californian fishermen have abandoned the Ochotok for these fisheries."

GERMANY has heretofore been compelled to import petroleum in large quantities; but the crude material has lately been discovered in Galicia in inconceivable abundance, and efforts are now being made to prepare it for market. Twenty refineries are already in operation in one village, and others are being rapidly constructed.

In the State of Texas the counties are not subdivided into election precincts, as in other States. The voting is done at the county seat, and, under a State statute, the ballot-box is kept open four days. In Louisiana, under a special act of Congress, Presidential Electors will be chosen on the 4th of November. With these exceptions the Presidential election will begin and end on the 5th of November. In case of a very close contest, it will be seen, the country may not be entirely "ruined" before sundown of the 8th.

"IT STILL WAVES" It will be no surprise to very many of our readers to learn that that popular family paper, the "Star-Spangled Banner," still waves. It isn't one of the kind that "suspends" or "sells out." The "Banner" is a large 8-page, 40-column paper, of "Ledger" size, overflowing with splendid Stories, Poetry, Wit, Humor, Fun, etc. It is a paper for old and young—in fact, for EVERYBODY. It "shows up" every quack, swindler and humbug in its "Rogues' Corner," and is a money-saving paper for every man, woman and child. L. Prang & Co. have just finished a superb, full, *genuine* CHROMO, expressly for every subscriber to the "Banner," a perfect beauty, entitled "A BOUQUET OF AUTUMN LEAVES," which in color, tint, shades and artistic merit, has never been equaled. This leading HOME paper is only \$1 a year. Chromo sent free. Address, *Star-Spangled Banner*, Hinsdale, N. H.

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PHOTOGRAPHS OF ALASKA.

Just previous to the late General Halleck's departure East, he made a tour of inspection to Alaska Territory, and, by instruction of the Secretary of War, was accompanied by our celebrated photographic artist Muybridge, who made a series of the most picturesque and valuable photographs we have ever seen. The Hon. Wm. H. Seward thought very highly of them and addressed Mr. Muybridge a very complimentary letter in acknowledgment of his appreciation. They comprise about three dozen stereoscopic views of Sitka, Fort Wrangle, Fort Tongass, etc., portraits of Indians, illustrations of Indian life and flying views from ship board; giving a far better idea of the aspects of the country than a volume of reading matter.

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THE ALASKA HERALD.

A. A. STICKNEY. EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

VOL. V. OCTOBER 9, 1872. No. 114.

WE learn that during the past fortnight between thirty and forty ships have arrived at San Francisco, all of which are under engagement—nearly all of them to load with wheat.

THE trotting race between Goldsmith Maid and Lucy, at San Francisco, on Saturday, the 5th inst., was won by the Maid in three straight heats. Time—2:25; 2:18; 2:22—the best ever accomplished on a half-mile track. To show the prevalence of military titles in California, we mention the time-keepers, viz.: General Hewston, Colonel Kellogg, Colonel Theller, Major Seal and Captain Weeks.

It may cause a glow of honest pride to mantle the cheeks of the whisky-drinkers of the San Francisco collection district to know that they alone pay the salaries of all the Federal officers in the district. The returns show: Salaries of 457 officers, \$744,000; revenue collected from ardent spirits, \$744,063. This leaves the Government all the other revenue of the district, amounting to about \$1,750,000, to make up for the deficiencies of those districts in which the people are less mindful of their duty to support Uncle Sam's gentlemen.

THIS is a bad season for the "peckers." One was lately convicted of burglary and sentenced to the Sing Sing (N. Y.) prison for a long term; a number have been fined or allowed to retire for alleged delinquencies; and on the 5th inst., the Chief of Police and a detective officer were arrested, charged with being implicated in the robbery of the First National Bank of Jersey City. Considering, however, the facilities and temptations which a policeman's life offer, it must be admitted that the guardians of public peace and private property are, as a rule, much better men than they get the credit of being. The only wonder is that so small a number fall from grace.

AT the meeting of the Academy of Sciences, in San Francisco, on the 7th inst., Dr. W. H. Dall, of the Coast Survey (whose writings upon the resources of Alaska we have had occasion frequently to quote) spoke of the extended sweep of the great current of the North Pacific and its deflection southward after turning the basin of Bering Sea. This current transfers wood and drift from all parts of the Pacific, including substances of tropical growth, to the shores of Alaska. Dr. Dall presented the husk of a coconut, containing part of the shell, as one of the evidences of the extended journeying of the great ocean stream. He also presented specimens of various species of mollusks found on the northwest coast, resembling no others heretofore found on the western side of the continent.

THE Aleutian romance published in our last number has called into active exercise the imaginations and pens of a number of aspirants for literary fame. An insuperable obstacle prevents us from accepting the services of most of them: they seem to think that because the author of "Olga" (a tale founded on fact) killed off all the characters in the story except the Russian Count, they, too, must bury at least one individual to the page. Really we begin to believe that "the pen is mightier than the sword," but we can hardly permit so much blood to be shed when we have the power to prevent it. We confess that in common with many of our readers, we were considerably exercised about the fate of the sole survivor of "Consuelo's" thrillingly and pathetically interesting narrative. It gives us, pleasure, therefore, to find among the proffered contributions to our columns one that supplies the desired information. It is entitled: "The Count's Revenge; a Sequel to 'Olga, the Deserted.'" It will require a week or two to cut it down to our limit, when we shall relieve the suspense of our readers as to the fate of the foully-wronged Russian nobleman. Orders for copies should be sent early.

"QUASS"-MAKING IN ALASKA.

WE have often heard of the white toper who disinclined to "fool away his money for bread," and refused to lay in a barrel of flour when advised to do so. The Indians of Alaska are not averse to procuring flour, but if any one were to credit them with being specially provident in the direction of bread he would be widely mistaken. Flour is made, by a process of distillation and treatment in which they were instructed by the Russians, to yield a liquor called *quass*. Given plenty of flour and either sugar or molasses, these natives produce you a drunk equalling in its insane features any effect that may follow a liberal use of Bourbon or Cognac.

It may seem strange—and it would be in any other country—that humane regard for the people with whom they trade should impel dealers to restrict their sales of flour, or at least to provide for its distribution in limited quantities at stated intervals. Let a village or family of Alaskan Indians get a good supply of the article, and they will at once turn it to spirit-ual account. The consequence, frequently is, that when the trader visits them, in the Spring, he finds them impoverished and requiring advances of such goods as are indispensable to the pursuit of their avocations. The slavery of debt is thus established; and when debt and appetite combine to enslave a human being no parchment decree can liberate him.

This subject should command the attention of all good men who have part or voice in the trade of Alaska. There is something to live for beyond present gain, and there is a reward in the approval of conscience and the knowledge of duty performed that will one day be sweeter than all the wealth that can be piled up. It is the duty of all who are engaged in Alaskan commerce and industries to check the importation of ardent spirits, and also to discourage the manufacture of *quass* and other intoxicating drinks by the people themselves. If the traders cannot or will not agree upon a plan for the systematic distribution of supplies, they should ask Government to exercise a supervisory control. There are plenty of army officers, idling at their posts, who could be of great service to the Indians, and no doubt would be glad to be so employed.

A GHOST, of royal pretensions, has been creating a sensation in Vienna, by invading the Emperor's Palace. Unhappily for his ghostship, a skeptical soldier thrust his sword through the mantle in which he was wrapped, and a surgeon was at once needed. The authorities concealed the wounded and too substantial spirit-form, and attempted to hush the affair by placing the witnesses beyond the reach of interviewers, but the press got hold of the incident, and now speculation is rife as to who enacted the role of spectre, and for what purpose. In Europe, when there is a mystery connected with royalty, the Jesuits are usually suspected as being at the bottom of it. From force of habit they are made to fill up all the improbable situations, and in this case their desire to check the progress of liberalism is assumed to furnish a solution of the attempt to visit the Emperor in spirit guise. It is alleged that one of their number paid his respects to an ancestor of the present ruler of Austria in the shadowy habiliments of the departed, upon the eve of some important political event and was found in a very limp and useless condition, next morning under the window from which he was tossed by unbelieving hands. Without attempting to refute this convenient theory, it is hardly a debatable proposition, in view of these unpleasant results, that the palace of Austrian royalty has ceased to be an inviting theater for the apparition business. There are plenty of places where "spirits" can dance around with quite as much grace and a great deal more safety.

A SPIRIT-DEALER's assistant committed suicide in Glasgow, the other day, on account of a depression of spirits. His employers were bad enough, but his own were even worse.

AN editor in Ohio is worrying himself and losing sleep because gold loses six dollars to the million, by abrasion, in counting; he implores Government not to withdraw its paper currency. The Buckeye State must be generous to its quill-drivers.

FROM THE SHUMAGIN ISLANDS.

[CORRESPONDENCE OF THE ALASKA HERALD.]

[The following letter would have appeared in our last issue, but for the pressure of other original matter. The "Roscoe" arrived on the 12th ult., after a passage of twenty days.]

EDITOR HERALD: The last vessel of the cod fishing fleet leaves here within a day or two, and with her I send a few notes for your use. I forwarded a letter a couple of months ago which I hope reached you safely. We take a great interest in what is going on here, and it is but natural that we should like to have people know what we are doing.

We have had quite a busy season at the Islands this summer. When the fishing fleet comes from San Francisco our harvest commences. The vessels, as they arrive, are hailed with the greatest joy, for they not only bring us the latest news from California, and consequently from the world, but also bring supplies which are among the necessities of life. The Aleutian population, no less than the white men who reside here, are always anxious to get the latest news. They are gradually becoming Americanized, and as a result a little mercantile. The fleet, in addition, creates a demand for labor, and this makes money circulate. The Aleuts are not great worshippers of the "golden calf," but they have learned that money buys them those articles which add to their comfort and happiness. Thus they work to get it, and work very faithfully. Before the fishing interests of these islands were developed by us, the natives largely depended upon the Russian Government for supplies. Now they are thrown upon their own resources, and make out excellently. Every year they take a deeper interest in practical affairs, and as they gradually acquire a knowledge of the English language they will be able to do better.

With the close of the fishing season we retire to winter quarters. A general estimate of the number caught during the summer places it at 200,000 pieces. This will supply the California market and leave something over for other points of the Pacific coast. Next season will commence with the month of April, and will, as usual, continue until September. There are prospects that the coming summer will be highly prosperous, as we learn that the codfish of these waters is becoming very popular as an article of food in the United States. Why should not the Shumagin Islands become as famous as the celebrated Newfoundland fisheries? Our resources in this respect are unlimited. There are not finer or more prolific fisheries in the world than these. In procuring supplies we have heretofore labored under many disadvantages. Many of us were strangers to the business; a demand for our product had to be created in California and elsewhere, and the article had to be tested while competing with Eastern codfish. Now that the market has been opened, and Shumagin fish stand A No. 1, we are confident that our trade every succeeding year will receive a great impulse. We are very hopeful in this respect. This branch of industry will yet bring millions of dollars into the pockets of enterprising men.

It is a pleasure to be able to state that an honest and not a mean rivalry exists among the San Francisco merchants who are engaged in developing our codfishing interests. During the entire season just concluded I have not learned of a single instance where any of the vessels engaged took undue advantage of a rival. Both the captains and crews conducted themselves excellently, and have left the most favorable impression. We shall be glad to meet them next Spring. The captains who are engaged in the Alaska trade, so far as I have been able to judge, are a very honorable set of men. They get along splendidly with the natives. The Aleuts, as you are aware, are not very quarrelsome, and if they take a fancy to a captain they will do their utmost to oblige him.

This winter we are going to try to establish a school here for the purpose of teaching the young Aleutian idea how to shoot. We have taken a great interest in these people, and no wonder, for they are the most kind-hearted, hospitable and confiding beings in the

world. Any one who comes to Alaska will have reason to concur in my opinion. And by the way, we hope that we shall have quite a number of visitors, next Spring, from San Francisco. There will be plenty of vessels and no difficulty in making the trip. A great and mutual benefit may be derived from increased intercourse.

Do not forget to send us copies of the HERALD, during the winter, *via* Sitka. Occasionally we shall receive news from that point by revenue cutters, and you can imagine how much it will please us to know that we are not forgotten. Z.

MAX ADELER'S "Quill Scratches" in the Philadelphia Sunday Dispatch reappear in nearly every paper we meet with, minus the "trade mark." Stealing news items (accessible to all who have the necessary industry) is bad enough; but taking the droll, humorous and exclusive product of another's imaginative faculty, without giving credit, is the worst species of robbery. Had Max's rights been respected, he would already have become familiar to every newspaper reader in the land, and would have run the inevitable "book" through a third edition. In a certain species of humor he has few equals, resembling, we think, Mark Twain more nearly than any other contemporary.

JOURNALISTS should devote a little thought to the subject of "credits" in general. It often happens that a meritorious article cannot be given its proper "stamp," because the first one who copied it failed to affix the author's or publisher's name. Sometimes the word "Selected" is employed; but to place it under or over an article is virtually to claim originality for all the other contents, and as hundreds of little paragraphs can not be identified and never will be credited, this is obviously not the best method of putting in a disclaimer. As a handier and more definite method we would suggest the employment of two letters—either A. U. (authorship unknown) or P. U. (publication unknown), as the case may require. When neither authorship nor source of publication can be identified, the simple declarative, U., will suffice. (Thus: —A. U. —P. U. —U.) A quiet statement like this in regard to the paternity of a noticeable article would relieve the copyist from any suspicion of designing to get himself credited with its authorship. This is of increasing importance in view of the fact that open, or what printers term "leaded matter," does not now distinguish original from selected articles with any certainty. Had the simple device above suggested occurred to us sooner, we should have had less "credit" (to the extent of an interesting article on the governmental savings bank of Siberia) than has fallen to us; and this rather than any remissness of our exchanges has brought the subject to our notice. Owing to the peculiar and exceptional character of our publication, it is frequently quoted by the Atlantic press, and almost always with full and appropriate credit. It is partly because we have been so kindly received by our big and busy brothers in journalism that we have ventured to suggest an improvement in the means by which good feeling and harmony are preserved. For the heartless scissoring who first cuts a readable essay, story or poem from the parental stem, and thus stabs its author in a vital spot, but one plea can avail, and that is, of course, "insanity."

WHILE other countries are anxiously studying ways to economize the use of coal, and deploring a threatened scarcity, in various portions of America new and valuable beds are being uncovered. The German sea-captain who brought specimens of anthracite of unsurpassed excellence from Alaska, and then returned for a full cargo of the same sort, created quite a sensation, and his arrival in San Francisco is awaited with interest. Cannel coal of excellent quality and inexhaustible supply is being unearthed in Texas, in mines discovered a few months ago in Bastrop county (as we learn from the *Galveston Bulletin*), and the Texans are confident that importations from Pittsburgh can soon be dispensed with.

THE first Norwegian steamer that ever entered the Clyde was the "Argentine and Emma," which arrived at Glasgow from Taganrog on the 24th ult., with a cargo of wheat.

MEMORY.

I see a beautiful maiden,
 With eyes of a tender blue;
 She stands half-covered with flowers,
 But the thorns are hid from view.
 She wears a mantle of roses,
 Endowed with a fadeless bloom;
 Her every step is haunted
 By a subtle, sweet perfume.
 She beareth a magic mirror,
 Gifted with wondrous power;
 It shows us with vivid brightness
 The ghost of each vanished hour.
 Some forms are faint and shadowy,
 But others are clear and bright,
 With as fair and life-like faces
 As the faces I see to-night.
 I see my sunny childhood
 In this wonderful magic glass;
 The specters of long-dead playmates
 Before my vision pass.
 I see my own dear mother,
 Not as she slumbereth now,
 But with rosy cheek and ebon curls,
 And a smooth, unwrinkled brow.
 Once more I stand beside her,
 In the twilight cool and gray,
 With the simple trust of childhood
 To the Father above I pray,
 That my young heart may be shielded
 From the snares that are laid for youth,
 And my footsteps guarded safely
 In the pathway of love and truth.
 Sisters and brothers are around me—
 Where are they all to-night?
 Some are afar, and some lie asleep
 In Death's untroubled night.
 But here, in the magic mirror,
 Each sunny, careless brow
 Blooms in the light of eternal youth
 As they pass before me now.
 From my rosy-ate bridal evening
 Pass on to a scene as fair,
 The holy crown of motherhood,
 With a proud, bright smile I wear.
 Can it be that the babe I tended,
 In that care-free, happy time,
 Is the stalwart youth I see to-night
 In his manhood's early prime?
 I will look no more—it saddens
 My heart that such changes are;
 That so many miles I've traveled
 In Time's eventful car.
 I will think not of Past or Future,
 With the Present contented be;
 No more to-night from your magic glass,
 O faithful Memory!

R. A. L.

—[Augusta (Ga.) Constitutionalist.

THE schooner "Gen. Harney," which arrived in San Francisco recently, reports having spoken in July last fifteen vessels of the Arctic whaling fleet, which will sail during the present month for the Atlantic coast. The "take" of whales had not been very gratifying, owing to unfavorable weather; but walrus hunting had been attended with greater success, the number secured ranging from 50 to 500 for the different ships aggregating about 3,000. Capt. Redfield reports that the crews were all well.

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do do seconds	do 1 00 do 1 50
второго сорта	
do do cubs	do 0 50 do 1 00
медвеженокъ	
do brown and grizzly, about 25 p c. less than black	....	....
черный съ просвѣдо	дешевле чѣмъ черный
Badger	skin, from \$ 0 50 do 1 00
Барсукъ	
Fisher, prime, dark	do 2 00 do 5 50
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do do pale	do 1 00 do 1 50
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do seconds	do 1 00 do 1 50
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do Cross	do 2 00 do 2 50
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Красная	
do Kitt	do 0 40 do 0 50
Маленькая	
do White	do 0 75 do 1 00
Бѣлая	
do Gray	do 0 40 do 0 50
Сѣрая	....	....
Lynx	....	....	do 1 00 do 1 10
Рысь	....	....
Marten, prime, dark	....	....	do 2 00 do 0 00
Соболь, черный	....	....
do do pale	....	....	do 1 00 do 1 25
блѣдный	....	....
do seconds	....	....	do 0 50 do 1 00
второго сорта	....	....
do thirds	....	....	do 0 25 do 0 50
третьяго сорта	....	....
Mink, dark, northern, prime	....	....	do 0 40 do 5 75
Норка черная, сѣверная, перваго сорта	....	....
do pale, southern	....	....	do 0 50 do 0 75
Блѣдная, южная	....	....
do seconds	....	....	do 0 40 do 0 55
второго сорта	....	....
do thirds	....	....	do 0 20 do 0 35
третьяго сорта	....	....

THE ALASKA HERALD.

Vol. V.

OCTOBER 9, 1872.

No. 114.

A HORRIBLE TRAFFIC.

Many of our readers will remember the account which reached this country a year or more ago of the massacre of a white settlement at Tanna, in the Navigators' Islands, by the natives. As down to that time the reports of visitors to the islands of the South Pacific had been unanimous as to the kindness, generosity and hospitality of the natives of this particular group, there was difficulty in accounting for so sudden and ferocious an outbreak. The British Government, under whose auspices the settlement of Tanna had been made, despatched a man-of-war to that harbor for the purpose of ascertaining the facts in the case and demanding reparation. It was discovered, upon investigation, that the massacre was hardly to be accounted for on the ground of the natural bloodthirstiness of the natives, but that good cause existed for the hostile feeling which resulted in the unfortunate outbreak. It appears that for the past five years a regular system of kidnapping the inhabitants of the islands has been carried on, resembling the African slave trade in its worst features. These diabolical acts have been perpetrated by owners of British vessels, and the islanders seized by them carried to English colonies in Queensland or those in Fiji and Tahiti, where they have been sold in precisely the same manner as cattle. Since 1868 this horrible traffic has largely increased, driving the natives to such a pitch of terror and desperation that they look upon all whites as their enemies alike, and see peace and safety only in their annihilation or expulsion from the islands of the group. An American traveler who remained for several months at one of the settlements, and who had ample opportunities for observation, gives an account of the manner in which these outrages upon the population are perpetrated.

The vessels devoted to the traffic come close in shore and cast anchor for the ostensible purpose of procuring water or fruit, and hold out remarkable inducements to the islanders to trade. If a hundred or more can be enticed on board, they are seized and crowded into the hold, and at once the vessel sets sail for the port determined upon for the market. When the natives seem too shy and suspicious, another programme is substituted. In the dead of night a party of forty or fifty sailors, fully armed and provided with kerosene swabs, are rowed silently to the shore. A hurried march is made to the nearest village, the huts surrounded, and the lighted kerosene swabs thrown into the dry thatch, which is ablaze in an instant. The wretched creatures within, aroused by the flames and the shouts of the assailants, rush terror-stricken into the open air, only to be seized, bound and hurriedly driven to the boats. Those who attempt resistance are either maimed or killed outright, while the women are driven into the boats like sheep, and treated in the most horrible manner when on board the vessel. The little children are left to starve, or if too annoying in their cries after their parents, knocked on the head. These facts, which have been fully substantiated by investigation since made by the British Government, seem to us good and sufficient reason for the feeling of the islanders towards white settlers and visitors. Surely, heathenism in its worst estate is infinitely better than such barbarous civilization. It will rejoice our readers to know that there is a strong prospect of the early wiping out of this traffic. The English Government has determined to end it, and a vigorous cruising of the South Pacific by English men-of-war is now going on with good results. The latest English mails bring us news of the capture of one of the kidnapping vessels, and it is not unlikely that others will be seized before the trade is broken up. We trust a short shrift will be given to the crew and captain, and an example made sufficiently severe to bring the traffic to a sudden and permanent close. — *Boston Daily Globe*, Sept. 27th.

THE States of Ohio, Pennsylvania, Nebraska and Indiana elected State officers yesterday. Indiana, doubtful; the others, Republican.

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ALASKA



HERALD.

VOL. V.

SAN FRANCISCO, OCTOBER 24, 1872.

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LETTER FROM SITKA.

[CORRESPONDENCE OF THE ALASKA HERALD.]

Having on former occasions given you some idea of our social life, our agricultural prospects, the weather, etc., I shall now offer some general remarks, the result of my observations in this Territory. During the past summer your correspondents have indicated that affairs on the Alaskan Peninsula, the Shumagin and the fur-seal islands, have been prosperous. To your paper we are chiefly indebted for news from those points, as we have no direct, regular communication with them. We are glad to learn that some efforts are being made to utilize the sources of wealth which nature has bestowed with lavish hand.

When Secretary Seward was negotiating for the purchase of this Territory, the grumblers, as usual, raised a howl. Alaska was denounced as an iceberg, a good country for raising wolves, and so on. But Seward was no ordinary man, and he saw what the future would bring forth. He knew that Alaska had vast resources which time would develop, and that this development alone would more than repay the money expended in the purchase. This was not all, however. With the prophetic mind of the statesman, he saw that the day would come when the United States would extend its power and dominion northward, when Canada and the other British possessions on this continent would be under the American flag. To hem in the British Lion and gradually drive him from American soil, he successfully bargained for the Russian Possessions. This was a heavy blow at the greatest fur monopoly in the world—the Hudson Bay Company. This Company was virtually the British Government in the British possessions along the North Pacific coast. It also had immense influence in Alaska, and largely controlled the fur trade. As a consequence, Victoria, V. I., reaped an immense advantage from the fur trade of Alaska. Even after the Territory was ceded, and while the revenue laws were imperfectly enforced at Sitka and other points, the commerce between this port and Victoria amounted in some years to nearly \$100,000. By slow degrees the revenue laws were modified, and the avenues of trade were opened in their natural direction.

With this change in the working of our revenue laws, came, very appropriately, the establishment of regular intercourse with Portland, Oregon, by monthly steamer. Now we can deal directly with the latter point and with steamers from there to San Francisco. A number of sailing vessels also connect us with the great metropolis, and we do not feel as if we were altogether isolated from civilization.

Through the agencies mentioned, American ideas, habits and customs are gradually winning their way amongst the people. The natives are becoming better acquainted with us, and our flag is gradually taking precedence of the Union Jack. Not many years ago, and even since we became the possessors of Alaska, the Stars and Stripes were looked upon as a foreign flag by several of the Indian tribes of Alaska. They had been for a lifetime accustomed to see the English flag even oftener than that of Russia, and to them it was the emblem of power and supremacy in the southern portions of this Territory. That emblem no longer has such great significance. The natives have slowly learned to respect our flag, and now recognize it as the one to which they owe allegiance. Fortunately, up to this date the

authorities in Alaska have had scarcely a necessity to make it respected by force. Our relations with the Indian tribes have been of a most peaceful character.

The sensational reports of Indian troubles in Alaska, published in the California press, had no foundation in fact. There have been no serious attempts made by any of the bands to war against the authorities of the United States. The few insignificant cases where the Indians manifested uneasiness were the result of whisky brawls. By the vigilance of the revenue officers, and a constant watch against smugglers, the whisky trade in Alaska has been almost entirely suppressed. To this fact, more than any other, are we indebted for the quietude, order and good government that have prevailed throughout the Territory. Our officials can not be too highly praised for their efforts in this respect. It is a common habit for the people and the press to scoff at the honesty, probity and intelligence of public officers. Whether the grounds are sufficient for this scoffing in other portions of the United States I know not, but as far as regards Alaska they do not exist. We are most fortunate in having faithful public servants. When the Americans first came here it was impossible to prevent the arrival of adventurers who were determined to make money honestly or dishonestly. It made but little difference to them so they rolled up a certain amount of "filthy lucre" in the shortest possible time. One means by which they sought to realize this was in selling whisky to the whites and natives. But the smugglers soon came to grief. These pests of all new countries suppressed and banished—nearly so, at least—we are settling down to a respectable condition of society. If we have not reached a high pinnacle in the arts and sciences, law, order and morality have become familiar to us. We boast, and with truth, that there is less drunkenness, gambling, and other crime in Alaska than in any other Territory of the United States. Considering our situation, and the small number of soldiers maintained here by the General Government, this is saying a great deal. Our social life is so free, and the moral restraints held over us are so few, it is only surprising that we are so orderly as we are. The press has often been very careless in its statements about our people; but we hope your columns, Mr. Editor, will bring the newspapers and the public to a correct understanding of our disposition and efforts to make progress in civilization and morality.

In local matters there is scarcely material for an item, unless I record an incident illustrating the fact that "for tricks that are vain" your Celestials have no exclusive patent. A short time ago a number of Koloslian damsels disputed the title to a gay and festive lover. No less than three dusky daughters of the forest laid claim to his affections. They determined to decide the question of ownership by a physical contest in accordance with their ideas of the code of honor. The encounter took place in the Indian market, and fish were the weapons employed. Two of the beauties made a league offensive and defensive against the third, and as a reasonable consequence the latter was soon floored and scarcely distinguishable from a fragmentary fish-heap. The allies then dissolved their compact and attacked each other, but before victory had perched on either banner (or fish-tail) they were separated. An investigation before one of the chiefs was promptly held, and for their unladylike conduct they were sentenced to imprisonment in their respective huts for forty-eight hours. Their Don Juan enjoyed the fun, and in his testimony swore that he never loved either of the maidens, and that the whole affair was a case of mistaken identity! In "high-life" Indian circles the event caused quite a sensation.

We feel a great interest in the Presidential contest, and there is more animation on that subject than any other. Both parties have zealous advocates here, and some of them chafe a little under the operation of that clause in the fundamental law which restricts the elective franchise to grown-up States. I concur, Mr. Editor, in your advocacy of direct voting for President and the extension of the national privilege to the pioneers who leave your older communities and their comforts for the purpose of building new homes and augmenting the power and glory of the American Republic.

Affairs will continue quiet here until next Spring opens.

X.

THE ASHTON TRAGEDY.

The night shadows were beginning to settle upon the earth. All day the rain had been falling, sometimes in heavy showers; the roses and pinks in the garden had a sickly look, for the petals hung low, and were heavy upon them. The clouds were still dark and threatening, bespeaking a stormy night. The little town of Ashton, in Virginia, was unusually quiet. The streets were too muddy, and the weather too inclement, to entice people from their homes. Only now and then a solitary traveler was to be seen.

In a vine wreathed cottage on a flower-sprinkled lawn the supper had been waiting over an hour for the master of the house, whose business had necessitated his being absent from home all day. Mr. Jacobs was the tax collector of the district, and consequently could not wait the return of pleasant weather before pursuing his journey. Therefore he had equipped himself in his India-rubber over-garment in the morning, and had gone about his business, leaving his wife the promise of an early return in the evening; but supper time had come and gone without his making his appearance. Mrs. Jacobs, however, was not anxious as yet. Such delays were too frequent to cause this one to give her any uneasiness of mind.

She flitted about the house, busy with her evening duties, singing a gay song as she went. She was a bright little woman, with a world of courage written in her dark, sparkling eyes.

Anon she disrobed her little ones and put them to bed; and when the night shadows turned into an inky blackness she seated herself by the lamp and began to work, still leaving the supper table spread and the food on the stove keeping warm for the return of her husband. But the clock on the mantle shelf had told the hour of ten before his step was heard at the door. He came in hurriedly, and strode to a seat without removing his dripping outer garments.

"I must go to Richmond to-night," he said, in answer to his wife's questioning look.

"To Richmond," repeated his wife, in dismay. "Twenty miles in the storm!"

"Can't be helped," he returned. "Business is business, you know."

He removed his hand from his pocket, and took off his hat and brushed back his fair hair, revealing the handsome face of a light-complexioned, middle-aged man. He had large, gray eyes, but they wore an anxious expression, and their glance wandered restlessly about the apartment.

"Jane," he said, suddenly, again diving his hand into his troublesome pocket, "do you suppose you could take care of a large sum of money till to-morrow?"

"Why, yes," she answered, in surprise.

"I have collected five thousand dollars," he continued; "it is too late to get the sum into the bank, and I do not care to carry so much with me."

"Well, you can leave it here as well as not. No one would think of my having such a sum of money."

He drew a large wallet from his pocket and placed it in her hands. "It belongs to the Government and if you let it pass from your hands I am ruined," he remarked.

And he rose as if to depart.

"You are going to eat some supper?" she inquired.

"No, I have no time to lose. I must reach Richmond by midnight. Good bye. Take good care of the money, and fasten all the doors." He gave her a hurried kiss, and was gone.

But the sound of his footsteps had scarcely died away before Mrs. Jacobs began to feel a strange fear creeping over her. Why it was, she knew not. She had lived there seven years, and slept there many a night without the doors even being shut. Now they were locked and bolted, she could not think of going to bed. She was too nervous to work. She put the money in the pocket of her dress, and clasping it tightly in her hands, she sat very still, gazing anxiously into nothingness, and listening so intently that silence became a fearful mingling of discordant sounds in her ears.

An hour passed. It has been an age to her.

Presently she heard a sound. It was not the rain, for there was a perfect lull in the storm. It could not be a neighbor, for she lived in the outskirts of the village, some distance from any one, and she was not likely to be called up in case of sickness.

Again she heard it. It seemed as if a window sash had been slowly raised. Strange that she could have forgotten to fasten them down!

"Why didn't John leave his revolver?" she mused. "I have nothing with which to protect myself in case I should be molested to-night. It was really an oversight in him."

Again she heard the sound. It seemed to come from the bedroom. It was surely the raising of a sash. Then there was the sound of a movement as though some one was entering that way.

Fear nearly paralyzed her for a moment, but she quickly rallied, and, taking up the lamp, proceeded to investigate the matter. She had scarcely opened the door when she staggered back with a half-suppressed scream. Two men in hideous disguises were already in the room, and a third ruffian was in the act of crawling through the window. Involuntarily she clutched the pocket which contained the money, thinking meantime how she should protect herself and it. Alas! she had nothing but her own weak hands with which to fight the battle, and she well knew how powerless they were compared with the strength of the enemy.

"What do you want here?" she asked in a faltering voice.

"We want the five thousand dollars which you have in keeping for your husband," said one them.

They knew that she had it in her possession.

"You can get no money from me," she said decisively; "I have no money."

"A pretty little fib," he responded. "We will look into your pocket and see."

In her eagerness to preserve her treasure, she clutched the pocket of her dress with both hands, thus unconsciously betraying its whereabouts.

She turned pale when the knowledge of her thoughtlessness was revealed to her.

"You can't have it! you shan't have it," she cried, knowing all the while that they would have it in spite of her.

"We will see," exclaimed the man, seizing her in his arms.

She struggled desperately, but was soon overpowered and the money taken from her.

"Let us go now," said one of the robbers.

"You take the money, and I will settle her tongue in a way that it will remain quiet for an hour at least."

"Don't be in a hurry," said another; "I am hungry, and we can just as well take a morsel here as not."

The other demurred, but he continued: "Set to work and get some supper. You've got a fire and some boiling water, and we want some tea. To work, I say!"

Mrs. Jacobs knew that a refusal would only subject her to more indignity, and she arose to do their bidding.

She put some more plates on the table, along with such food as she had cooked, and then proceeded to make the tea, wondering all the while if there was any way to regain possession of the money, and dreading her husband's anger and dismay on his return should she fail to do so.

As she took the tea canister from the pantry shelf she caught sight of a bottle labelled "arsenic." Her husband had purchased it on the preceding day, in order to destroy the rats.

Here was the chance of relief, and she seized it eagerly. Opening the bottle, she put a few grains into the teapot along with the tea, of which she gave good measure, in order to destroy the taste of the arsenic.

A few minutes later the robbers were sitting at the table, unconsciously sipping their death.

"They may kill me," mused the faithful wife, "but the money will be found, and my husband's honor saved."

After a few minutes, one by one, the robbers complained of being sick.

"I verily believe the woman has poisoned us," said one, and the next moment he fell with a deep groan on the floor.

"I know that she has poisoned us," cried another, "and her own life shall pay the forfeit."

He sprang from his seat and started towards her, revolver in hand, but suddenly dropped the weapon and fell heavily.

"Jane," exclaimed the third, "you have saved the money, but you have murdered me!"

How strangely familiar sounded the voice! Forgetting all her old fears in the new, Mrs. Jacobs sprang forward and knelt by the side of the dying man. None tried to harm her now, for all were powerless to do so.

She pulled the disguise, a hideous negro face with large grinning mouth, from the face of the speaker. One look—then came a scream which echoed through the house like a peal of thunder.

The dying man was her own husband.—U.

In the lives of the saddest of us there are bright days, when we feel as if we could take the great world in our arms. Then come the gloomy hours, when the fire will neither burn on our hearth, nor in our hearts; and all without and within is dismal, cold and dark. Believe me, every heart has its secret sorrows which the world knows not, and oftentimes we call a man cold when he is only sad.

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The October number is at hand, and we find in it an offer which must be pronounced extremely liberal, viz.: To send the publication three months gratis to all who subscribe for 1873 before Dec. 1st, '72; or, from now to the end of the year, three months, on trial, for 25c. Annual subscription, \$2 currency. The magazine is "devoted to health on hygienic principles." The name of its publisher indicates its character and guarantees its usefulness.

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LATE advices from the fur-seal islands of Alaska represent a prosperous and peaceful state of things. Capt. Bryant is vigilant in observing that the interests of the Government do not suffer, and the Commercial Company enforces strictly the humane and judicious rules by which its affairs are governed.

WM MILLER, the Household Poet of Scotland, whose "Wee Willie Winkie" and other songs have delighted so many nurseries not only in the Land o' Cakes, but throughout the civilized world, died at Glasgow on the 20th ult., at the age of 62 years.

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Just previous to the late General Halleck's departure East, he made a tour of inspection to Alaska Territory, and, by instruction of the Secretary of War, was accompanied by our celebrated photographic artist Muybridge, who made a series of the most picturesque and valuable photographs we have ever seen. The Hon. Wm. H. Seward thought very highly of them and addressed Mr. Muybridge a very complimentary letter in acknowledgment of his appreciation. They comprise about three dozen stereoscopic views of Sitka, Fort Wrangle, Fort Tongass, etc., portraits of Indians, illustrations of Indian life and flying views from ship board; giving a far better idea of the aspects of the country than a volume of reading matter.

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THE ALASKA HERALD.

A. A. STICKNEY. EDITOR AND PUBLISHER

Vol. V. OCTOBER 24, 1872. No. 115.

A HEN with four legs was recently brought to San Francisco. An unmistakable sign of "progress."

THE bark "Gold Hunter," Capt. Gray, arrived at San Francisco on the 22d inst., thirty-five days from the Ochotsk Sea, with a cargo of 130,000 codfish, to C. L. Taylor.

THE Russian brig "Olga," Capt. Landmann, arrived yesterday, 20 days from Petropaulovski, with 22,415 seal skins, to Hutchinson, Kohl & Co.

A DISPATCH dated St. Petersburg, Oct. 23d, says a conspiracy has been discovered in Caucasus for the overthrow of Russian authority in that province. A general rising of the tribes was intended, but the leaders were secured and imprisoned. Quiet now prevails.

LIEUT. EASTMAN, formerly of Alaska, was in the San Francisco Police Court on the 21st inst. to answer to a complaint made by Mrs. Fergus Solomatto, charging him with assault and battery. After hearing the testimony of plaintiff (through a Russian interpreter), of Miss Ellen Solomatto, and of the defendant, the Judge, believing that the offence charged had not been proved, dismissed the case.

THE bark "Florence" left the Arctic whaling grounds on the 5th of September, after a cruise in search of the whaling fleet abandoned in 1871, a full account of which will be found in another page of this paper. She reports that the bark "Helen Snow," Capt. Macomber, was abandoned August 19th. The bark "Roscoe," Capt. Lewis, was crushed by ice August 19th, and is a total loss. The "Sea Breeze," Capt. Wicks, was lost on the 22d of August, off Point Barrow. Her crew had not been heard from.

THE ingenuity of the Indians of Alaska has often been remarked by travelers; and in nothing do they appear to be more handy than in providing themselves with "stills," which, however primitive and rude in construction, answer the main purpose quite satisfactorily. A gentleman who has lately made a cruise along the coast tells us of a case where duty and gratitude conflicted in a manner which must have been extremely embarrassing. An officer of a government vessel was presented with a bottle of home-distilled liquor by an Indian. After the officer and his friends had tasted the article, and had pronounced it very good, it was deemed incumbent to destroy the source of supply. Accordingly, on the following day the hospitable old fellow's ranch was hunted up. He was found perfectly happy—helplessly so—in the possession of a still of his own manufacture, little dreaming that he had brought upon himself a sudden and involuntary return to sobriety. The distillery was destroyed, according to law, and the stock on hand confiscated.

OUR Sitka readers will be pained to learn that Dr. Alphonse Roumatka, at one time stationed at their military post in the capacity of surgeon, committed suicide on the 23d ult. His body was found on the 21st inst. by a gentleman who was hunting in the foothills, four miles from Sonoma, Cal. Dr. Alphonse was a man of marked ability, and possessed of social traits which endeared him to all who made his acquaintance. He left France, his native land, in 1858, to avoid official proscription on account of his political sentiments. Coming to California in the following year, he was for some time engaged at his trade, the printing business. He had previously given some attention to surgery, for which he had a natural aptitude, and at length he undertook and accomplished a course of study which thoroughly fitted him for medical and surgical practice. The Doctor then became connected with the medical department of the United States Army. Besides his brief term of service at Sitka, he was twice sent to Arizona, was at Ft. Churchill one year, and for some months had medical charge of the troops at Fort Alcatraz, San Francisco.

FUR-SEAL MATTERS.

We find in the Washington correspondence of the *Boston Globe*, the following, under date of October 10th:

"In a private letter to Secretary Boutwell's amanuensis, dated St. Paul Island, Alaska Territory, August 22, 1872, he [Capt. Bryant, Special Agent of the United States Treasury Department.] says: 'The affairs of the island are in a very prosperous condition, there being more seals here than ever before known. In fact it looks as if they would ultimately crowd us off the island.'"

[After speaking of the number already taken, and the limit fixed by law, the Captain remarks:] "From the number of yearlings, or last year's pups, that have been returned, I conclude that it must have been a very favorable winter for them. The present season is equally favorable for the young. In short, it looks as if after another year it would be necessary to increase the number to be taken, to preserve a proper balance between the sexes."

We note, also, a Washington rumor to the effect that our Government will endeavor to establish a claim, by discoverer's right, to some islands southeast of Cape Horn on which seals and other valuable animals are reported to abound; and it is intimated that if the claim be made good, regulations and restrictions similar to those which have been enforced in the Alaskan islands will be adopted. We can hardly believe that any enlightened Government which may at the present day find itself in possession of seal-frequenting islands will ignore the costly lessons of the past, and certainly if our own Government is so fortunate it will be likely to protect itself and the source of production by the same system which has worked so happily in St. George and St. Paul Islands. Should it do this, one of the leading industries of Alaska will have a permanent rival, but the public at large will be the gainer.

In regard to the increase of fur-seals in the Pribiloff rookeries, it is especially noticeable that the statement comes from a disinterested person, the sworn officer of the Government, whose duty it is to watch closely the conduct of the lessees, and see that the rights and interests of the nation are not made to yield place to private interest. On his testimony there is great reason to hope that, after another year, the limit upon seal-taking may with safety be extended. There is in this fact the best proof that Congress acted wisely in protecting the seal rookeries against wild and wasteful invasion, and that the lessees have adhered strictly to the terms upon which this valuable interest was entrusted to their charge. Should an extension be decided upon, the national treasury will be benefited, as a tax of \$2 62½ is laid upon every seal pelt exported from the islands.

Relative to unrestricted slaughter of fur-seals, the experience of a score of rookeries, once densely occupied, is, that it means extermination. Some years ago, Hautefeuille, in his "Dictionnaire Universelle du Commerce," after mentioning the rapacity which characterized seal-hunting in the southern seas and elsewhere, used this truthful and forcible language:

"It is evident that the species, immense as it is, cannot long withstand such wholesale butchery, and that the traffic of which it is the object will soon terminate in the disappearance of the game, if civilized nations do not decide upon adopting, in concert, energetic measures to confine it within reasonable limits."

It is quite clear that while, under judicious management, a breeding rookery may exhibit a large relative increase, and may therefore justify and even necessitate the killing of a larger number of seals than would at first have been warranted, there must always be a limit fixed by the owner of the sealing-grounds, else, as Hautefeuille says, "the traffic will terminate in the disappearance of the game."

"OCCIDENT" was beaten in three straight heats by "Goldsmith Maid" at Sacramento, Oct. 16th. The trotting was not equal to general expectation. Time, 2:20½, 2:20½, 2:22. Ten thousand persons witnessed the race. During its progress the bulletin boards of the San Francisco dailies were surrounded by an immense throng, and as the telegraph reported each phase of the event, the excitement became intense. The result bitterly disappointed all Californians, especially as it was well known that "Occident" had frequently made better time, in trials of speed, than that with which the "Maid" took the purse and honors. The next grand contest will take place at Alameda, on the 30th. "Occident" and "Lucy" are the entries.

WILLIAM H. SEWARD AND THE ALASKA PURCHASE.

Wm. H. Seward, died at Auburn, N. Y., on the 10th inst., aged 71 years. Biographical sketches meet our eye in all our exchanges; but though all of our contemporaries speak of the departed statesman in kind and eulogistic terms, they strangely enough omit to mention the crowning glory of his long and useful career. That the happy banner now waves over Alaska, in token of American supremacy, is due to the wisdom, foresight and earnest advocacy of William H. Seward. And the acquisition of that vast domain, lightly as it is spoken of at times by writers who are uninformed or incapable of appreciating its value, will yet bear the highest testimony to his good judgment and patriotism. Alaska is now a detached possession; between her border and that of Washington Territory, Great Britain holds undisputed sway; but in winning the territory which margins the northern extremity of the Pacific and borders on Bering Sea and the Arctic Ocean, we have created a stimulus to the extinguishment of foreign title and rule upon the western side of the American continent. In obtaining Alaska by peaceful measures we have invited a further cession of foreign territory, and have shown what may be accomplished without the intervention of the sword. If Russia could give up her colony and sell her acres, why not England? Besides the moral influence thus brought to bear upon a project which is cherished by every true American heart, we have abundant cause, in a material sense, to be satisfied with the purchase. Mr. Seward's visit to Alaska, after the cession, confirmed all that he been told of its wonderful resources and capabilities, and, as he declared, the reality even exceeded his most favorable anticipations. Since that time, without any special aid from the Government, and in a very quiet way, a number of promising industries have been developed by far-seeing, shrewd business men, which have added greatly to the wealth of the nation. In the matter of expense to the General Government, Alaska occupies an exceptional position, yielding a direct revenue far in excess of disbursements, owing to the fortunate provision made for the management of her seal fisheries. The cod fisheries of the Shumagin Islands, the timber, fur, oils, ivory and ores—and even the ice—of the Territory, all point to the employment of labor and the enrichment of the country in the near future. The experiments made in agriculture indicate a character of soil and climate far less prohibitory than lines of latitude would seem to decree. On account of what has already been accomplished, and because of the hopes we entertain for the future of Alaska, we regard her acquisition from Russia as one of the best, wisest and most patriotic measures to which William H. Seward ever gave his support, and to his individual work and word, more than to all others combined, we attribute its successful accomplishment. Other journals have written his praises as a liberal thinker, an earnest advocate, a profound scholar, and an honest politician who could rise above party and do right, in the face of the most unjust aspersion and vindictive abuse. We concur most heartily in the general estimate of his character and services, and in speaking of his connection with the Alaska Purchase feel that we add a deserved tribute to his memory.

A GIRL, named Maria Lukanin (or Setanan, or Leukahliou—the name is thus differently dealt with by three of the San Francisco papers, and the rest will probably emulate them in ingenuity) has had Frank Boswell arrested on a charge of indecent assault; evidence not conclusive, and case postponed until to-day. Maria is a native of Alaska, of Aleutian parentage, and about thirteen years old. Madam Lena Kaplisky (or Koblitz, or Knoblitzky—another reportorial trial of skill) adopted her as a daughter seven years ago, and subsequently came to San Francisco. Bosworth alleges that the assault was an exchange of unnumbered kisses—only this and nothing more. The girl avers that she was tied and gagged, compelled to enter a street-car and ride to an out-of-the-way locality, defendant telling the other passengers that she was a truant sister whom he was taking home; that after they left the car he made various attempts, etc. The police are hunting up evidence, and probably the case will have to be further postponed.

THE ABANDONED WHALING FLEET.

In August, 1871, thirty-three whaling vessels were abandoned by their crews amid the ice-fields of the Arctic, all hope of being able to extricate them having been given up. In the Spring of the present year a company was formed in San Francisco for the purpose of attempting to recover portions of the valuable cargoes left on board the doomed ships—the company consisting of Dr. Samuel Merritt, Capt. P. S. Wilcox, Michael Reese, E. G. Crane and Capt. T. W. Williams. The bark Florence was fitted out, and amply provided with sails, cordage, tools and whaling apparatus. Captain Herrenden, of the Minerva (one of the vessels left among the icebergs), accompanied the party. Capt. Williams was entrusted with the command.

The bark Mary was the first of the whalers found, in lat. 70 deg. 40 minutes. She was reached by Capt. Herrenden and a detachment of men from the Florence, after pulling through floating ice a distance of eighty miles. She had been cast ashore, crushed and totally disabled by the ice. Her owner was W. H. Munroe, of Edgarton. She had in her hold when abandoned, 300 barrels of oil.

The Minerva was the next vessel met with; she was lying on her beam ends in shallow water, and was found to have sustained very little damage. Thomas Knowles & Co., of New Bedford, were her owners, she is of 337 tons register, and was insured for \$40,000. She was restored to deep water, after much labor, and her old captain, Herrenden, with a good crew, placed on board. She was then made useful as an auxiliary to the Florence, in receiving cargo from the wrecked ships. Her own cargo consisted of 130 bbls. oil.

The wreck of the bark Awashonks was next discovered; ashore, dismantled. Owned by Messrs. Wing, New Bedford; value, \$50,000.

Bark Thomas Dickenson, ashore; had on board 550 bbls. oil. She was owned by Howland Bros. of New Bedford; value, \$40,000; not insured.

Brig Kohola, ashore, crushed, a complete wreck. Owned by Briggs, of Honolulu; value, \$20,000, insured; 150 bbls. oil on board when abandoned.

Bark Reindeer, on beam ends, full of ice and water. Owner, Edward W. Holland, of New Bedford; value, \$55,000, partly insured; had 800 bbls. oil, but the cargo was frozen so fast that not a barrel could be removed.

Two hulks were discovered the names of which could not be ascertained.

The bow and stern of the Monticello were found half a mile apart. This vessel was the property of Williams, Havins & Co., of New London; valued at \$45,000, and had on board 900 bbls. oil.

Bark Emily Morgan, ashore, tide ebbing and flowing within her. Owned by Messrs. Wing, of New Bedford; valued at \$50,000, and had on board 150 bbls. oil.

The Seneca was discovered about twenty-five miles north of the bark Mary. She was in good preservation, but frozen in a bed of ice; had on board 450 bbls. oil. By a vigorous effort she was cleared from the ice, and on the return voyage the Florence took her in tow; after making handsome progress for some time, a heavy wind arose, and it became necessary a second time to abandon her.

The expedition remained about a month in the Arctic, among the wrecks; aside from fragments on the beach, no vestiges of the twenty-one vessels of the fleet not named above were found.

Capt. Williams says the natives had carried off all the whalebone and had stripped most of the vessels of sails and cordage. Thousands of barrels of oil were washed up on the beach, many of which they, from curiosity, broke open, permitting the contents to be wasted.

The Florence came into port on the 11th inst., and the Minerva on the 12th. Together they have brought in 1,000 bbls. oil, besides \$10,000 worth of whalebone obtained by trading with Indians, and a quantity of ivory, walrus pelts, etc.

The Minerva has been libeled by the wrecking company, for salvage. They consider 200 barrels of oil as fairly their due—one-third of the cargo she brought from the scene of disaster.

It is evident, remarks the *Boston Globe*, that the causes which are compelling the suspension of the exports of British iron to this country will prevent England supplying, in future, any considerable part of the increasing demands of other countries, but few of which have the means of producing largely of good iron. To acquire control of a portion, at least, of this trade, which expands in a ratio proportionate to the progress of civilization in all countries, is now quite within the power of the United States, and our manufacturers have only to make iron enough to supply our home demand at moderate prices and leave a surplus for export, to find orders coming here instead of going to England.

P H E B E.

BY LUCY LARCOM.

Phebe, idle Phebe,
On the door-step in the sun,
Drops the ripe-red currants
Through her fingers, one by one.
Heedless of her pleasant work,
Rebel murmurs rise and lurk
In the dimples of her mouth.
Winds come perfumed from the South;
Musical with swarms of bees
Are the overhanging trees:
Phebe does not care
If the world is fair.
"Phebe! Phebe!"
It was but a wandering bird
That pronounced the word.

Phebe, listless Phebe,
Leaves the currants on the stem,
Saying, "Since he comes not,
Labor's lost in picking them."
Loiters down the alleys green
Crowds of blushing pinks between,
Followed by a breeze that goes
Whispering secrets of the rose.
Does that saucy bird's keen eye
Read her heart, as he flits by?
Syllables that mock,
Haunt the garden-walk:
"Phebe! Phebe!"
Lilac-thickets hid among,
His refrain is sung.

Phebe, wistful Phebe,
Leans upon the mossy wall,
Nothing stirs the stillness
Save a trifling brooklet's fall.
Phebe's eyes, against her will,
Seek the village on the hill
"If he knew he had the power
So to chill and change the hour—
Know the pain to me it is
His approaching step to miss—
Knew the blank, the ache,
His neglect can make"—
"Phebe! Phebe!"
From a neighboring forest-roof
Echoed the reproof.

Phebe, troubled Phebe,
With the brook still murmurs on:
"If he knew how sunshine
Pales and thins, when he is gone—
Knew that I, who seem so cold,
Look up tenderness untold—
As the full midsummer glow
Hides its live roots under snow—
In my heart's warm silence deep,
Till he brings the key,
Would he scoff at me?"
"Phebe! Phebe!"
The receding singer's throat
Shaped a warning note.

"Phebe, darling Phebe!"
Like a startled fawn she turns;
Over cheek and forehead
Swift the rising rose-flush burns
"Sweetheart, if you only knew
That my life's one dream is—you!"
"Hence, eavesdropper!" though she cried,
Gentle eyes her lips belied;
Lost in foolish lover chat,
Picking currants they two eat,
Till a woodland bird
Sent his good-night word,
"Phebe! Phebe!"
In faint mockery, as he fled
Through the evening-red.

[Atlantic Monthly.]

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A HOTEL in Paris, anxious to secure American patronage, advertises "fish balls and buckwheat cakes at all hours."

THE ALASKA HERALD.

VOL. V.

OCTOBER 24, 1872.

No. 115.

A. A. STICKNEY.....EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

No ONE can doubt that the present National Administration, in consummating a reference of our claims against England to a Board of Arbitrators, reflected the will of a majority of the American people. It is incumbent upon every American citizen to accept the decision of that Board, upon the question of damages, as final, but it is not incumbent upon any to believe that our country will ultimately be the gainer by the definition of the responsibility of neutral powers to which it has given its assent. This is not a merely speculative question, for no country in the world contains so many elements hostile to the monarchies which rule other lands, as ours, and nowhere is it more difficult to prevent the fitting out and departure of armed expeditions against those monarchies when a state of war exists. It required no sacrifice on the part of England to accept the decision of the Geneva Tribunal. With the United States the demand for such a decision was either a sublime abnegation of selfish considerations or a very great mistake in figures. We would gladly adopt the first of these as the correct theory, but to use an expressive phrase of the times, "it's a little too thin." Minorities are not always wrong, and we have all along thought, with the minority, that it would have been just as well, after our first direct demand upon Great Britain had been met with a denial, to have let the subject drop, subject to revival when the British ox (or Bull) should be goaded. We know it is rather late to speak of these things, but we—(do we hear some one say "Thank the Lord"?—only get in a shot once a fortnight, and therefore claim the privilege. A contemporary who thinks that our remarks on the Geneva verdict, a month ago, "do not evince a very clear vision," may read the following extract from the *Spectator*, to see how clear-headed people in England view the subject:

"For our own part, we always regarded our neglect in the case of the 'Alabama' herself as really culpable, and have desired, in the interest of England, to be condemned for that grave neglect of the duties of neutrality, if only in order that we may have a precedent to which we may fairly appeal against similar negligence on the part of the United States or any other country in the future."

The "precedent" is established. As to the award, it is merely a sight draft on the future, and the interest on the amount will be regularly compounded.

On the 11th inst., the bark "Cyane," Capt. May, arrived from Unalaska, with 34,612 fur-seal pelts, 116 walrus tusks and 184 packages merchandise, to the Alaska Commercial Company. This makes a total of 73,648 seal pelts received by the Company from the islands during the past four months, upon which the Government tax—exclusive of the annual rental paid by the lessees—amounts to \$193,093. Seals are only taken during the months of June, July, September and October, except those killed by the native inhabitants of the islands, under regulations prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury, for their own use. Another arrival will probably complete the number of pelts (100,000) which the Company is permitted to procure during the season, and will bring up the revenue receipts from this single branch of Alaskan trade to \$262,500. The Government's total annual income from this source is about \$317,000, a sum which may be considerably increased, should Special Agent Bryant prove correct in his estimate of the future increase of seals at the islands. The exhibit, so far, is a very gratifying one. We are also glad to learn that the Aleuts employed by the Company are well cared for, in accordance not only with the terms of the lease, but with the dictates of humanity and kindness. Our correspondents tell us that it is impossible not to feel an interest in those people: they are so hospitable, so grateful for favors, so desirous to learn and so easily taught.

EMPEROR WILLIAM's experts in the San Juan boundary investigation have prepared a decision which awards the island to the United States. It awaits the Emperor's signature.

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ALASKA



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FROM THE SHUMAGIN ISLANDS.

[CORRESPONDENCE OF THE ALASKA HERALD.]

As this may be the last opportunity I shall have, for some months, of sending you a letter from this point, I avail myself thereof. A little schooner, bound for San Francisco, is now anchored off the island, and will sail to-morrow. We have to seize upon such opportunities for communication, for Uncle Samuel is quite oblivious to our postal necessities.

The schooner "Energy," Capt. Holder, from San Francisco, arrived at Unga short time ago, affording the people an opportunity to do a little trading. On the 13th inst. she reached Coal Harbor, for which place she had some merchandize; she also had a few passengers, who came as laborers for the coal mines.

Coal Harbor is pretty frequently heard of outside of Alaska, and no doubt many persons think it must be a place of considerable size. When I first saw its streets and blocks penciled in fine style on a Russian map, I was similarly beguiled; but a glimpse of the reality took away all the poetry. Coal Harbor proper lacks two of the features supposed to be essential to a "city," viz., houses and people. A philosophical German, who resides there, however, as the chief inhabitant, sees through the smoke-wreaths of his meerschaum the bustling, populous mart of commerce—sees it in the dim, distant future, but doesn't worry himself greatly at the prospect of being disturbed in his solitary greatness.

Belkofsky, another commercial center, was touched at by the "Energy," and considerable merchandize landed. A merchant from San Francisco is about to start a trading store at Belkofsky, but as there is a large trading post there already, I do not think the opening very good one. However, Alaska is a free country, and any one who has the pluck, vim and cash can start stores from here to the North Pole if he pleases. As you have already published a very fair description of Belkofsky, I will only remark that, for a town in this latitude, it presents a very good appearance; its population is between two and three hundred, chiefly Aleuts.

At the present time the able-bodied men of the village are away, hunting the sea otter. They go out on the islets and banks, from fifty to one hundred miles from the shore, to seek their game. Sea otter is a very valuable fur, and from the energy with which the quest is carried on, it is likely to become scarcer and more costly still, in a short time. Hunting for otters is a great passion with the Aleuts. They like it better than any other employment.

A number of white men will remain at various points along the Alaskan Peninsula this winter. Four sailors, who are also old hunters and fishermen, will camp at Falmouth harbor until next spring. They are well prepared for the siege, having an abundant stock of provisions on hand and also a full supply of tobacco. Probably the little colonies of white men which are here and there left for the winter, find some difficulty in obtaining "spirital" comfort; they may resort to the *quass* which the natives distill from flour and sugar, but I hardly think it can find much favor with them. The authorities are confident that the days of whisky-smuggling are almost ended.

The men who have gone to the coal mines at Coal Harbor are, I am informed, Welch miners, who intend to make a prospecting tour for

more coal mines in this Territory, after proving the value of some of those already discovered. The German sea-captain who astonished the capitalists of San Francisco, last summer (as I learned through your columns), with specimens of the purest and best anthracite from the Alaskan Peninsula, has not been seen in this quarter, and we begin to fear he has struck a vein of suner-kraut somewhere, and forgotten coal. And with this coal-slaver of a bright expectation I bid you good bye for a season. G. L.

A SINGULAR PEOPLE.

Alaskan ethnology presents some curious features, in regard to which much difference of opinion exists among those who make such subjects a study. Conflicting theories of the peopling of the Alaskan islands have been maintained by scholars equally learned and candid—one class believing that those islands were peopled directly from Japan, another that the inhabitants have a common origin with the other native tribes of Alaska, and that their present location is due to the early American tendency to "go West."

In perusing Dr. Dall's description of the Yukon territory, the attention of the reader is drawn to a singular class of people, differing in many respects from their Indian neighbors and from the typical Eskimo of the great Arctic explorers, but still, as the Doctor believes, belonging to the same family as the Northern and Western Eskimo. Of this people—the Innuits, as they call themselves—the following account is given, the author premising that during the time he spent at Unalakleet, on Norton Sound, he became moderately proficient in their language, and studied their mode of life with great care:

"It should be thoroughly and definitely understood, in the first place, that they are not Indians; nor have they any known relation, physically, philologically, or otherwise, to the Indian tribes of North America. Their grammar, appearance, habits, and even their anatomy, especially in the form of the skull, separate them widely from the Indian race. On the other hand, it is almost equally questionable whether they are even distinctly related to the Chukchees and other probably Mongolian races, of the eastern part of Siberia.

"The Innuits of Norton Sound and the vicinity are of three tribes, each of which, while migrating at certain seasons, has its own peculiar territory. The peninsula between Kotzebue and Norton Sounds is inhabited by the Kaviaks or Kaviagmut Innuits. The neck of this peninsula is occupied by the Mahlemut Innuits. The shore of Norton Sound south of Cape Denbigh to Pastolik is the country of the Unaleets or Unaligmut Innuits. The habits of these tribes are essentially similar. They are in every respect superior to any tribe of Indians with which I am acquainted.

"Their complexion I have described as brunette. The effect of the sun and wind, especially in summer, is to darken their hue, and from observing those who lived in the fort, I am inclined to think that a regular course of bathing would do much toward whitening them. They are sometimes very tall; I have often seen both men and women nearly six feet in height, and have known several instances where men were taller. Their average height equals that of most civilized races. Their strength is often very great. I have seen a Mahlemut take a hundred-pound sack of flour under each arm, and another in his teeth, and walk with them from the storehouse to the boat, a distance of some twenty miles, without inconvenience. They are fond of exercise, and practice many athletic games, such as football or a similar game, tossing in a blanket or rather walrus hide, running races, hurling stones or lances, lifting weights, and wrestling. Their boats—the kyak or bidarka, and komiak or bidarra—have been already described. It may be mentioned in this connection that the komiak is not considered among the Norton Sound Innuits as a "women's boat," nor is there ever any hesitation about men's using them. In this they differ from the Eskimo as described by Arctic explorers. It is noticeable that the more northern the canoe, the smaller it is made. The kyak of Nunivak Island is double the size of those used in Bering Strait. The kyaks are often ornamented with beluga teeth, or carved pieces of walrus ivory, imitations of birds, walrus or seal. The prow is also fashioned into the semblance of a bird's or fish head. Securely seated in his kyak, with a gut shirt strongly tied around the edge of the hole, the Innuits is at home. He will even turn over his kyak and come up on the other side, by skillful use of his paddle.

"They are good-humored and careless, slow to anger, and usually ready to forgive and forget. They are sometimes revengeful; and murders, generally the result of jealousy, are not very rare. The women are modest, but a want of chastity in an unmarried female is hardly looked upon as a fault. Taking this fact into consideration,

they are rather free from immorality. Among the Mahlemuts, cousins, however remote, do not marry, and one wife is the rule. Among the Kaviaks incest is not uncommon, and two or three wives, often sisters, are taken by those who can afford to support them. These people have become demoralized by trading liquor for their furs, and while spread immorality is the result. The same is also true of the Kotzebue Sound Mahlemuts. What we should call immorality is often undeserving of such a term. Where a practice is universal there is nothing immoral in it, and it may be quite consistent with morality. For instance, the Aleutians, men and women, for ages have been accustomed to bathe together in the sea. They do not think of there being any immorality in it, yet immorality is exceedingly rare among them. Hence we should not judge these people too harshly.

"There is no ceremony connected with marriage among the Innuits, though presents are often made to the bride's parents. Inter-marriage between natives of different tribes is frequent. If ill-behaved or barren, the wife is frequently sent away, and another takes her place. Children are greatly prized, if boys. Girls are at a discount. Infanticide is common among them, both before and after birth. As an excuse, they say they do not want and cannot support so many daughters. Other women do not like the trouble and care of children, and destroy them for that reason. The usual method is to take the child out, stuff its mouth with grass, and desert it. I have seen several children who had been picked up in this condition and brought up by others than their parents. The women alone destroy children, but the men seldom punish them for it, and doubtless acquiesce in advance in most cases. Sometimes we find females who refuse to accept husbands, preferring to adopt masculine manners, following the deer on the mountains, trapping and fishing for themselves.

"The men treat their wives and children well. The latter are never punished, and seldom need correction, being obedient and good-humored. The men have their own work. Hunting the deer and seal, building and repairing the winter houses, making frames for boats, sleds and snow-shoes, preparing sealskins for use on boats or for boot-soles, trapping, and bringing home the results of the chase—in fact, all severe labor—is performed by the men. Sparing partridges, drying and preparing fish, cutting up the meat when brought into camp, picking berries, dressing deer-skins and making clothing, cooking, and taking care of the children—these are solely feminine pursuits. Both sexes join in paddling the komiaks, celebrating their annual dances, bringing and cutting wood, and other work of a like nature. The women are seldom beaten, except for ill-temper or incontinency. They keep their persons moderately clean, braiding the hair on each side, and twisting beads or strips of wolfskin in which the braids for ornament. They are often of pleasing appearance, sometimes quite pretty. They preserve their beauty much longer than Indian women. Their clear complexion and high color, with their good humor, make them agreeable companions, and they are often very intelligent. A noticeable feature is their teeth. These are always sound and white, but are almost cylindrical, and in old people are worn down even with the gums, producing a singular appearance. The eyes are not oblique, as in the Mongolian races, but are small, black, and almost even with the face. The nose is flat and disproportionately small. Many of the Innuits have heavy beards and mustaches, while some pull out the former.

"The totemic system is not found among the Innuits. Each boy, when arrived at the age of puberty, selects an animal, fish, or bird, which he adopts as a patron. The spirit which looks after the animals of that species is supposed to act henceforth as his guardian. Sometimes the animal is selected in early childhood by the parents. If he has long-continued want of success in his pursuits, he will sometimes change his patron. They do not abstain from eating or using the flesh and skin of the animal which they have chosen, as do some tribes of Indians. They always wear a piece of the skin or a bone of that animal, which they regard as an amulet, and use every precaution against its loss, which would be regarded as a grave calamity. When desiring assistance or advice they do not themselves seek it, but employ a shaman to address their patron spirit. These customs do not extend to females. The spirits of the deer, seal, salmon, and beluga, are regarded by all with special veneration, as to these animals they owe their support. Each has its season, and while hunting, it is almost impossible to induce them to attempt any other work, as they seem to think each spirit demands exclusive attention while he extends his favors. The homes of these spirits are supposed to be in the north. The auroras are the reflections from the lights used during supposed dances of the spirits. Singularly enough, they call the constellation of Ursa Major by the name of "Okil-okpak," signifying Great Bear, and consider him to be ever on the watch while the other spirits carry on their festivities. None of the spirits are regarded as supreme, nor have the Innuits any idea of a deity, a state of future reward and punishment, or any system of morality. Many of them have been christened by the Russian missionaries, but none have any idea of Christianity.

The Bostonians are enjoying a rare treat. Prof. Tyndall is with them.

CIRCASSIAN SLAVES.

The importation of beautiful Circassian girls from their own country into Turkey, to be sold as slaves, has considerably decreased within the last eight or ten years, and is now only carried on secretly, as the Russians put great obstacles in the way, and prevent it by every means in their power. Up to that time vast numbers were brought to Constantinople, and the traffic was carried on in the following manner:

A number of men and women, Circassians by birth, who have spent many years, perhaps the greater part of their lives, in their adopted country, go to Circassia on a foraging expedition, and steal the prettiest children whom they may find playing about the fields gathering fruit or flowers, or wandering on their native mountains among the goats and sheep. Sometimes these people go into the dwellings of the inhabitants of some small village, and as they are provided with merchandise of all kinds for their purpose, they strike a bargain with the parents to exchange their children of all ages for their Turkish goods, on which the Circassians set great value and are always eager to procure. Some of the children leave their home very readily, quite pleased, as most children are, at the thought of novelty and the attractive presents held out to their aspiring eyes; other poor young creatures, who know the value of a mother's love, refuse to leave their parents and their country, but are easily deceived in some way or other, the unnatural Circassian mother sharing in the mercenary transaction with great zeal; she thinks of the rich and useful Turkish articles for which she is going to exchange her child. These consist of pretty embroidered slippers or other articles, belts of gold stuff silver powder-flasks, which the Circassian women, who take a very active part in warlike expeditions against the Russians, always fasten in their waistbands. Then there are daggers, pistols, powder, percussion caps, knives, scissors, cotton, needles, silks to make jackets, calico and numerous other articles.

The bargain struck, these beautiful young girls and tender children are conveyed to the nearest port, and their transport to Topkane is accompanied with great suffering. They are all packed and huddled together into a small sailing vessel and brought to Trebizonde, whence they are sometimes brought on to Constantinople by a steamer; but in general they continue their voyage in the same vessel, because the yersigis (slave merchants) will not spend much in traveling expenses.

So it happens that the poor creatures arrive in Turkey in a most deplorable state, owing to the want of pure air and bad and insufficient food. They are all more or less attacked with skin diseases, ringworm, and that most revolting of all maladies which results from overcrowding in vessels. Notwithstanding the diminution their beauty suffers—for some of them are disfigured with dreadful blotches on their faces, their original beauty is easily perceptible. When the cargo is landed, a eunuch and a woman are sent to convey them to the Sultan's palace.

The persons who desire to buy them then come and make their choice, and often some of the most beautiful are bought by the rich pashas, beys and ladies, to be sold again in the palace. The sister of the Sultan also makes an annual present of one to her brother; so that there are scarcely ever less than five hundred of these charming creatures in the imperial harem, besides his Majesty's wives. They are employed in domestic service and to wait on the Sultan. Then there are the dancing girls, the singers, the secretaries, etc.; in fact, they all have their assigned places and occupations. Should any attract the Sultan's favor, she becomes his favorite.

These Circassian girls become very sad at the loss of their liberty, for they rarely are permitted to go out; they feel so much the want of some one on whom they can bestow their affections and have them reciprocated, that they become melancholy and die at an early age.

I must here premise that no slave can be bought, even by his Imperial Majesty, without her own consent; so that she has literally the privilege of choosing her future master or mistress. She is asked by the person who has the intention of purchasing her, "Do you consent to be bought by me?" She consents or refuses, as she pleases.

A very beautiful young slave was brought to the present Sultan some years ago, and he asked her if she would consent that he should buy her. She gave no answer. He repeated the question three times, but the girl remained silent. His Majesty then said, "I see that she does not wish me to buy her. Let her go."

The Turks imagine that by marrying a slave they will escape many of the family annoyances that generally spring up from too close contact with a host of relations, known and unknown; but these gentlemen are occasionally, nay, very often mistaken in their calculations. The following circumstance exemplifies this in a way very *appropos* to the subject.

The mother of the late Sultan Medjid was a Circassian slave, and one day, when she little dreamed of such a thing, she was surprised by the unexpected arrival of her old father and mother, whom she had not seen or dreamed of for thirty years. They had traveled all the way from their country to pay a visit to their daughter, who now occupied the high position of Valideh-Sultan (the Sultan's mother). The Valideh and her imperial son were rather agitated and perhaps not very well pleased at this news. However, they could not send them back; but the Valideh-Sultan immediately sent some fine clothes to them (for they had arrived in their tattered old native costume, considerably the worse for traveling), and they had an interview with their daughter and grandson, and soon after returned to Circassia.—C.

SINCE the date of our last issue the following vessels have arrived at San Francisco from far-northern points. It seems now probable that most of the whaling ships will come to this port for their supplies. Six have reported during the past week. From the *Bulletin* we learn that the Alaska Commercial Company does not expect any further arrivals of ships in its service for the present season.

Oct. 26.—Schr. John Bright, Archimandritoff, 20 days from Atcha Island; furs, to Hutchinson, Kohl & Co.

Oct. 27.—Bark Nautilus, Smith, 15 days from the Arctic Ocean; 300 bbls. oil, 5,000 lbs. bone, to G. Allen & Son.

Oct. 27.—Lizzie Sha, Peterson, 22 days from Unalaska; in ballast, to Alaska Commercial Company.

Oct. 31.—Whaling bark Helen Mar, Knorr, 15 days from Fox Islands; 1,050 bbls. oil, 10,000 lbs. bone, to J. Swift & Co.

Oct. 31.—Whaling bark Helen Snow, Haskins, 21 days from the Arctic Ocean; 40 bbls. oil and 400 lbs. bone, to master.

Oct. 31.—Schr. Vivid, Morhauer, 15 days from Shumagin Islands, having also freight from Unalaska. Consigners: A. Crawford & Co., Alaska Commercial Co., C. J. Jansen, order; cargo—two cases furs, 258 pkgs 5 ea mds, 1 box coin (\$1,000), 105 bbls shoos, hoop iron, etc.

Nov. 4.—Whale ship Marengo, Barnes, 20 days from Plover Bay; 1,400 bbls. oil, 12,000 lbs. bone, to master.

Nov. 4.—Bark J. W. Seaver, Rainey, 20 days from Petropaulovski; oil, bone, etc., to Williams, Blanchard & Co.

Nov. 4.—Whaling bark Midas, Hamilton, 15 days from Fox Island; 1,000 bbls. oil, 11,000 lbs. bone, to master.

Nov. 5.—Whaling bark Illinois, Fraser, 16 days from Fox Island; oil and bone, to master.

Nov. 5.—Whaling bark Progress, Dowden, 16 days from Fox Island; 900 bbls. whale oil, 230 bbls sperm to Wright and Browne.

Nov. 8.—Whaling bark Trident, Kogan, 19 days from the Arctic Ocean; 1,300 bbls. oil, 20,000 lbs. bone, to Swift & Perry.

Nov. 8.—Whale ship J. Perry, Owens, 18 days from the Arctic Ocean; 1,650 bbls. whale oil, 17,000 lbs. bone, to Swift & Perry.

THE mail steamship "Missouri" was burned at sea, on the 22d ult. while on her way from New York to Havana. A fire broke out, during a strong gale of wind, and not only baffled all efforts to suppress it, but spread with such rapidity that some of the lifeboats could not be detached. A single boat, containing twelve persons, reached Key West; the others were either burned or swamped. There were 90 persons on board. Albert S. Evans, a San Francisco journalist, is among the lost passengers.

CAPT. WRIGHT, of San Francisco, proposes to have in readiness, by the 20th inst., an opposition steamer to ply between that port and Portland, Oregon.—*Oregonian*.

THE ALASKA HERALD.

A. A. STICKNEY, EDITOR AND PUBLISHER

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THE Empress of Russia and Prince Nicholas will spend the winter in Jerusalem. The merchants of the Holy City expect to do a Russian business.

WM. BIRD, charged with shooting and killing an officer at Sitka, two years ago, and who was court-martialed and sent to Alcatraz, and afterwards returned to Vancouver and turned over to the civil authorities, has been found guilty of murder in the first degree.

THREE Congressional Districts in California have elected Republicans, viz: First—Clayton; Second—Page; Fourth—Houghton. In the Third District, the Democrats have elected their candidate, Luttrell. The majority for Grant in the State is probably about 8,500.

W. H. McCAUSLAND, now on trial for killing Mullendore, in San Francisco, may be remembered by some of our Alaskan readers, as he spent some time in the Territory. The testimony is conclusive that Mullendore repeatedly threatened to kill him on sight.

GEN. GRANT is re-elected President, receiving majority in 30 States at least—perhaps more, but at the time we go to press the returns are incomplete. Of 366 Electoral votes, 300 are already known to have been carried for Grant and Wilson, and the New York World thinks a full count will increase the number to 324.

SOME thieves raised the false alarm of "Fire" during the progress of a play at the leading theater of Nijini-Novgorod, recently, and during the excitement and rush for the door several persons were killed and a number seriously injured. The thieves stole watches and jewelry to the value of 100,000 roubles while the panic was at its height.

A SURE ENOUGH Russian nobleman—Count Michel de Messing—has persuaded the lovely Miss Potts, of Washington, to leave her country and change her name. They have been engaged for several years, but sickness of the groom and a like bad habit among the bride's friends, always indulged in at the approach of the nuptial event, has postponed the wedding from time to time. As Michel now happens to feel equal to the ordeal, and Potts senior is dead, the lady has remembered her pledge and has crossed the Atlantic to fulfill it.

THE escape of George and Lewis Brotherton from the county jail in San Francisco has been the sensation of the week. The brothers were convicted, for the third time of altering a check, and were to have been sent to San Quentin on Monday last, under a sentence of twelve years' imprisonment. On Sunday evening, aided by a trusty named Riley, they left their cell, tied and gagged the only keeper on duty, and departed from the premises. They concealed themselves within a few hundred yards of the jail until last evening, when they attempted to leave the city, but got no farther than Twenty-first and Howard, where they were captured. Rewards aggregating \$7,000 were offered for their arrest, and it is presumed that the police were advised of the movements of the convicts by persons who were intimate with them. George Brotherton remarked that he was "not at all surprised—money would do anything in California." These birds will hardly be allowed to take another flight, if Sheriff Adams knows himself. The scare which the escape has given the officials will, it is hoped, lead to greater vigilance, especially in regard to those "good fellows" in their charge who have plenty of money to buy the services of "trusties" and others. Since the recapture of the forgers, it has been stated that a draft for \$45 was recently altered so as to call for \$45,000; the original draft was sold by the First National Bank to a man calling himself A. R. Goodwin; it excited suspicion in Chicago, where it was presented for payment, and the telegraph was promptly employed in making inquiry. Naturally enough the question arises, Was this also the work of the Brothertons? A few days will determine the matter, probably, as Allen Pinkerton's detectives, in Chicago, are hunting up the man who offered the draft there. It is said that the Brothertons are the sole possessors of a process by which ink can be removed from paper without leaving the slightest stain.

WAR BETWEEN RUSSIA AND KHIVA.

The khanate of Khiva, though inferior in population and area, has long been a troublesome and dangerous enemy to Russia, and it seems that the latter has determined to inflict summary punishment for past offenses and effectually prevent a repetition. It may be that in sending his stalwart Cossacks across the Caspian Sea primarily to compel the Khan of Khiva to discontinue the barbarous traffic in slaves (of Circassian birth) and to punish his people for aid alleged to have been given to Russia's rebellious subjects in Bokhara, the Czar contemplates an enlargement of his imperial domain. In fact, there is something more than a suspicion entertained on this point by the leading journals of England and the Continent; but though great interest is manifested, so far there has been no indication of a belief that any of the great Powers will feel called upon to interfere.

Russian papers describe the Khan of Khiva as "a young man of twenty-seven, with great military abilities and insatiable ambition, who openly proclaims his determination not to leave a foot of ground to the foreign invaders in Central Asia, and has for some time been securing allies for a campaign against Russia. He not only sent his emissaries to stir up an insurrection among the Kirghiz, but dispatched an embassy to Calcutta, to apply for the assistance of England. The Viceroy advised a reconciliation with Russia, upon which the ambassador replied: 'This cannot be, for Russia has deeply offended the Khan; she has not even sent him a dispatch sealed with a golden seal, though he is equal in rank to all other sovereigns.'"

At a glance the subjugation of Khiva by Russia would seem to be easy of accomplishment; at most not over 110,000 fighting men can be mounted and equipped by the former; but the disaffection which prevails in the contiguous Russian provinces will add greatly to the means of resistance, and with the nature of the country and the wild, predatory and warlike habits of the people, it will be found no light task to conquer the khanate. Three Russian columns have been sent from Bish-Akti, Karakoum and Ust-Urt.

Khiva is separated from Persia by the Elbrooz range of mountains, and from the Kurgiz territories on the north by the rivers Yem, Djem and Jighez; on the west lies the Caspian Sea; the Aral Sea and an imaginary line drawn through the desert on the east, 350 miles in length, complete the boundaries.

Khiva has an area of 450,000 square miles and a population of about 2,800,000. The people are divided into nine or ten tribes, each of which has its chief; but the Khan's authority over all is absolute and despotic. The imperial revenue, which is collected by titling the chief sources of income, amounts to \$1,000,000 per annum.

The capital city—which is also named Khiva—is centrally located and contains some 12,000 inhabitants. The plain in which it is situated is intersected by numerous canals, and is divided into gardens and small estates by mud walls.

A dispatch dated October 31st, after referring to previous reports, says:

"For years the Russian Government has hankered after this territory, for it would give continuous way over all the land and water from the Caspian Sea to the Chinese frontier as well as open up a new and safe route to Central Asia. Russia is evidently in earnest, and should its armies reach Khiva, the fate of Khante [the khanate, or kingdom, is doubtless meant] is decided. It would either be incorporated or reduced to an absolute dependency. The troops of the Czar have a difficult task before them, but the Cossacks, who will doubtless form the main portion of the army, are accustomed to such campaigning."

A later dispatch says that the Khivans are determined to offer no compromise, and will not surrender either the prisoners or booty they have captured from passing caravans. They are confident of being able not only to hold their own but to annex a large slice of Asiatic territory now under the sway of Russia. To outsiders, it looks like a combat between a rat and a bear—sharp teeth and agility against strength and weight; and there is something so refreshingly audacious in the proposal of the rodent to swallow a neighboring province or two before he gets through with his bearship, that we cannot but take an amused interest in the struggle.

THE troops on duty in Alaska will soon be relieved—and thawed.

INTERESTING DISCOVERIES IN UNALASKA.

THE ALASKAN METROPOLIS.

The Academy of Sciences, in San Francisco, at its last regular meeting, listened to the reading of an interesting paper by Dr. W. H. Dall, of the Coast Survey, relative to the discovery of pre-historic remains in the island of Unalaska. The "Chronicle" gives the following report in its issue of the 7th, which we publish to the exclusion of editorial matter, as it comes under our notice too late to make other provision for it:

"The Doctor illustrated his facts by frequent reference to maps and diagrams, and with drawings of the articles excavated by him in his researches on that ice-bound shore. In excavating for the erection of a signal on the island he found various articles which led him to suppose that the locality had at one time been inhabited, and upon continuing his excavation and researches he became convinced, by the character of the articles found, that the theory was correct. He unearthed in a mound on the northern end of the island several ancient Aleutian huts or houses, in which he found three human skeletons in a state of perfect preservation. The bodies were found doubled up, at the custom of the Aleutians, and were in a separate compartment peculiarly constructed and exactly like the tombs made by the Aleutians of the present time. The Doctor also found a number of relics in the subterranean houses, including lamps full of oil, stone knives, bone spoons, arrowheads, buttons, etc. Continuing his explorations during the winter and spring, he discovered the sites and remains of

SEVEN ANCIENT VILLAGES

On the island, of which only two were formerly known even to tradition. He also made some interesting discoveries in regard to the modes of burial observed by this pre-historic race. He says:

"In certain places at the foot of overhanging cliffs a wall had been built up until the rock above was reached, and outside a bank of earth or turf covered this wall. In the space inside the debris had then been removed, and in this space, on a layer of small sticks of drift-wood the bodies had been laid one above the other. In one case I found six skeletons, one above the other, separated only by the layers of sticks and a piece of grass-matting similar to that still manufactured by the natives of Unalaska."

THE ALEUTIAN CATACOMBS.

In another place he found a small case, about twenty feet in diameter, through the crevices of which water was dripping. In this he found the remains of seven human skeletons arranged around the sides of the case. Of his discoveries in this tomb by the sea, the Doctor says:

"Near one of the skeletons was found, heaped together, a number of stone knives, a bone awl, and two fragments, one of pumice and the other of fine sand stone, with their edges and surfaces smoothed and squared, evidently for the purpose of dressing down the asperities of skins to be used for clothing. The most interesting collection was found near the skeleton of the woman, and consisted of two bone labrets, shaped like those now in use among the Thlinkets and Boto-culos. These are doubtless very ancient, as all traces of the usage have long since passed away. There were besides a lot of needles made of the wing-bones of birds, a needle case made of the humerus of some large bird, closed at each end by a wooden stopper; bone awls, stone knives, a whetstone of fine-grained sand rock, and a little case of birch bark, containing plumbago. Neither the birch, the sand stone, nor the black slate of which the knives were made, nor the plumbago, exist on the island of Unalaska.

ALEUTIAN METHOD OF PRESERVING BODIES.

"As proved by other researches on the islands of Kadiak and Unga, the early Aleuts were accustomed to preserve the remains of their more eminent dead by removing the viscera, stuffing the body with dry grass, and drying it. This was placed in some dry cave, dressed as in life ornamented with gay apparel and covered with wooden carvings, the most remarkable of which were masks of large size, painted of different colors and ornamented with feathers, tufts of hair and bristles from the deer. A very great variety of other carvings were also placed in these caves, and sometimes the bodies, placed in natural attitudes, were covered entirely with carved wooden armor, or placed in a miniature canoe or bidarka, armed as if hunting or holding a paddle. Women were represented as if sewing, dressing skins or nursing their infants; old men as if beating their drums, as they do during the winter dances in Eskimo villages to this day. But few of these remains exist in a well-preserved condition, yet the extent of the practice may be understood from the fact that over thirty masks, more or less mutilated, were found in one cave at Unga."

Any notes in regard to these discoveries possess a certain interest, and may be worthy of preservation, as before many years shall have gone by even the traces of these bygone customs will have entirely disappeared.

A gentleman who a few years ago spent some weeks in Sitka—a close observer and a fluent and graceful writer, to whose pen the country is indebted for much of its knowledge of Alaska—kindly favors us with a sketch of the inhabitants of the territorial capital, as they appeared at the time of his visit. In the main the description still holds good, though sober experience has rendered a portion of the people (once the most unsuspecting) a little more reserved than formerly, and the conflict of interests has here and there left its impress upon other classes highly extolled by our contributor. As a body, however, we are inclined to think the Sitkans will recognize the correctness of the sketch, and congratulate themselves that they made so favorable an impression upon their visitor.

EDITOR OF THE HERALD: Knowing that the cosmopolitan character of the population of Sitka is not fully understood abroad, and thinking that the subject will interest your readers, I venture to offer you a brief sketch, the reflex of a sojourn in the Alaskan metropolis.

Considering its isolation, limited number of attractions, its climate and resources, it is really strange that in Sitka you can find representatives of almost every civilized nation on earth and also specimens of Pagan and savage humanity. In diversity, at least, it resembles the great city which is the wonder and pride of the Pacific coast.

Here you find the clearly cut and sharply defined features, the positive nose and thin lips, the hurried step and interrogative glance of the Yankee closely contrasted with the florid face, important and solemn bearing and round proportions of the Englishman. The difference in the physiognomy of the representatives of these two nations—although they have much in common as regards the original stem—is most striking, and somewhat in favor of the former, all things considered. Next comes the phlegmatic, easy-going German, who drinks his beer with the royal zest of a Gambrinus, and smokes with the supreme abandon of a Turk. Sometimes, when in joyous company, and under the influence of a half-barrel of his favorite beverage, he becomes more profuse in words than in ideas, but in general you need not look expectantly for a better citizen. Jostled by the trio already named is a native of the Flowery Land, with his cunning, almond-shaped eyes, his flat nose and stoical features. The Celestial has but little to say, and, being in the minority, instinctively respects the prejudices of the majority. Near the Celestial is a Koloshian chief, his black, thick, coarse hair falling down over his shoulders in a profusion that might excite the envy of many a thinly covered white man. The chieftain has the most strongly marked and characteristic face of the human portraits before us. His cheek bones are sharp and prominent, indicating physical strength; his retreating forehead tells that the animal instincts predominate; his lips are firm and closed, indicative of secrecy, and his eyes are cold and glassy, without the soft light which indicates the quality of mercy. As he looks about him, the Chief evidently has a contempt for the other specimens of manhood to the right and left, and treats them with a kind of cool indignity which to the observer is at once ludicrous and interesting. Close to the Koloshian ruler may be seen an inhabitant from the region of perpetual ice-bergs. It is an Eskimo, with a face as flat as pancake and as passionless as a marble slab. This native American is proud of himself and his ancestors. He has memories of his icy home 'neath the shadow of the North Pole which are as dear to him as are the recollections of the tropics to the wanderer therefrom. He longs to get back to his native ice, for even Sitka to him is the hot-bed of civilization. Pushing him aside, we next observe the smiling face of an Aleut, who makes a bow as politely and touches his hat as gracefully as a Frenchman. Admitting the theory of correspondences, I should pronounce the Aleut the "dove" of the human species. He is kind and genial, and never better pleased than when a stranger accepts his hospitality. In company with him may be seen the Russian (usually a blonde), one of the best-hearted fellows in the world. The Russian makes you feel at home upon the first introduction, and you readily understand why the native tribes have had so little to complain of at his hands, and why the natives have to so great an extent blended. In the medley I am describing, let me not omit a most prominent character, who never fails to make his influence felt in one way or another. He has to a certain extent been the explorer of Alaska, and as he has money and energy in abundance, his explorations pay. He is a clever character, a good smoker, is fond of cards and company, always pays his bills, and is welcomed wherever he goes. This is the Jew, as I found him in Alaska. Next to the Russians, I consider the Jews the best fellows in the country. Having traveled considerably, my early Christian prejudices have vanished, and I can now, to borrow a poetic phrase, "speak of a man as I find him, and censure alone what I see."

Of the peculiar and novel social life of the Sitkans, I am tempted to say something. Wherever the Russian element is strong, social life is a success. It strikes an American—who generally knows what

social starvation is—as being the most interesting feature of the Muscovite's character. When an American is introduced to a Russian gentleman and clasps his hand with a cordial response to the warm greeting extended, he is apt to think that the Russian has fallen in love with him at sight, for he is at once invited to dine and wine with his new acquaintance. The princely and confiding Russ never takes the trouble to inquire into the character and social standing of his visitor. He takes it for granted that he is a gentleman and so introduces him to the family as if he were an old friend who had just returned from a voyage around the world. It is not improbable that time and experience have made our Russian host a little more circumspect, but the memories of an evening spent with a Russian family, even in humble circumstances, can not soon be effaced, while, if spent with an educated and aristocratic family, the same geniality combined with the graces of culture give the recollection of the event a permanent and cherished abiding place.

There are great contrasts in this existence of ours. They are as marked as the contrasts between the mountains that lift themselves to the firmament and the small hills which stand as apparent stepping-stones at their bases. Sitka has her contrasts. Going outside the bounds of the capital, we find the Indian village, with humanity in its savage state, the very reverse of the highly civilized species of which I have spoken. The Koloshes are like civilized people in one respect, namely, life to them is as sweet as it is to us, and they are not given to resorting to self-destruction for any cause; but in most respects they are savages. For our standard of propriety they have a profound disrespect; yet they are strict observers of their own laws and customs. Though not very amiably disposed toward the whites in general, they occasionally form a strong attachment to some "Boston man" who is up to their standard of good fellowship, and in such a case are very obliging. All Americans are called "Boston men" by the Koloshes. A tour through the Indian village does not impress one with the belief that the inhabitants seriously trouble themselves about the quantity of soap in camp. Some of the young Indians look as if they had not been washed since they were born, and some of the elderly ones look as if they never could be washed.

There is no need, however, to go to the Indian village to see powerful contrasts. All the observer has to do is to stroll down towards Indian river, and visit the Creole houses as he passes. Upon entering he will find a varied and interesting assortment of northern humanity, with lights and shades of which, perhaps, he never dreamed—a "happy family" of blended races. Then let him enter the huts of the Eskimo, all of which are in one long building. It is a sight well worth seeing. The door that leads into the main building is large enough, but once inside you have to burrow your way through, amidst narrow passage-ways, sometimes on your hands and knees. In small, crowded rooms or rather kennels, with his wife, children, dogs and traps, the nomad finds shelter. These people have strayed away from the parent stock, and may never return. They are the gypsies of the North Pole country, and wander as forever.

Such are a few of the prominent features of society in Sitka—my time and your limited space forbid farther description. The metropolis of Alaska is a study in itself. Its people look upon it, with all its faults, as not unworthy to be designated "The Holy City of the Far North."

"IT STILL WAVES." It will be no surprise to very many of our readers to learn that that popular family paper, the "Star-Spangled Banner," still waves. It isn't one of the kind that "suspends" or "sells out." The "Banner" is a large 8-page, 40-column paper, of "Ledger" size, overflowing with splendid Stories, Poetry, Wit, Humor, Fun, etc. It is a paper for old and young—in fact, for EVERYBODY. It "shows up" every quack, swindler and humbug in its "Rogues' Corner," and is a money-saving paper for every man, woman and child. J. Prang & Co. have just finished a superb, full, genuine Chromo, expressly for every subscriber to the "Banner," a perfect beauty, entitled "A BOUQUET OF AUTUMN LEAVES," which in color, tint, shades and artistic merit, has never been equaled. This leading home paper is only \$1 a year. Chromo sent free. Address, *Star-Spangled Banner, Hinsdale, N. H.*

A DISEASE of virulent character has during the past fortnight attacked horses throughout the country east of the Rocky Mountains. Twenty or thirty names—almost any of which would kill a horse—have been given it; probably "influenza" indicates the symptoms as nearly as the more unpronounceable ones. In many cities so general has been the visitation that trade has been seriously blocked and street cars have been withdrawn, while it has been impossible, in some instances, to procure carriage horses for funerals. Montreal, Buffalo, Rochester, New York, Boston, Philadelphia and Chicago have been among the heaviest losers. The disease is still progressing in those cities, and is extending southward and westward. It is contagious; a few cases are mentioned of men taking it from the horses in their care.

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do seconds	do 0 40 do 0 55
второго сорта		
do thirds	do 0 20 do 0 25
третьего сорта		

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THE FUR SEAL ISLANDS.

Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper, of Nov. 16th, has a description of the Alaskan fur-seal islands, illustrated with a sketch of the St. Paul rookery, both furnished by H. W. Elliott, of the Smithsonian Institution, who left Washington last Spring as a Government Agent, to spend a year or two in Alaska. From this interesting and candid article we make the following extracts:

"One hundred and eighty miles north of the Aleutian Peninsula, and three hundred west of the mainland of Alaska, are two small islands known now as the "Seal Islands" (or, more specifically, Pribilof Islands), which were discovered and settled by the Russians some eighty years ago. The larger one (St. Paul) has about fifty miles of shore line, St. George probably having twenty or twenty-five. To these islands come every year, in the summer time, an extraordinary number of fur seals, for the purpose of breeding; some four or five millions at least were, at the time of writing, hauled up on the rocky shores."

"The Government, after careful deliberation over and consideration of many propositions, has leased to the Alaska Commercial Company the islands for a term of twenty years, giving the Company the exclusive right to take seal-skins, limiting it at the same time to securing only a certain number (100,000) per annum. For this privilege the Government receives the very handsome revenue of over \$340,000 yearly, with scarcely any cost of collection more than the pay of one agent and three assistants, who are stationed on the two islands to see that all the conditions of the lease are faithfully carried out. By putting this limitation on the number of seals to be killed every season, and restricting the destruction to the males only, the increase and perpetuation of these valuable animals is insured. Were this not done, the seals would soon be exterminated, as have already been their cousins in the Antarctic.

"At the time of writing, there were more seals on the island than have ever been known before by any of the natives."

The manner of driving and killing these animals is as follows:

"The bachelor seals, or young males, are compelled [by the older males] to haul up by themselves apart from the rookeries, and when several thousand of them have come ashore the natives walk cautiously in between them and the water, as they sleep on the beach, suddenly shout and run upon them, causing a stampede toward the rocks. Once in motion, three or four men can manage the drove of thousands, which they drive to the killing-ground, generally a mile or two away, and close to the "salt houses," where the skins are placed for preservation and storage until the time of shipment. The seals are slain with clubs, the natives striking them on the head; the blow, if squarely and heavily given, usually destroys the animal at once. The bodies are drawn out from the slaughter-heaps, and strewn closely and thickly over the plain around about, for the skinning, which is done very soon after the death of the seal. Twenty or thirty thousand of the skinned carcasses lying out to stew and fry in the sun and weather, would create, every one will imagine, an unendurable stench; but the writer has scarcely felt any annoyance during his residence here, only half a mile from the plain; the reason of this being that the blubber which envelops the body makes a kind

of air-tight case, and the flesh and intestines petrify within and are absorbed from below by the dry sandy soil of the island, the body seeming to sink, as it were, into the earth.

The breeding rookeries have a peculiarly strong, deadening odor, which is positively offensive. It is a sight well worth seeing, one of these large rookeries, where at one sweep of the eye hundreds of thousands of seals are upon the rocks before you, in every imaginable position.

The skins, as they are taken from the animals, do not convey a very favorable impression of their value. They undergo a complete transformation in the process of shaving, tanning and dyeing in London, where a single company has the machinery and art of curing.

The skin is at first of several shades of color, and the fur almost concealed by the coarse gray and brown hair that grows up through it. This hair is combed out by machinery, after the skin has been pared so as to cut its roots, and the soft, velvety fur is not injured in the least. This is then subjected to a washing and coloring process, by which any shade desired can be obtained. The durability and excellence of the fur when made up can be attested by any one who has had a set in use.

The killing of the males only tends to make the breeding rookeries more quiet and successful, for when the pups are born the proportion of males and females is about equal, but the polygamous nature of the animal makes the true proportion on a well regulated rookery as one male to ten females; if more males, then a system of desperate fighting is inaugurated among them for the possession of the harems, and the young are trampled to death by thousands; but by thinning out the males the rookeries have a chance to be quiet, and thus to increase. This has been found to be the case during the last three years. In a few years double the number now limited may be killed."

LOGGERHEAD GULCH.

Some incident in its early career had given Loggerhead Gulch its name. Just what that incident was did not live in the traditions of the rough miners who dug and delved in the gulch. Certain it was, however, that the name was no misnomer, for no other mining camp in the Territory was so rough, quarrelsome and pugilistic in the nature of its inhabitants. Everybody seemed at loggerheads with everybody else, and ready upon the slightest provocation, to lynch everybody else.

The diggings had not of late been very productive of profit, and that fact did not add to the kindly spirits of the miners, who were disposed to revenge their luck upon anything that presented itself as a possible scapegrace.

No mining camp can exist, or at least ever has existed, without a drinking saloon, and Loggerhead Gulch had its shanty devoted to the retailing of drink. Its proprietor was Jack Jephtha, and his dress and demeanor indicated that he had seen better days—had been a faro dealer or a barkeeper in a big Eastern hotel, or something of that flashy nature. Even now some traces of loud dressing hung about him; but the brim of the felt hat was battered, and there was something the matter with the crown; the flaming red tie failed to harmonize with the almost equally flaming and slungy red beard immediately above it; the shirt-collar was woefully time-stained; the velveteen coat was much smirched, and half-grown white at the seams, and at least three buttons were lacking at the vest.

The only other occupant of Jack Jephtha's shanty at the moment that the reader is introduced to it, excepting the customers, was a young woman—Jack's wife, Mollie by name—who, with her really delicate beauty, seemed wonderfully out of place in Loggerhead Gulch. She was about the middle height, between twenty-three and twenty-four years of age, slim and elegant as to her figure, fair as an angel is painted, with soft blue eyes and drooping lashes; her mouth was small, her lips full and rosy, her teeth white as pearls. When animated or talking to any one, a pleasant, fascinating smile would play around her mouth; but at times when she fancied no one was

looking at her, the corners of her mouth were drawn with a hard, careworn expression. She shared the honors of the bar with Jack, and dispensed bad whisky and smiles to the Loggerheads with a dash and grace that largely augmented the aggregate sales.

Among the drinkers was one upon whom liberal potations had told considerably. His companions called him Towhead from the color of his hair, and that was the name he had in camp. In his pocket he had a fair-sized bag of gold dust, which he had incautiously displayed several times during the evening.

At twelve o'clock Towhead rose to go; but first he called Jack Jephtha outside the door, and placed the bag of dust in his hands.

"That's my pile, Jack," he said, "an' I want yer to keep it till tomorrow. I'm a little too drunk ter take it along with me, and that might be somebody as would foller me for it."

Jack slipped the bag in his coat, and both returned to the bar room.

Soon afterward the party broke up and departed. Towhead's way led him a solitary walk of a mile or more; and as he left his companions, the form of a man skulked after him in the shadow. Thus followed, Towhead staggered along until his path led him through a deep gully, which had been dubbed the Devil's Glen. Then and there his follower stealthily advanced from behind, and killed him with a murderous dirk stab. A hasty search of the victim's pockets convinced the murderer that the prize for which he had committed the villainous deed was not there. Then the cowardice of the man showed itself. A storm had been coming up, and now, as it burst forth in thunder, lightning and flood, he shivered. With blood on his hands, with horror in his eyes, and with the dreadful mark of Cain branded indelibly on his brow, the wretched man fled, clutching his breast with his pale, talon-like fingers, as if to tear hence his cowardice.

On he went, flying over rocks and chasms, and uprooted trees—on, on, still on, unable to stop until he sank exhausted beneath a huge pile of rocks. The storm was wildly, madly cannonading against the rocks, as if it would tear its way to where he lay, and boldly engulf him; but he heard nothing but an imaginary and unearthly cry of "Murder!"—saw nothing but the cold, still face and lifeless form of his victim.

Towhead had not been murdered fifteen minutes before his body was discovered by a party of miners returning from some midnight carouse. They carried it back to Jack Jephtha's shanty, amid threats of vengeance upon the murderer. Arrived there, they laid the body on the floor, while one of the party went behind the bar to help Jack fix up a hurried dram, in the vain hope of reviving the murdered man. His eyes fell upon the bag of dust, with Towhead's mark upon the side.

"What's this?" he said, holding it up.

"That's Towhead's!" replied several.

"How did it come here?" asked others.

Jack Jephtha turned pale as he realized the predicament in which he was placed. He gave the true version of the affair, but they would not believe it. They were anxious to fix the guilt upon some one, to hang somebody, for Towhead had been pretty popular among them. Several remained as guard over Jack, while others went out to collect the miners for the immediate holding of a trial. Judge Lynch allows no delay, and there was every prospect of a hanging in the morning.

Mollie Jephtha had come in on the arrival of the corpse, and her eyes had closely watched Jack's face; but she believed his version of the story.

"Jack," she whispered, "I believe you;" and then added aloud: "I believe I know who did this. There was a stranger here among the rest, drinking last night, and more than once I saw him look at Towhead's bag."

But the rough and unreasoning crowd would not listen.

"Jack," she again whispered to the prisoner, "keep up your courage, old partner, and I'll get you out of it yet."

"No," said Jack, doggedly, "I didn't do it, and I won't run. Let 'em hang me if they want to."

"I don't want you to run, Jack," she said; "I'm going after that fellow myself. Good-bye, Jack; keep up your courage."

Mollie kissed him, armed herself with a pair of revolvers, and slipped out unnoticed. Taking the path that Towhead had followed, and speeding along with all her strength, she soon came to the blood marked spot of the murder.

"Of course, he ran away," she thought, and likely he took the path."

On she went through the storm, which still raged with such blinding fury as to render it difficult to keep the path. On she went, mile after mile, until the rapid gait began to tell upon her strength, and she thought she must drop down, when through the darkness she saw the murderer lying where he had fallen, and the blood fresh upon his hands and shirt. He started up when he saw her, but a revolver faced him. He turned to flee, but her determined voice stopped him. "Move a step further, and I'll shoot."

He was entirely unarmed, having thrown away the bloody knife, and could do nothing but obey.

"I am going to take you back to the shanty," she continued. "Go on ahead, and remember that a bullet will be the cost of any attempt to escape. Go on!"

The man hesitated a moment; but, seeing that she meant what she said, he sullenly started.

With a revolver in her hand, Moll followed a few steps in the rear. Once he turned quickly, as if to grapple with her and disarm her, but the gleam of the revolver aimed at his head changed his mind, and he sullenly started on again. Knowing that death awaited him at the shanty, still he lacked the courage to make the only possible effort for liberty.

Daylight came as they neared the cabin, and both could hardly drag themselves along; but not a word was spoken. As the gulch became lighted up, Mollie saw a crowd of miners take the path from the shanty. "My God!" she cried, "they are taking Jack out to hang him!"

The tired girl nearly fainted at the sight. They are nearly a mile away, and she well knew the promptitude of border executions. The first tree would furnish a gallows.

"Faster!" commanded Moll.

"I won't," replied her prisoner; it's bad enough to walk to my death, without hurrying!"

He turned and sprang toward her, but she was ready with weapon. A shot rang out, and one of the murderer's arms dropped powerless at his side. Without a word he resumed his march, hurried on by his determined captor.

Meanwhile the noose was put around Jack's neck, the rope thrown over a limb, and a score of hands lifted the unfortunate man from the ground. There being no fall, his neck was not broken, and his feet had barely left the ground before he saw Mollie and her captive in the distance.

Wrenching his hands from their fastenings, he pointed frantically toward her and then strangled into unconsciousness. The miners turned, and the strange spectacle stayed their work.

"Let him down a minute," said one who seemed to be master of ceremonies.

They did so, and Moll staggered into the circle. The revolver dropped from her now nerveless grasp, and she tottered as if about to fall.

"There's the man that killed Towhead," she faltered, and then, throwing herself upon Jack who lay, still choking, but slowly reviving, where they had lowered him, she said: "Don't die, Jack. I've brought them the right man. Don't die, Jack!"

The miners held a hurried consultation. The blood stains upon the murderer were proof enough for them, and he did not deny the deed. The noose was transferred to his neck, and the tragedy suffered little interruption by the change of actors.—U.

THE horse disease continues with little abatement in some of the Eastern cities. In Philadelphia it has nearly ceased.

PRESIDENT LERDO, the successor of Juarez in Mexico, is well received by the people, and peace prevails.

A WASHINGTON DISPATCH of November 15th says the researches of the Signal Service have just been rewarded by a beautiful and highly important meteorological discovery. On the coast of England, from time immemorial, the phenomenon of a great November atmospheric wave has been observed by scientists and seamen, but Sir John Herschel and others have supposed that it was peculiar, and confined to England and Western Europe, which it reaches from the South Atlantic, over which it rolls in long continued undulations from October to January, constituting an important element in the phenomenal character of the European Winter. On the 12th of November a similar atmospheric wave began to break over the shores of Oregon and British Columbia, as shown by the weather telegrams. By the evening of the 13th it had spread over nearly all of the Pacific States and Territories. At midnight it was pouring through the passes of the Rocky Mountains. On Thursday, the 14th, it descended upon Colorado, Nebraska, and Indian Territory. On Friday morning it extended in unbroken magnitude from Oregon and Washington Territory eastward through the great trough or depression in the Rocky Mountains backbone in Idaho and Montana; stretched thence to the lower Missouri and lower Mississippi valleys, and over the western shores of the Mexican Gulf. This discovery will enable meteorologists to anticipate by many days the approach of Winter as it advances from the Pacific Coast eastward in a great current of westerly winds. It seems to clear up the old mystery of American Winter storms, showing that they originate in the Rocky Mountains, upon whose cold and lofty summits, in Utah, Colorado, and Southern Wyoming, the vapors of this wave, coming from over the warm Pacific, are not seen to be condensed in overwhelming snows on the forty-first parallel. As this vast aerial wave is probably, like the English wave, continued in successive undulations for two or three months, it may assist in explaining the comparatively high temperature and light precipitation in Winter along Puget Sound and eastward.

ANOVE St. Petersburg, in Russia, little grain is raised, and that, so damp is the climate, must be kiln-dried for preservation. In some localities barley is sown as far north as Mosen; but it is only three or four times in a century that the season is warm enough and long enough to bring it to perfection, and it is usually cut as fodder for the cattle. All these latitudes depend mainly for their cereals upon the richer harvests of the south; but their rivers are stocked with fish, myriads of wild fowl find a home in the woods and by the lakes, mushrooms abound, and the swamps are filled with cranberries and whortleberries that ripen despite the frosty air. The wealth of this region from the Gulf of Bothnia to the Oural, is in its forests and fisheries.—U. [This description of the climate and products of Northern Russia, does not do justice to the country within 100 miles of St. Petersburg, as we are informed by a native, but applies more correctly to Finland.]

NEXT to the United States, there is no nation in the world that gives evidence of such rapid progress in industrial matters as Russia. Her mechanical and metallurgical interests are almost daily developing, and new means of utilizing her great resources are constantly coming into existence. The correspondence of the *Brussels Chronique de l'Industrie* informs us of a gigantic establishment recently founded by M. M. Struve Brothers, situated near the city of Kolom, which, it is stated, rivals in magnitude the finest workshops of England or Belgium. It has been in operation but five years, and is at present engaged in the manufacture of iron bridges and railroad freight cars, though recently locomotives and passenger coaches have also been produced. At times during the year past, the works employed 4,000 hands, at wages from one rouble (78 cents) and one rouble and a half per day for ordinary operators to three roubles for foremen. The fuel used is Torbane mineral, the anthracite of the country and coke; the blasting and melting apparatus was obtained from England. To give an idea of the importance we may add that since its foundation it has completed 3,000 cars, and since it has begun the manufacture, 79 locomotives have left its shops.—U.

THE ALASKA HERALD.

A. A. STICKNEY, EDITOR AND PUBLISHER

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The London "Times," of the 8th inst., has an account of a hurricane in Sicily, which destroyed the town of Palazzuolo. There has been no instance of such calamity within the memory of living man. No earthquake ever caused so much destruction. Without exaggeration, one-third of the town is dismantled, and more than 1,000 families literally without a home. About 100 more have only one little corner of what was once their home, to shelter them. The dead number 32, and the seriously hurt about half a score besides.

EMIGRATION from Russia to the United States is increasing in volume annually. Arrangements have been made for bringing out 40,000 persons from a single district. They comprise a sect which is conscientiously opposed to war; heretofore they have been exempt from military duty, but they are now ordered to either share in that burden or leave the Empire, and they feel compelled to adopt the latter course. They are said to be excellent people, much like our Quakers. Other colonies are being formed, and the Russians in New York city and the West have organized societies for purposes of mutual aid and the reception of newly-arrived immigrants.

ALASKA has of late furnished the San Francisco Academy of Sciences abundant material for discussion. At the meeting held on the 18th inst., Prof. Davidson, on behalf of the Alaska Commercial Company, presented a tusk and lower jaw of an extinct species of elephant, the tusk being ten feet in length, twenty inches in circumference, and weighing 150 pounds. These fossils were found at the base of a high cliff where a large deposit was discovered in 1824 by the British ship "Herald." The Company was informed of the existence of two complete skeletons of the fossil elephant on one of the Aleutian islands, and Prof. Davidson said he hoped to procure one for the Academy.

On the Pacific coast the importation of "Chinese cheap labor" is held to be the bane of the white workingman. In the Atlantic States the steady stream of immigration from Europe acts as a check upon the demands of both artisans and farm hands. Everywhere competition in some shape is constantly making itself felt—and in some cases disastrously. But the farm laborers of England have encountered a novel form of competition; their impending calamity takes its rise in the employment of soldiers in the rather unwarlike duties of the harvest field. Mr. Gladstone has been duly petitioned, and has given an assurance that the matter is now undergoing careful investigation; but the "Bee Hive," a London organ of the labor interest, remarks that "no examination can alter the fact, which seems to be beyond all dispute or cavil, that the soldiers were sent into the harvest field and did work for the farmers, which the laborers were quite willing to do at a fair price, and thus, by competing against the laborers in the interest of the farmers, the families of these poor men were deprived of their ordinary means of support." "We do not wish," adds the paper named, "to see Government stores, or our cavalry horses, or anything belonging to the public, put into the market at a particular moment to compete with dealers of any kind for the purpose of keeping down prices. And we shall certainly not stand silently by if the resources of the army or navy are used for the purpose of beating down or keeping down wages. If this iniquitous proceeding should be repeated, every working man in the country will practically and firmly protest against the Government that permits it. The most devoted Conservative working man, touched by such a wrong, would become indignant, as even with them there must be a place where a sense of justice and fairness outraged would lead to action." It is to be hoped that England's defenders will not suffer restricted to their legitimate calling; if not it is likely that they may have a little scythe and pitchfork exercise of a different nature from that which has brought them under censure.

THE PASSAGE TO THE NORTH POLE.

A few months ago hopes were entertained that an expedition, under the direction of Octave Pavey, would achieve the long-sought honor of navigating the open Polar Sea of the North, San Francisco being distinguished as the outfitting and starting point of the expedition. We have no doubt all the declarations of intention were made in perfect good faith; but an unforeseen difficulty arose and the start was not made. Whether the project was postponed for one year only or indefinitely, we are not informed; but it now appears that the honors of success have been almost within the grasp of another explorer during the past summer, and it is probable that the Arctic problem will soon be solved.

On the 8th of May last, Capt. Nils Johnson, with ten men, sailed from Tromsø, in Norway, and on the 16th of August reached the land lying to the east of Spitzbergen, which, although known by geographers more than two and a half centuries ago, was never visited until the present year. Capt. Johnson found the whole sea to the south and east of this land entirely free from ice. Landing to explore the territory, which he was the first to set foot upon, he ascended a mountain near the coast, from which he obtained a view over a wide circuit. He thus discovered that the land masses, which had been supposed to be separated by channels into three large islands, formed a continuous deeply indented island. There were also a number of small islands in the vicinity, forming a group of considerable size. On the 17th of August the captain again set sail, and during the two following days explored the entire southern and eastern coast of the island, which he reports everywhere, as well as the open sea, to be wholly devoid of ice. The ocean lying towards the east-northeast was also perfectly free from ice, so far as it was distinguishable from the summit of the hills. This group of islands lies at the very edge of the great polar ice current, and the observations made by Capt. Johnson lead to the inference that in the deep channel lying to the eastward the expeditions now in that region will find an extension of the Gulf stream maintaining an open water passage to the extreme latitudes of the globe. The fact that along the eastern coasts of these islands immense piles of driftwood and fragments of wrecks were found, in some places twenty feet above the highest tidal mark, is evidence that the currents of the Arctic Ocean are in that longitude unimpeded, either by the land or ice.

The information given above in regard to Capt. Johnson's expedition was communicated to the press by Dr. Peterman, of Götting, in the latter part of October. We await with interest tidings from the Austrian expedition under Capt. Altman, which at last advices had reached the latitude attained by the Norwegian explorer.

COMPLAINT is occasionally made that the Hudson Bay Company gets the better part of the traffic in Alaskan furs. This is a somewhat extravagant statement; but there is ground for dissatisfaction with the conduct of that Company's agents; and if they do not get the largest share of the furs procured by the natives, it is not for lack of disposition. They certainly have one great advantage over other dealers—not a legitimate advantage, however—which they should be dispossessed of, if possible. There is very little obstruction to the smuggling of goods across the eastern line of the Territory, and it is asserted that they do this constantly, thus escaping the burden of imposts borne by American traders. As the traffic is wholly with Indians, and the boundary line is nearly a thousand miles in extent, it will be seen that the difficulties in the way of a thorough enforcement of the revenue laws are very great. Still, an effort should be made to place our own traders on an equal footing with those of "the most favored nation" on our own soil. And since we cannot do this by ordinary means, it might be well to legislate especially for Alaska. Suppose the duties on foreign importations should in her case be wholly done away with—the loss to the national revenue would not bankrupt the Government, while the gain to those who acknowledge American citizenship and pay taxes in accordance therewith, would be important. We make the suggestion for the consideration of our lawmakers who are soon again to assemble at Washington. Shall we give free trade a trial in Alaska?

ALASKA MISREPRESENTED.

An esteemed contemporary in San Francisco—after alluding to the increasing volume of immigration to the United States from Russia, asks: "How will our Russian immigrants esteem our professions and principles, should they learn that their brethren of Alaska are farmed out by our Government to trading companies, and that they are held under the same restrictions, by free and liberal America as the Siberians are by the fiat of a tyrannical Czar? or how will it affect the Siberian to learn that the Alaskan is held under like restrictions, and without the excuse even of political crime?" We have sought in vain for a basis for these charges against the Government, and are convinced that they have no foundation in truth. A moment's reflection should convince any one that it is impossible for the authorities to "farm out" the services of the Russians in Alaska. Those people are absolutely free to make such contracts as they see fit with "traders" or others. Then, how utterly improbable—in fact, how transparent—the statement that anybody in Alaska is held under the same restrictions as the exiles in Siberia, the persons who have been banished from Russia proper! These accusations are not new—they have been made and refuted over and over again. They sometimes, as in this instance, find their way into the columns of respectable journals when masked by interesting facts relative to Alaska. A newspaper printed, we believe, in New York city, is mentioned as the source of our local contemporary's information in regard to certain colonizing movements, and perhaps the absurd statements we have quoted came from the same quarter. If such dense ignorance of the nature and workings of American institutions really does exist anywhere in the United States, it is pitiable indeed. We can hardly believe it possible, but we would not willingly attribute improper motives when want of information may furnish the correct solution. Our Government has quite enough to answer for in its sins of omission—its neglect to establish schools, make geological and other surveys, create postal facilities, etc.—but to charge it with enslaving the people or giving its sanction to any restriction of their liberty, is unwarranted by facts, and can tend only to injure our country in the estimation of the world at large.

Slavery does not exist in Alaska. The people are free to labor or not. They make their own terms, and our Government does not sanction coercion, except by legal methods to enforce contracts or promote order. We have heard of acts of military officers and others in Alaska, in times past, whereby persons were deeply wronged; we have heard of equally grievous wrongs perpetrated upon the people of organized States; but we believe at the present time such instances are as rare in the Far Territory as in any part of the Union. The main lever of oppression and injustice with which unprincipled men work in remote districts is whisky; and this our Government was against in Alaska, vigorously and persistently. What is especially needed is education in the language and institutions of the country. A sober and intelligent people can neither be enslaved nor duped. The Aleuts in the employ of the Alaska Commercial Company are provided with schools, regularly maintained, but elsewhere in the Territory the facilities for mental culture are inadequate and uncertain.

Mrs. FAIR was denied the use of Platt's Hall, in San Francisco, on the evening of the 21st inst. She had announced a lecture on "Wolves in the Fold." . . . Mrs. Woodhull and Tennie C. Claflin are in jail in New York, charged with circulating obscene publications through the mails; they are also charged with libel and levying blackmail. . . . The National Woman Suffrage Association met at St. Louis on the 21st inst. T. W. Higginson was elected President for ensuing year. . . . Mr. Greeley returned to the editorship of the New York Tribune immediately after the election; but more recently he was prostrated by sickness, and his condition is now deemed critical. . . . Gen. Grant's popular majority will reach 700,000. In the Electoral College he will have 206 votes against 70 for Greeley. . . . Susan B. Anthony and fourteen other women have been arrested at Rochester, New York, for voting at the last election. The Fourteenth Amendment will now be judicially examined, and the question of its scope settled. . . . The British troops have been withdrawn from San Juan Island.

RESOURCES OF ALASKA—NEWS GLEANINGS.

[CORRESPONDENCE OF THE ALASKA HERALD.]

If Alaska had no other source of revenue but her fisheries, and they were fully developed, this Territory would be one of the richest possessions of the United States; but even with the partial development of this interest we have much to be proud of. The salmon fisheries at Sitka alone yield several thousand barrels yearly. South of here, along Prince Edward Island and other localities adjacent thereto, there are splendid openings for establishing salmon fisheries. The Indians catch great numbers and to a large extent live from this source. Fish is the real staff of life to the marian tribes. Furs purchase them many articles of use and luxury, but the fanny product is their main reliance for food.

There is a mint of money in the Shumagin fisheries. At present perhaps the pioneers of the trade are not reaping large profits, but from all I can learn they have every encouragement to extend their operations. Pioneers in any department of life usually have a hard fight. My own experience, however, and that of several others here, has been both pleasant and profitable, and I hope the energetic men who are laying the foundations for building up a vast trade in the Shumagin specialty will in time find all their expectations realized. As the Pacific coast becomes populated, everything that Alaska can produce will very naturally find an increased market; and no other branch would receive so great an impulse as the codfish trade. The article is equal and in some respects superior to the Newfoundland species and also to the fish taken in the Behotak Sea. When this fact becomes generally known, our codfish will, of course, command a better price than any other.

Our fur trade is another feature of interest. We take from 8,000 to 10,000 mink every year, and from 5,000 to 6,000 martens. The number of muskrats killed is set down at from 5,000 to 6,000. Of foxes (blue, white, red, gray, etc.) there are taken from 5,000 to 7,000. The supply of sea and land otter is abundant, all things considered. The sea otter is so valuable that in its quest the bounds of prudence are not regarded as they should be, looking to the future. I am unable to say how many ermine and sable are killed yearly; but with these and other fur-bearing animals it will be seen at a glance that Alaska is in this respect very wealthy.

From persons who have recently visited Kadiak I learn that matters there are very quiet. Several vessels called at the island during the summer and brought merchandize from San Francisco. The natives are always overjoyed when a vessel anchors off their shores, for they know that there is an abundance of the luxuries of civilization on board. I have observed that as the Aleuts gain knowledge of the customs and habits of white people, they are eager to adopt them.

A revenue cutter brings us the intelligence that important scientific discoveries have been made along the end of the Alaskan Peninsula. Travelers from Europe and the Eastern States of the Union find a great deal to interest them in the geological, botanical and glacial features of Alaska. No doubt your scientific institutions will have reports concerning this Territory which will be worthy the attention of the public; but as yet, even in much simpler matters there is a woful lack of correct information. For instance, it has been stated that there are only 10,000 Indians in the whole Territory. Some of the Russian residents who have traveled almost throughout the length and breadth of Alaska assure me that there are at least 35,000 Indians and Eskimo in Alaska. There is good reason to believe that there is a very large Indian population, even if we cannot get at the exact figures. There have been no wars of any consequence among them; and since the small-pox epidemic in 1838 there has been no sickness of a grave character to thin them out. As they marry and are given in marriage, an increase in population is among the probabilities. Several of the Indian tribes are polygamists, which I suppose adds considerably to the number of red babes in the wood every year. The Koloshees who have their village just outside the Alaskan capital are polygamists.

Business affairs are quiet, and with the exception of the periodical

change in the occupancy of our military post, which is about to bring us new faces and remove those to which we have become accustomed, there is nothing to excite local remark. Major Allen has the respect of the better portion of our citizens; it is to be hoped that his successor will be equally mindful of the rights and best interests of the people.

The winter is upon us, and, like bears, we must live upon our surplus fat, until the spring opens. X.

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PHOTOGRAPHS OF ALASKA.

Just previous to the late General Halleck's departure East, he made a tour of inspection to Alaska Territory, and, by instruction of the Secretary of War, was accompanied by our celebrated photographic artist Muybridge, who made a series of the most picturesque and valuable photographs we have ever seen. The Hon. Wm. H. Seward thought very highly of them and addressed Mr. Muybridge a very complimentary letter in acknowledgment of his appreciation. They comprise about three dozen stereoscopic views of Sitka, Fort Wrangle, Fort Tongass, etc., portraits of Indians, illustrations of Indian life and flying views from ship board; giving a far better idea of the aspects of the country than a volume of reading matter.

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Сѣрая	
Lynx	do 1 00 do 1 10
Рысь	
Marten, prime, dark	do 2 00 do 9 00
Соболь, черный	
do do pale	do 1 00 do 1 25
блѣдный	
do seconds	do 0 50 do 1 00
второго сорта	
do thirds	do 0 25 do 0 50
третьяго сорта	
Mink, dark, northern, prime	do 0 40 do 5 75
Норка черная, сѣверная, перваго сорта	
do pale, southern	do 0 50 do 0 75
Блѣдная, южная	
do seconds	do 0 40 do 0 55
второго сорта	
do thirds	do 0 20 do 0 25
третьяго сорта	

THE ALASKA HERALD.

THE NEXT CONGRESS.

The result of the recent elections for members of the National House of Representatives is a Republican gain of 77, according to returns and estimates. With two or three possible modifications, the House will stand as follows:

	Rep.	Dem.
Alabama	4	4
Arkansas	2	3
California	3	1
Delaware	1	0
Florida	1	1
Georgia	2	7
Illinois	12	6
Indiana	9	4
Iowa	9	9
Kansas	3	0
Kentucky	7	3
Louisiana	3	8
Maine	5	0
Maryland	2	4
Massachusetts	11	0
Michigan	9	0
Minnesota	3	0
Mississippi	4	2
Missouri	5	8
Nebraska	1	0
Nevada	1	0
New Jersey	5	2
New York	25	8
North Carolina	3	5
Ohio	13	7
Oregon	1	0
Pennsylvania	22	5
Rhode Island	2	0
South Carolina	4	1
Tennessee	7	3
Texas	2	4
Vermont	3	0
Virginia	5	4
West Virginia	1	2
Wisconsin	6	2
Total	104	90

New Hampshire and Connecticut will choose their Congressmen next Spring. Including their members, the House will probably be composed of 200 Republicans and 91 Democrats—Republican majority, 109.

THE "Globe" escaped the disaster which reduced a large part Boston to ashes, on the 10th and 11th inst. Its publishers promptly offered their printing facilities to their less fortunate neighbors. The "Globe" speaks hopefully of Boston's future, and says of the present that there is comparatively little suffering, as the burnt district had but few dwellings within its limits. In this respect the Boston calamity bears no resemblance to that of Chicago, and while some hundreds of persons will for a time lose their accustomed positions, the work of removing the debris and erecting new buildings will at once furnish a great deal of employment. Those who are not thus provided will not suffer, for relief has been generously tendered by nearly every city in the land, Chicago, with her usual spirit, leading all competitors. The losses by the great fire are variously estimated; the "Globe" thinks they will amount to about sixty million dollars.

It has been generally supposed by scientific men that the forest elephant of Siberia had no representatives in the same latitude on this continent. Recent examinations on the Yukon river, in Alaska, however, have established the fact that the remains are even more plentiful on the west than on the east side of the North Pacific. Enormous quantities of bones are found, and a supply of ivory sufficient to last the world for centuries. The elephant, whose range was formerly almost universal, is now confined to a small portion of Africa and Asia, and it would seem as if the species was in process of slow extinction. Neither Europe nor America, which once swarmed with them, has now either climate or vegetation fitted to their existence. Their remains, however, are likely to give Alaska value not previously suspected.—*Eudora Paper.*

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ALASKA



HERALD.

VOL. V.

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SIGURD'S BEARD.

Wearied out with a long day's hunting among the mountains, Sigurd, the most renowned and powerful of Norwegian chieftains, lay sleeping in the shadow of the pine forest, his old gray cloak wrapped round his head, his thick red beard descending far below his girdle, when Bjorn the son of Swerker, passed by.

"What sturdy vagrant is that?" thought Bjorn, "who dares to wear in Sigurd's land a beard longer and redder than Sigurd's own? It were a mercy now to rid him of it, lest the poor fellow should chance, for his presumption, to lose both beard and head."

Almost ere the thought had fully crossed his mind, Bjorn had drawn a sharp knife from his girdle, and applied himself with such good will and dexterity to his self-imposed task, that in a few moments the face of the redoubted Sigurd was bare as a new born child's.

"I wonder whether he will know himself again," thought Bjorn, as he walked leisurely away.

It was after sunset when Sigurd awoke, and, heaven and earth, what a waking was that! No lioness, robbed of her cubs, ever raged as did the great chieftain, when, on raising his hand to stroke his beard, he discovered that he had no beard left to stroke—no! not so much as a single hair to swear by. Nor were the indignation and grief of his followers less keen when they learned the fearful indignity that had been offered to their chief—for a beard the like of which was not to be found in the whole world, reflected distinction on every man who stood in any relation, however humble or remote, to its illustrious owner.

"May the hair never again grow on our chins till we have nailed over Sigurd's gate the head of the wretch who hath robbed the world of Sigurd's beard!" cried five hundred voices. And forthwith all the knives in the castle were put into requisition, and soon weeping wives and mothers bore away piles of hair, red, brown, and golden, to be thenceforth hoarded among their most sacred treasures. This was all very well in its way, but it brought them no nearer the point at which they aimed—namely, the discovery of the audacious criminal; and Sigurd's thirst for vengeance waxed hotter with delay.

"By the beards of my fathers," (this was the oath by which Sigurd was now obliged to swear,) "I will burn every village in Norway if the thief be not delivered up to me within three days!" cried he, one morning, on hearing from his desponding servants that no clue to the offender had yet been discovered. The news of this threat spread far and wide, exciting everywhere the utmost consternation till at length it reached the ears of Bjorn himself.

"How in the name of all the gods should I know that a ragged fellow sleeping under a tree was the great Sigurd!" cried the astonished youth. "I took him for some sturdy beggar, or man-at-arms in search of a master, and thought, forsooth, I should be doing Sigurd service in cutting off a beard that might claim to match with his

Heavens! how he must have raged! I would have given half my remaining life—or just one day and a quarter—to have witnessed his waking."

"For our sakes, my lord, if not for your own, leave jesting for once, and cast about in your mind how the wrath of Sigurd may be averted," pleaded Hugur, the oldest and wisest of Bjorn's vassals, and he who had brought him the tidings of Sigurd's oath.

"I might offer him the loan of my beard until his own hath grown again, but that I fear would scarce match in color with his hair," laughed the incorrigible youth. "Or thinkest thou, Hugur, that it would soothe his wounded pride were I to ask for the pattern of that cloak I found him sleeping in, which, doubtless, his great-grandmother made for her worthy husband out of her oldest petticoat?"

"For heaven's sake, Bjorn, speak not such words, lest the birds of the air carry them to Sigurd!" implored the old man.

"What matters it now what the birds may twitter in Sigurd's ear," retorted Bjorn, "since the grisly old bear will never forgive the liberty I have taken with his shaggy beard?"

"But on that score you are safe, my lord, since Sigurd doth not know that the deed was yours," said Hugur, anxiously.

"He knows not yet, but he assuredly will know ere the moon be two days older," returned Bjorn. "Peace, Hugur—peace, I say. Dost think I would let the innocent suffer for my folly? Go, saddle my horse, old friend; and let not my followers know wherefore I ride alone to Sigurd's castle till it is too late for them to poke their long lances into what is no concern of theirs."

Very slowly Hugur was brought to promise obedience to his master's commands, and urgent were his entreaties to be allowed to accompany him; but Bjorn was fixed in his resolve to go on his errand alone.

"My beardless lion will, I fear me, prove a right terrible beast," quoth he; "so thou must needs stay at home, my good Hugur, and make of little Harold a wiser man than his elder brother hath proved himself."

With these words, the gravest he had ever been heard to utter, Bjorn mounted his horse, and, humming a lively air, rode briskly down the castle hill; and no man, save Hugur, knew how small were his chances of ever riding up it again.

At the window of her chamber in her father's castle, sat Gerda, Sigurd's only child. Young was she, and very fair to look upon; yet for all her youth and beauty, her face wore an anxious and wearied expression, as of one ill at ease in her life. Of a truth a being so gentle was sadly out of place in that gloomy fortress, swarming with rough men, and forever ringing with the clash of arms; and fain would she have fled from it, back to the milder land where, under her Aunt Asfrieda's tender care, the days of her childhood had passed peacefully away.

But, alas! flight was impossible. And, moreover, how dared she return to her adopted home, since it was the wise Asfrieda's express command which had driven her thence.

"Grieve not, my child," said the lady, as Gerda, at parting, clung to her neck, "for in my magic mirror have I foreseen that thy happiness is menaced by a great danger which thy presence in Norway can alone avert. Obey, then, the will of the gods, which they have r

aled to me, and the years of thy life shall be many and blessed." At her aunt's bidding, Gerda dried her tears and set forth meekly for her father's home. Here, if truth must be told, she met with but a sorry welcome from Sigurd, who, at that time, was far too much occupied with plans of vengeance for the insult under which he was smarting to bestow any thought on a useless girl. So, having installed her in her dead mother's bower, he left her to herself, and soon totally forgot her presence in the castle.

Three long summer days, from the rising to the setting of the sun, did the daughter of the great chieftain sit patiently at her chamber window, pondering in her mind what might be the danger for which her aunt had bidden her be prepared. On the fourth afternoon, behold! a horseman came riding up the hill, and, dismounting at the gate, called loudly for admittance. He wore no armor, nor did he carry any weapon save a golden-hilted sword, and the richness of his dress and the gallantry of his bearing gave him the air of a bridegroom, or of a wedding guest at least. Now, as the stranger strode across the court, a rose fell from Gerda's bosom at his feet. Looking up, he beheld the maiden, and, having saluted her, he placed the flower in his jeweled cap and passed on into the castle, following a man-at-arms to the presence of Sigurd. Then Gerda threw a veil over her head, and, gliding down the staircase, hid herself in a corner of the great hall.

"Who art thou, and wherefore hast thou sought the home of Sigurd?" asked the chieftain, in a voice which savored little of welcome, as the stranger strode boldly to his side.

"I am Bjorn, son of Swerker, and I bring back thy beard, which I stole as thou didst lie sleeping in the wood," answered the young man. And, sulking the action to the word, he drew from beneath his mantle a mass of tangled red hair. Yes! it was, without doubt, the sacred beard of Sigurd; and in a moment a hundred swords were raised to strike the shameless offender to the ground. But with a frown their lord repressed his vassals' officious zeal. Sigurd's hand alone was worthy to avenge Sigurd's beard.

What evil spirit tempted thee, miserable youth, to commit so black and senseless a crime?" asked the stern chieftain, with a frown which would have slain most men, but which had no effect at all on the reckless Bjorn.

"The same spirit of mischief that hath ever possessed me!" answered he, with a laugh; "though, of a truth, I thought for once in my life to do a wise act, whereby I should earn thy friendship. When I saw an old man in a ragged gray cloak sleeping alone on the bare ground I thought to myself, 'How dare this beggarly fellow boast a beard that, for length and beauty, may vie with the beard of Sigurd, with the fame whereof the whole world doth ring!' In my anger at this presumption I drew my knife and cut off the offending growth with a dexterity to which his unbroken slumber bore testimony. Only, as ill luck would have it, it was Sigurd himself, and not some impudent rival of his, that I shaved; which blunder, methinks, I am about to pay for with my life."

Now, when Sigurd saw the young man's fearless bearing, he wished in his heart that the gods had granted him such a son. Yet for his oath's sake he would not spare Bjorn, but bade his followers bring him in the great block of wood that stood in the kitchen, that on it he might strike off the culprit's head.

As they hastened to obey his commands, a message was brought to Sigurd from his daughter, saying: "Come to me quickly, for it hath been revealed to me wherefore my Aunt Asfridea sent me here." And Sigurd went to the Lady Gerda.

Ten minutes—twenty minutes—half an hour passed away, and still Sigurd did not return, and his friends began to murmur aloud at his delay. When Bjorn saw their impatience he said:

"Of a truth, worthy friends, it is I who have most cause to complain; for, if Sigurd come not quickly, I shall neither dine to-day on earth nor yet sup in Valhalla!"

All who heard him laughed grimly at the jest, and one old warrior filled a goblet of wine and gave it to Bjorn.

"I thank thee, my courteous foe," said the young man. "But, ere I drink, tell me, I pray thee, the name of the maiden who threw me the rose that I wear in my cap?"

Ere any man could answer, the great door of the hall was thrown open and Sigurd appeared, leading in his daughter, arrayed as a bride. A murmur of astonishment ran through the hall as Gerda, with faltering steps and a cheek whiter than the snow on her native mountains, advanced toward Bjorn, who, totally unabashed by the unexpected apparition, boldly quaffed off the goblet to the health of the fairest maiden in Norway.

"Since thou findest my daughter so fair, Sir Bjorn, methinks thou wilt not hesitate to save thy life by wedding her," said Sigurd, abruptly.

Bjorn's eyes sparkled, his cheeks glowed, and he made a hasty movement toward the maiden.

But Gerda grew even paler than before, and lifted her eyes to the young man's face with such a look of despairing supplication that his outstretched hand fell by his side, and involuntarily he drew back.

"What means this folly, girl?" cried her father, with an angry frown. "Give thy hand without more ado to this youth; for, by the beards of my ancestors, I swear thou shalt have no other bridegroom!"

"Then will thy daughter surely die unwed!" quoth Bjorn, bluntly, "for my hand is pledged to another; and though, for one moment's space, this maiden's beauty—and perchance, too, the love of life—had well nigh made me forget my plighted troth, yet will I never prove faithless to my bride!"

"Canst thou wed with her in the grave, thou fool?" asked Sigurd, scornfully. "Since thou art hopelessly lost to her, what matters it whether it be by death or marriage?"

"To her, perchance, it matters little," answered Bjorn, gravely; "but to me it matters much. I jest not with my own honor, great Sigurd, though I may sometimes trifle with other men's beards!"

With a gesture half triumphant, half appealing, Gerda turned to her father.

"Be silent! child," said Sigurd, severely. "I have more to ask of this youth ere I renounce my purpose of making thee his wife. Tell me, now, Bjorn, who is the maiden for whom thou art ready to lay down thy life?"

"Of a truth I know not her name!" answered Bjorn.

"Men of ancient race wed not with nameless maids," said Sigurd, sternly. "Her beauty must be great indeed to beguile thee into so rash an act! Is she fairer than the bride whom thou dost reject for her sake?"

"Nay!" stammered Bjorn, blushing and looking down. "Thy daughter is the fairest maiden on whom I have ever gazed, for the face of my betrothed I have never yet beheld."

"Thou mockest us, Bjorn," cried Sigurd, angrily; "and there is no such maiden! Prithce, is this a time for jesting?"

"I do not jest, Sigurd," answered Bjorn. "I am, indeed, betrothed to a maiden whose face I have never seen. If thou wilt grant me a few minutes' longer life thou shalt learn how this came to pass."

"Be brief!" quoth Sigurd. And Bjorn told his tale:

"Two years ago I was hunting in a remote part of Sweden, when, one day, I missed my road among the mountains, and wandered about for many hours, seeking vainly for some castle or village, where I might find food and shelter for the night. At last, just before sunset, I reached the summit of a precipitous cliff, and, peeping over the edge, I beheld a small and beautiful valley, dotted with groups of stately trees, through which a dozen narrow footpaths wound in and out in so intricate and bewildering a manner that my head grew giddy in the vain effort to detect where one ended and another began.

"Some one must surely dwell in this valley, thought I; and forthwith I grasped the projecting roots of an old pine tree, and, swinging myself over the edge of the cliff, dropped lightly down on a bed of thick green moss at its foot. Once in the valley, I was amazed to find that along the borders of the paths which I had noticed from above grew shrubs and flowers such as I had never before beheld in

our northern clime, while countless tiny fountains filled the air with their pleasant murmur. Yet, though on every side I beheld these signs of human skill and care, I could discover no dwelling in the valley, nor yet any outlet by which to escape from it. My first feelings of wonder and admiration were rapidly giving way to uneasiness and alarm, when, turning suddenly round the angle of a projecting rock, I beheld a veiled lady, seated on the sward. Alarmed by my unexpected appearance, she sprang to her feet, and seemed for a moment about to take flight; but my words and looks soon reassured her, and I had little difficulty in inducing her to resume her seat and listen to the story of my wanderings. When I had ended my tale she spoke, and I started as I heard her voice, for tones so sweet, so musical, had never before fallen on my ear.

"Since thy rashness hath brought thee into my enchanted valley, Sir Knight," she said, "thou must be content to tarry here till I give thee leave to depart."

"Since there is no way out of thy realm, I must perforce remain in it forever," answered I. The lady laughed, and her laugh was sweeter even than her spoken words.

"If there is no way out of my valley, how then did I come hither?" asked she, gaily. "Dost think that, like thee, I dropped from yonder rocks?"

"Of a truth, fair lady," answered I, "thy presence here is a mystery which my poor wits are too dull to solve."

"Who bids thee solve it? and how knowest thou that I am fair?" asked the veiled lady, quickly.

"I read thy beauty in thy voice," answered I. "My mother's voice was low and sweet like thine, and there was no woman in Norway fairer than she."

"Art thou then a Norwegian?" asked the stranger, and when I answered 'Yes,' she questioned me of my land, and its people, and its heroes, and we talked till the moon rose above the mountain tops. Then said the maiden—and I fancied she sighed as she spoke—"The time hath now come for thy deliverance; but ere I set thee free, thou must find a ransom worthy of thee to give and of me to take."

"Then I offered her the gold chain from my neck, and the jeweled clasp from my cloak but with neither of these would she be content. 'Then must I remain thy captive, for I have nothing else wherewith to buy my freedom,' said I.

"Give me the ring from thy finger, and I will release thee," said she quickly.

"Now this ring had been my mother's betrothal ring, and I had vowed to her on her death-bed that it should never be worn by any woman save her whom I had chosen for my wife; so, when the maiden asked it from me, I sat long silent, debating in my heart whether she was one whom the son of Swerker might wed without dishonor; for I needed not the voice of Sigurd to teach me that men of noble race mate not with maidens of low degree. But when the lady marked my perplexity, she rose up proudly, saying: 'Keep thy ring, Sir Knight; I will nought of a ransom that is given with grudging. Go back into the world, and get thee ears that may reveal to thee not only my beauty, but my worth.'

"When I heard these words, I was ashamed of my doubts, and, taking the ring from my finger, I placed it upon hers. 'Now art thou my betrothed,' said I; 'and though I should never behold thee again, yet can I never wed another.'

"Yea," answered the maiden, softly, 'now are we betrothed; but the wedding, I trow, will not be yet.' Then she loosed a scarf which she wore as a girdle around her waist, and, having bound my eyes, she led me by the hand through what I deemed to be a winding passage under ground, till of a sudden the night wind blew coldly in my face, and I knew I stood once more on the open mountain side.

"Now thou art free to see again," said the lady, as she dropped my hand.

"In a moment I had torn the scarf from my eyes; but, in that moment, my guide had vanished. And though I lingered long amongst these mountains, never again did I behold my unknown bride, nor the enchanted valley of which she was the queen."

"For that, at least, thou mayst count thyself in luck," quoth Sigurd, as Bjorn ceased to speak. "Of a surety this veiled maiden was some evil spirit; and if thou dost not soon find a priest to absolve thee from thy bargain, she will doubtless return and drag thee down to hell."

"That she was no daughter of earth, I myself have long believed," answered Bjorn, thoughtfully; "but that she was in league with hell, neither thou nor any man shall ever persuade me, though, were she the daughter of the evil one himself, I would still keep faith with her."

A silence followed Bjorn's bold words; a silence broken at last by a laugh so soft and musical that it scarce seemed to fall from mortal lips. Yet sweet as was that sound, he who had stood unmoved before the wrath of Sigurd grew pale and trembled as it stole upon his ear.

"Laugh, oh! laugh again, sweet voice!" cried Bjorn, as he sank on the ground at Gerda's feet, "and that music for which I have so long vainly thirsted shall waft my spirit to the gods."

Then Sigurd laid the hand of Gerda in the hand of Bjorn, son of Swerker, saying: "Well, O Bjorn! hast thou borne this trial of thy truth, and well for thee that thy soul was proof against temptation; for, by the beard of which thy hand despoiled me, hadst thou been willing to barter away honor for life I would have slain thee before my daughter's eyes. Take now the bride to whom thou didst plight thyself with thy mother's ring, for thou art worthy to be to Sigurd the son whom the gods denied."

Then, whilst Bjorn gazed with rapture on Gerda's beautiful face, she told how, meeting him in the valley to which there was no access save through the subterranean passage, known only to her adopted mother and herself, she had recognized at a glance the future bridegroom whose form she had oft beheld in Asfrida's magic mirror. The men-at-arms carried the block back to the kitchen, where it did good service in the preparations for the marriage feast, and messengers were despatched in hot haste to the bridegroom's castle to apprise his vassals of their lord's good fortune.

Of all that afterwards befell, nought need here be chronicled, save only that Sigurd and his people—that Bjorn might live and they not be foresworn—never again suffered the hair to grow upon their chins; and, as they soon learned to think that the custom they had adopted must be the only one in accordance with the will of the gods, they waged such ceaseless war against all those of their neighbors who refused to follow their example that, during the lifetime of that generation, beards became as rare in Norway as icebergs at the equator or palm trees in Alaska.

"FOR EVERYBODY" is the name of a weekly publication, of which we have received a sample copy. It is a choice collection of reading matter, handsomely printed and accompanied with a fine engraving. Published at 335 Broadway, N. Y., and 25 Allen street, Buffalo, N. Y., by Henry H. Sage. Terms (including an engraving every week), \$4 per annum.

THE "Mercantile Director" is a monthly summary of commercial information for the Pacific Coast, published by Murray, Dewey & Co., 414 Clay street, San Francisco. No merchant can afford to withhold his subscription, for it meets a positive mercantile want.

IN San Francisco, during the holiday season, turkeys were said to be very scarce, and the price per pound ran up to forty cents. After New Year's tons of them were dumped in the bay, in a condition not at all agreeable to contemplate, much less small of.

THE Chicago Grand Jury refuses to indict liquor dealers for keeping open on Sunday, giving less weight to the letter of the law than the spirit.

GENERAL SHERMAN reports the force of enlisted men in the army to be 29,830, and commissioned officers 2,104.

THE Library of the California State Prison now contains 2,332 vols

THE ALASKA HERALD.

A. A. STICKNEY. EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

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THERE seems to be a mistaken impression in some quarters relative to the Aleuts of the fur-seal islands. They are few in number, and the islands are of insignificant size. From the fact that the Government derives a large sum annually from the seal fisheries, they are apt to be given an importance which tends to overshadow the value of the half-million square miles outside their limits; and the fact that the inhabitants of St. George and St. Paul are comfortably provided and are rapidly acquiring education as well as material comforts, which is made patent to the public through the reports of Government agents, should not mislead the press or public as to the wants of the people throughout the vast region called Alaska. The Aleutian inhabitants show a remarkable aptitude for instruction; and generally they seem to be far superior to the Indians of the interior. More than two years ago, Capt. Bryant, (Special Agent of the Treasury Department,) writing from St. Paul, said: "I can not refuse a due share of praise to the natural gifts of the Aleutian race, and I beg leave to express here my earnest belief that the Aleuts might become as good citizens as any admitted under the Fifteenth Amendment to the Constitution." And yet there are intelligent American gentlemen who, with such facts before them, are easily led to believe that the Aleuts are "enslaved"—and this, too, when they know that said "slaves" are under the special protection and care of the Government, their labor guaranteed a fair compensation, and schools maintained for them during eight months of the year.

SEVERAL publications have been received since our last issue, some of which are new enterprises and others only new to our table.

Murray, Dewey & Co., San Francisco, send us the first number of the "Illustrated Press." Twenty-eight pages, embellished with engravings; \$1.50 per year. Some of the engravings and portions of the letter-press are evidently imported, but they are good, and there is nothing in the history of art and literary publications in California to encourage a belief that the "Press" would live were it entirely of home manufacture.

"To-Day," published by MacLean, Stoddard & Co., Philadelphia, weekly, at \$2.50 a year, including the chromo, "Just So High." A bright, sparkling magazine, edited by Dio Lewis. "Max Adeler" is one of the leading contributors. Good stories, good pictures and good sense distinguish "To-Day."

"The Cottage," Chicago; Reade, Browster & Co.; 32 pp., 50 cents per year.

Wood's Household Magazine has changed its tactics, and now very sensibly concludes that quality is of more consequence than originality. Published by S. S. Woods & Co., at Newburgh, N. Y.; \$1 per year—with two tinted crayons ("Our Hope" and "Our Joy"), \$1.50.

The Record, Binghamton, N. Y., is the organ of the American Association for the cure of Inebriates. Those who regard drunkenness as a disease, and wish to learn the progress that the theory is making, should address (with \$3 for a year's subscription), W. D. Haley.

The Boston Independent commences its third volume with the offer to any subscriber of either of the splendid steel engravings (22x28 inches) entitled "Crossing the Stream," and "Far from Home." The subscription price will remain \$3 per year.

The Science of Health begins the new year with an excellent number. Its popular physiology, popular treatise on diseases of the eye, hints on dress, etc., are invaluable. To show that we are not alone in appreciating Mr. Wells' magazine, we quote the opinion of the Skandinavisk Post: "Denna Journal är på en gang underhallande och larorik, och är en komplett samling af densamma ett vardefullt bidrag for hvarje bibliotek." And all for \$3 a year. New York; Samuel R. Wells, publisher.

WE return to our post after few days' absence, fully convinced of the vanity of all things earthly and of the depth of Stockton mud. While sailing around from point to point in a pair of gum boots, we observed that the Stocktonians were about equally engaged in discussing modern spiritualism and narrow-gauge railroads. The State Asylum for the Insane is conveniently located, but we didn't venture to pay it a visit. The new paper mill is in successful operation, but in deference to the prevailing topic, is working only on (w)rapping paper. Old Captain Weber still lives—he has probably forgotten how old he is, and his fellow-citizens are not likely to remind him, for they could not supply his place. The Champions of the Red Cross, a temperance organization, with an apron which reminds one of the E. C. V., are doing their best to put out the fires of King Alchy, and have succeeded to an encouraging extent. One or two large and attractive hotels now invite the weary traveler to come in out of the wet—they are two or three stories above high-water mark. Take it altogether, Stockton is not a bad place to live in—its citizens are contented, or would be if they could only get an opposition railroad built, and punish Stanford for his attempts to ignore the advantages which their location offers as a distributing center.

LETTER FROM SITKA.

[CORRESPONDENCE OF THE ALASKA HERALD.]

An opportunity presents itself of forwarding you whatever news there is of interest in this part of Uncle Sam's dominion. I do not know but that I must first of all congratulate the Alaskans upon the fact that I am unable to record any great wrongs or crimes existing in this territory; and we are all the more proud of the fact because almost every newspaper we get from "civilization" (as we call your condition of society) is filled with the most startling and horrible crimes. We are glad, sometimes, that we are not civilized; for if we have not all the blessings of civilization, neither have we all its curses.

I am more and more convinced that our freedom from crimes and great wrongs is mainly due to the fact that the law is very stringent against the importation of whisky; and though smugglers are notoriously adroit and scheming, the revenue officers are on the alert and generally thwart their designs. Had the country been thrown open to alcoholic importations, I am very certain that I could not send you the intelligence that peace and good order prevail. In former times the terrible effects of intoxicating drinks were often seen; and you must still remember how we suffered in name and reputation by the gross outrages committed here by civilians and soldiers when we first came into possession of the Territory. Of late years this condition of society has entirely changed, and now we are respected by the people of the United States. Startling reports of demoralization at Sitka are no longer sent broadcast throughout the country; and if hereafter such stories are revived, you may safely set them down as improbable, so long as we are exempt from the rum fiend's presence.

The conduct of the United States troops here has of late been unexceptionable. Our comfort and security depends very much upon the judgment and firmness of the officer in command, and we have been very fortunate in this respect. Although we have local officers, the Territory is in a general sense under military rule. And where such rule exists, it is high praise to say that it maintains itself without giving offense to the citizens.

We are again electrified with reports of gold discoveries; but at this writing nothing very definite is known as to the extent of the deposit. The report is that discoveries have been made at Silver Bay of gold-bearing quartz, which will yield \$100 per ton. I will write you fuller particulars as soon as reliable information reaches me.

There are great changes to note in the appearance and sanitary condition of Sitka. When we first took possession of the town it was not the cleanest place on the face of the earth. I paddled through its muck and mud day after day and night after night. If I had been a duck, I should have found it difficult enough; but as a human biped, with some respect for my understandings, it was appalling.

We have become more cleanly. Sidewalks have been constructed, roads opened, streets widened, a number of the yards graveled, and the space about the barracks and officers' headquarters made to look as bright as a new pin. Having watched the improvement from day to day, I am happy to testify to our advance in this particular.

Reports have been set afloat by malicious individuals, lately, calculated to create the belief that the Creoles and Russians who reside here are a degraded set, and entirely under the control of the priests. These stories are absurd; but experience shows that an industrious falsifier will always find some one to listen to him, and aid him in circulating his slanders. The people are devoted to their religious faith, but in secular matters are free from priestly interference; nor is such interference attempted.

There came here a peculiar individual, who, fortunately for the peace and welfare of the community did not stay long. He pretended to be a missionary, and to have been sent to Sitka to civilize the natives. He succeeded only in getting drunk and plying the "bilk." We do not need such missionaries. In fact, the old order of things, in religious matters, seems to suit this metropolis very well. On several occasions efforts have been made to set up new sects, or sects new to this region, but there is not on record a single instance where the work thus done has stood the test of time. We don't seem to hanker after the latest novelties in "progressive" religion.

As I wrote you in my last, we must be content with doing a small business until the Spring trade opens. We hope to have a splendid opening for trade soon, and our facilities for procuring goods are better than they ever were. We are in communication with Portland, Oregon, by steamer once a month, and hence are also connected intimately by steam with San Francisco. If we could now only get telegraphic communication with the outside world we would be all right.

I trust the HERALD, which has lately done so much to make the resources of this Territory known abroad, will urge the necessity of connecting Alaska and Siberia with California by the magnetic wire, or if that is asking too much, at least let Alaska be so connected.

A THREATENED COMPLICATION.

For some weeks past the trouble between Russia and the khanate of Khiva has remained in abeyance, and the reported withdrawal of the troops of the former power from an expedition against the latter some time since gave the world reason to believe that a definite and peaceful agreement had been arrived at, and that the attempt of Russia to create a highway to India and China would be made at some other point along the line between the three vast empires. The subsequent threatening position assumed toward Yarkand, which lies several hundred miles east of Khiva, encouraged that idea. It now appears that either the report of the expedition against Khiva was incorrect, or that the arrangements made between the opposing powers were insufficient to preserve peace. A Bombay dispatch says that the Russian forces are already upon Khivan territory, and that active hostilities are imminent. The Khivans are well-armed and well-disciplined, and determined to repel the invader at whatever cost of blood and treasure. Bokhara, Khokund and Samarcand, sister provinces and khanates of Khiva, have for some time been dependencies of Russia, each having been invaded under like circumstances, and, after ineffective resistance, conquered. The Viceroy of India, who was some time since appealed to for aid against the encroachments of Russia, ostentatiously refused the petition, so that the khan is forced to depend wholly upon himself in checking the advance of the gigantic power which threatens momentarily to overwhelm him.

No one familiar with the history of Khiva or the character of its population will waste much sympathy over its impending fate. The country has ever been a turbulent and dangerous one, and its inhabitants are little better than a nation of robbers. For many years it has been a perpetual scourge to Persia, that country having been a raiding ground for the bloodthirsty and predatory Khivans, who have times without number swept down upon unprotected Persian villages

carrying away, in addition to the plunder, the entire population, to be sold as slaves in the open markets of their own country and Samarcand. Hitherto they have successfully defied the power of Russia, though in 1854 they were forced into making a commercial treaty with that country, which practically removed the restrictions upon trade between the two countries. But beyond this limit Russia was not allowed to go. Muscovite merchants might trade in the markets of Khiva, but they could not penetrate through the country to the richer and more civilized provinces beyond. For nearly twenty years Russia has been compelled to put up with these restrictions, galling though they have been, awaiting the hour when the knot could be cut if not untied. That hour Khiva herself precipitated. Russian subjects were seized and imprisoned by the khan, and in a number of instances were made to renounce Christianity and embrace Islamism. Demands for their release were treated with contumely, probably under the idea that England would sustain Khiva as against Russia. Although the Government at St. Petersburg was undoubtedly and genuinely indignant at the treatment of her subjects by a foreign power, there was very probably rejoicing mingled with that indignation, in the consciousness that valid excuse had been given for the subjugation of the offenders. The struggle will not be an extended one. With its close Russia will carry her eastern frontier to the great mountain wall which bounds the empire of China on the west and Hindostan on the north, and will gain complete control of the river Oxus, which penetrates Central Asia and is navigable for seven hundred miles.

So long as the quarrel was confined to the two parties directly engaged, no great importance was accorded to the course of Russia, although certain English journals prophesied at the outset that complications would be certain to ensue between the two great powers who have almost an equal foothold in Asia. That prophecy bids fair to be fulfilled. A dispatch from St. Petersburg says that the British Ambassador at the court of His Majesty the Czar Alexander, has had audience of the Russian Prince Chancellor, Gortschakoff, and notified him in the name of Queen Victoria that, if the Russian troops now operating against the khan of Khiva penetrate the countries lying between Khiva and Afghanistan, England will be compelled to intervene in support of Afghan independence. This, it will be remarked, does not at all interfere with the probable plans of Russia, as far as Khiva is concerned. War and subjugation may be carried on within the limits of the territory of the khan without interference on the part of Great Britain. But Russia will not be content with that. Vengeance upon the offending nation is only a portion of the programme, hardly more than a pretext for carrying out the purpose long ago formed.

The Afghan countries which still interpose between the Russian boundaries and the southern markets the Czar is so anxious to reach, will still present a barrier which British honor and British interest are bound to defend. England undoubtedly appreciates the difficulties of a struggle with the Muscovite power in Asia, and will submit to the extremest limit where she is not directly bound to support or defend. There is no probability of trouble between the two powers until the settlement of the Khivan matter. It then remains to be seen whether the Czar is determined to advance still further and draw upon himself the responsibility of a conflict. Russia is, either by peaceful or forcible means, destined to be the great pacificator and civilizer of Central Asia, as England has been of the Indian peninsula; and, although the wealth and natural resources of the former may not equal those of the latter, every spot of ground redeemed from barbarism and the interminable wars of petty chieftains and princes, will be a gain to the world.

The Boston Globe is entitled to credit for bringing order out of the chaos of rumor in which the telegraph has involved the Khiva-Russian difficulty. Dispatches purporting to give later intelligence are published, but upon comparing them with the Globe's review we find they really add nothing to the statement of England's protest, while they are calculated to beguile the general reader as to the true

intent and probable effect of that protest. A letter from St. Petersburg supplies a missing chapter in the history of the invasion of Khiva, as follows:

"Col. Marchesloff penetrated the country of the Turkomans, and one division of his troops, crossing the Gulf of Balakha to a place near Belek, gained the Taplatan road, where it was joined by the second division. A numerous body of Turkomans having ventured an attack upon one of the detachments, was repulsed with considerable loss, while on the side of the Russians there was only one man killed and two wounded." This is the only engagement yet reported.

Valuable Publications.

VICK'S FLORAL GUIDE, For 1873.

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МѢХОВАЯ ТОРГОВЛЯ

ВЪ САН-ФРАНЦИСКО.

LIST OF PRICES FOR FURS,

IN SAN FRANCISCO.

Bear, black, prime, fine	....	....	7 skin, from \$ 8 00 @ \$5 00
Черный Медвѣдь самый пушистый,—отъ	до		
do do do heavy	....	....	do 2 00 do 3 00
жесткій			
do do seconds	....	....	do 1 00 do 1 50
второго сорта			
do do cubs	....	....	do 0 50 do 1 00
медвеженокъ			
do brown and grizzly, about 25 7 c. less than black			
черный съ просѣдью			дешевле чѣмъ черный
Badger	....	....	7 skin, from \$ 0 50 do 1 00
Барсукъ			
Fisher, prime, dark	....	....	do 2 00 do 3 50
Фишеръ первого сорта, черный			
do do pale	....	....	do 1 00 do 1 50
блѣдный			
do seconds	....	....	do 1 00 do 1 50
второго сорта			
Fox, Silver	....	....	do 4 00 do 5 00
Серебристая Лисица			
do Cross	....	....	do 2 00 do 2 50
Пятенная			
do Red	....	....	do 0 50 do 1 00
Красная			
do Kitt.	....	....	do 0 40 do 0 50
Маленькая			
do White	....	....	do 0 75 do 1 00
Бѣлая			
do Gray	....	....	do 0 40 do 0 50
Сѣрая			
Lynx	....	....	do 1 00 do 1 10
Рысь			
Marten, prime, dark	....	....	do 2 00 do 3 00
Соболь, черный			
do do pale	....	....	do 1 00 do 1 25
блѣдный			
do seconds	....	....	do 0 50 do 1 00
второго сорта			
do thirds	....	....	do 0 25 do 0 50
третьяго сорта			
Mink, dark, northern, prime	....	....	do 0 40 do 5 75
Норка черная, сѣверная, первого сорта			
do pale, southern	....	....	do 0 50 do 0 75
Блѣдная, южная			
do seconds	....	....	do 0 40 do 0 55
второго сорта			
do thirds	....	....	do 0 20 do 0 35
третьяго сорта			

ALASKA



HERALD.

VOL. V.

SAN FRANCISCO, JANUARY 24, 1873.

No. 121.

The Herald is issued semi-monthly. Orders for copies may be left at the office, 113 Leidesdorff street (Room No. 3), or with White & Bauer, News-Dealers, 413 Washington street. Letters and communications should be addressed: A. A. Stickney, Editor Alaska Herald (Post Office Box, 821).

TEARS.

[We find the following poem in the Turner's Falls (Mass.) Reporter, credited to the editor, Addington D. Welch. It reflects the one of the saddest phases of human experience—the misjudged "stolicism" which characterizes some persons under bereavement.]

Shall I unseal the fountain of my tears,
And in a show of sorrow seek relief,
Reviving memories of vanished years,
Displaying to the world my pent up grief?
Ah, no: there's something sacred in the pain;
No eye shall see the tears unbidden start—
Back, crystal drops, unto your source again
Betray no secrets of this saddened heart!

Let those of transient feeling wildly mourn,
But quickly all their agonies forget;
My seeming coldness all the world may scorn,
My pallid cheek with no soft dew be wet.
But there are lonely moments, when I pine
For past remembrance, and, in future, fears;
Then, gushing from this stricken heart of mine,
Comes the sweet sacrifice of gentle tears.

I weep for loved ones, numbered with the dead;
For many joys, alas! now gone and past,
While o'er my darkened life a pall is spread,
I think of happiness too great to last.
Of those who came to me with words of cheer,
Lighting my eyes with Hope's ecstatic glow;
Then, in my solitude, full many a tear,
Unseen by mortal gaze, doth softly flow.

Oh, diamond drops of passion or of care,
Come not unto me in the glare of day,
Inviting Pity's too intrusive stare,
My soul's dark, mystic sorrows to betray;
Come in the silence, when the day has flown,
And Night o'er all her sable banner rears—
Come when I'm saddened, weary and alone,
And I will welcome you, sweet, gentle tears!

Our letter from Sitka will be found very readable. It will be seen that Collector Edes has been elected Mayor. Here's a chance for those who object to Federal officeholders taking lucrative civil positions. What will he do with so much money? P. S.—It is stated that Col. Edes has resigned the Collectorship. The mayoralty must be a fat thing.

The Seattle Coal and Transportation Company have elected the following Trustees: George C. Bode, H. L. Hutchinson, W. W. Allen, Samuel Blair and P. L. Weaver.

The Bank of California paid a monthly dividend on the 15th, of one per cent. on the capital stock, aggregating \$50,000.

The Russian Government has concluded a contract with Smith & Wesson of Springfield, Mass., for 20,000 pistols.

LETTER FROM SITKA.

[CORRESPONDENCE OF THE ALASKA HERALD.]

By the departure of the steamer Alexander, which leaves here in a day or two, I am enabled to give you the latest news from the capital of Alaska. The arrival of the steamer from San Francisco caused a good deal of excitement, and reminded us of old-time "steamer day" in San Francisco.

The fact that the troops which have been occupying this garrison for a year past were to be relieved, and that two new companies were to arrive, made things lively, especially in military circles, and as the military authorities rank among our *bon ton*, the general public were all agog.

We were all sorry at the thought that our old commander, Major Allen, was about to leave us, but we made our mind that it was inevitable, and so we put the best face on our sorrow possible. The Major has gained the respect and esteem of the great majority of our people. His enemies are but few, and even they, at the parting hour, agree that another like him—genial and open-hearted, will be a welcome addition to Sitka. I am told that Major Allen and companies H and C, of the Second Artillery, under his command, are ordered to Fort McHenry, in the harbor of Baltimore.

It is with pleasure that I testify to the good conduct of the troops mentioned since their arrival here. There has been little or no drunkenness, and no insubordination worthy of mention. The soldiers got along with the citizens peaceably, and also with the Koloshes, whose village is almost within a stone's throw of the military headquarters. Some time last summer I informed you of the difficulty a couple of soldiers had with the Indians, and of Major Allen's forbearance under provocation—a forbearance which saved us from any serious results. Imagine our surprise when we got papers from San Francisco containing long sensational accounts of the affair. For fertile imaginations commend us to the writers who attempt through the daily press to enlighten the world about Alaska. Why, it is past comprehension how they can so misunderstand and distort facts. Some of them speak of our trade as being entirely controlled by the Commercial Company. I wonder if they never have heard of Shlipseer, Jansen, Crawford and other individuals and firms, whose business sagacity and enterprise have met with marked success. Alaska may well say to the press of the whole country, "Speak of me as I am; nothing extenuate, nor ought set down in malice."

I do not know that I ought to say so, but as it cannot hurt anybody very seriously, I will state that some of Uncle Sam's boys leave here with lacerated hearts. A couple of pretty Creole girls, with tears in their eyes and sorrow brooding on their brows, have been seen about headquarters lately, and a couple of the gallant defenders of the Republic have been "interviewing" them sedulously. What promises were exchanged in broken Russian and disjointed English, is only a matter for conjecture, but it is to be hoped their industrious billing and cooing was not without satisfactory results. A very small knowledge of each other's language goes a long way with lovers; a touch or a look is said to have a world of significance, and practically deaf and dumb people (in our cosmopolitan society) do a vast amount of love-making that seems to be perfectly intelligible to the parties concerned.

Besides the cases mentioned, a number of other gallant breasts are believed to have been fatally pierced. Our fair Creoles do indeed make sad havoc among the blue-coats.

Having said so much of our departing military friends and the girls they leave behind them, I have a word for the new comers. The post of Sitka will hereafter be under the command of Major Joseph Stewart, and companies C and D, of the Fourth Artillery, will occupy the garrison. The commander and troops arrived here in good health. Their appearance has been greeted with a cordial welcome, and we have an impression that Major Stewart will be a worthy successor to Major Allen.

The only troops now in Alaska are the two companies mentioned, stationed at this point. As a precautionary movement it may be well enough to keep a few soldiers here, but there is not much danger of a serious difficulty with the natives. The traders and merchants find their interest and safety in treating the people well, and so long as this continues to be understood and acted upon, I think we shall have peace.

When the troops were withdrawn from a point north of here on Kadiak Island, some persons suggested that the Aleuts might make trouble. Those who thought so evidently knew but little of Aleutian character. At Kadiak and all along the Alaskan Peninsula, the Aleuts, since we came into possession of the Territory, have manifested the most friendly feelings. Indeed, these strange people cannot be too highly praised for their many good qualities. I have heretofore spoken of their hospitality and their gratitude for any friendly interest shown them. Their mental powers are of a higher order than those of the Indian tribes, and they are clearly of a different race. The fur-seal islands have been inhabited by Aleuts since 1815; they now number about 370 souls, and the number of white persons living on the islands is only twelve. My information is that the Aleuts never have given any trouble; their local government is in their own hands, and they show a great deal of prudence and wisdom in conducting their affairs. They are kindly and justly dealt with by the Commercial Company, and they show a proper appreciation of the benefits conferred upon them.

We held our annual city election in Sitka recently, when the following officers were elected: Mayor, Hon. George A. Edes; Councilmen: Messrs. H. Cutter, T. Haltern, J. Frohman, J. C. Dennis and J. Cook. Mr. Dennis was also elected City Recorder. The election passed off quietly, without frauds, bribery, corruption or whisky. Can as much be said for elections in San Francisco?

Our retiring Mayor, Lawyer Woods, goes back to private life with laurels decking his brow. He is not dead politically, but simply taking a rest from arduous public duties.

In my last I made brief mention of mineral discoveries at Silver Bay. Ex-Mayor Woods has sent several silver specimens to San Francisco to be assayed. Gold-bearing quartz has also been discovered near Silver Bay, and some of the officers who are about to depart will take specimens with them. Whether these promising ore deposits will prove to be "too thin" to make us all millionaires, time only can solve. I feel certain that gold, silver and copper mines exist in this Territory, but thorough prospecting is needed to show their real extent and value.

Business is brightening up. Not so the skies. We are having a rough winter; our atmosphere is too moist for snow, and clear days are rare enjoyments. But we comfort ourselves with the reflection that all this gathered moisture may be of service to us in the beautiful by-and-by. The rich man (of scripture mention) who called on somebody for a drop of water the first day after he reached his new quarters, didn't emigrate from this part of the world, certain. X.

THE Trustees of the proposed College and Home for the children of deceased Odd Fellows of California, met recently and resolved to abandon the project of establishing such an institution. The Treasurer was directed to return to the various Lodges throughout the State the various sums subscribed by them in aid of the enterprise. These sums aggregate about \$10,000.

BY-AND-BY.

There's a little mischief-maker
That is stealing half our bliss,
Sketching pictures in a dreamland
That are never seen in this;
Dashing from our lips the pleasure
Of the present while we sigh,
You may know this mischief-maker,
For his name is "By-and-By."

He is sitting by our hearthstones,
With his sly, bewitching glance,
Whispering of the coming morrow
As the social hours advance;
Loitering 'mid our calm reflections,
Hiding forms of beauty nigh—
He's a smooth, deceitful fellow,
This enchanter, "By-and-By."

You may know him by his winching,
By his careless, sportive air;
By his sly, obtrusive presence
That is straying everywhere;
By the trophies that he gathers
Where his sombre victims lie;
For a bold, determined fellow
Is this conqueror, "By-and-By."

When the calls of duty haunt us,
And the present seems to be
All the time that ever mortals
Snatch from dark eternity,
Then a fairy hand seems painting
Pictures on a distant sky;
For a cunning little artist
Is the fairy, "By-and-By."

"By-and-by," the wind is singing;
"By-and-by" the heart replies;
But the Phantom just before us,
Ere we grasp it ever flies.
List not to the idle charmer,
Scorn the very specious lie;
Only in the fancy liveth
This deceiver, "By-and-By."

THE following is an extract from the New York Mercantile Journal:

"Alaska sable has for several years been in good demand, but when the true nature of the fur generally became known, and it was found to be skunk, it rapidly declined in value, and its popularity is on the wane. By repeated experiments furriers were enabled to overcome its pungent odor for a time, but contact with hot weather restores its offensive properties and greatly operates against its use. Only prime black skins of the winter catch are in much demand."

"As the above is calculated to mislead the uninformed, and in a measure detract from the importance of our Russian Possessions as regards the fur trade, we would state on the authority of the Alaska Commercial Company, that the skunk is not one of the products of that country, but is found in other sections not far off, and its fur enters largely into the export trade. In Alaska are found Mink, Marten, Beaver, Otter, and red, white, cross and silver Fox, and fur and hair Seals. The hair seals are obtained along the coast, and the fur animal at St. Paul and St. George Islands. The marten of Alaska is about the same as the Russian sable, except in price, and is the black or dark skin referred to in the article above quoted. The marten in summer is quite light and the pelt woolly, but during the Fall and Winter months it is very dark, nearly black, and the value is then greatly increased."—*San Francisco Chronicle*.

A WASHINGTON dispatch says Professor Baird, of the Smithsonian Institution, who is especially charged by act of Congress with the investigation and management of the food-fish propagation, has made arrangements to send out to California this month 750,000 "white fish" eggs, which are now being cared for in Lake Erie; and also a large number of shad eggs. The white fish is by many persons considered the finest fish of the Eastern waters. It may not be generally known that under the directions of Professor Baird 80,000 salmon eggs were procured in the Sacramento river and sent East during the past year for distribution in the Susquehannah, Potomac and other southern rivers, the temperature of which is warm like that of the Sacramento; and therefore especially adapted to the success of the experiment. The Professor has put up and will send to the San Francisco Academy of Sciences copies of all the publications received by the Smithsonian Institution from scientific and learned institutions, and foreign Governments all over the world. The money value of this otherwise priceless gift is over \$10,000.

ON TOP OF A CHIMNEY.

As I was leaving the yard one evening to trudge back to the bits of rooms we were forced to put up with since I came to London in order to get better wages, I was called into the office by the foreman. "What's your present job, Lindsay?" he asked, and I told him.

"Humph! that can stand over for a day or two, can't it? Stubbs has fallen ill again, and you must take his place."

I didn't care to be shifted before I'd finished what I was about, but a journeyman bricklayer, with a wife and children looking to him for bread, cannot afford to be too particular, and so I held my tongue.

"You must go to Coot's Brewery to-morrow morning and finish that chimney," the foreman told me. He gave me a few more directions besides, and then went his way while I went mine, not very well pleased at the prospect before me.

I suppose I never ought to have followed the trade, for though I'd gained myself a good character as a steady workman, I had never been able to overcome a horror at being perched at any great height. In the country, where the buildings were low, I managed well enough, but in this great city there were roofs on which I could not stand without this dread oppressing me, nor look down without feeling as though something below was tempting me to fling over and end at once that miserable sensation which no effort of mine could shake off.

This huge chimney the foreman had ordered me to finish was reckoned one of the highest and best built shafts in London. We were all proud of the job, which had been carried on so far without a single mishap, but I had earnestly been hoping that I might not be sent to it, and it wasn't till the workmen had got almost to the top that I began to breathe a bit more freely, and trust that it would be finished without any help of mine.

Once at home with the youngsters' merry prattle in my ears, I forgot my uneasy feeling about the morrow's job, but the moment I dozed off to sleep it came back upon me in a hideous dream. I thought I was falling down, and just as the crash of my body striking the earth seemed inevitable, I woke up to find myself bathed in a cold perspiration, and trembling in every limb.

No more settled sleep visited my pillow that night, and it was a relief when the booming of the clocks dispelled my frightful visions, and warned me that it was time to face a reality.

The morning was bitterly cold and boisterous, scarcely a soul was to be seen in the deserted streets at that early hour, and the dull thud of my footsteps sounded mournfully in the stillness reigning around. At last the great chimney loomed in sight, and, gazing up at its immense height, I shivered at the thought of being on top of it, and forced to look down on the sickening depth below.

If it had not been for the name of the thing I should have gone back; but the thought of Bessie and the children spurred me on; so, buttoning my jacket tightly around me, I began to ascend the staging. In my journey upward I passed many cosily-curtained windows, and remember thinking, rather enviously, how nice it must be to be rich and sheltered on such a morning from the biting cold in a warm furnished bedroom.

Some fellows wouldn't mind the least bit if they were perched on the top of St. Paul's on the coldest of mornings, provided you supplied them well with beer; but I wasn't over-strong limbed, any more than I could pretend to be strong-minded; so what to them was nothing to me was almost death itself.

The higher I went the more intense the cold appeared to be, and my fingers became quite numbed by the hoar frost that was clinging to the sides and spokes of the ladder. After a while I stood on the few boards forming the stage on the summit of the shaft, and, giving one glance downward, my blood turned colder than it was already as I realized the immense depth to the yard beneath.

Giving myself a shake to get rid of the dizzy sensation that came over me, and unhooking from the pulley the tub of mortar which my mate, waiting below, had sent up, I at once began my solitary work.

I had been hard at it for more than an hour, and was getting a bit more reconciled to my position, cheering myself as I whistled and

worked, with the thought that each brick I laid was bringing me nearer to a finish, when all at once a fiercer and colder blast than before came shrieking around the chimney. I was nearly overthrown and, in the endeavor to recover myself, I lifted the board of mortar from off the edge of the shaft on to my frail standing place.

In a second, to my intense horror, I felt the boards and all that were on them gliding away with me from the chimney, and, in a few moments I should have been lying, a mangled corpse below, if I had not succeeded in flinging my arm over and into the hollow of the shaft, where, as the scaffold and its load of bricks crashed downward, I was left hanging, with certain death awaiting me the moment I loosened my hold.

My first impulse was to throw my other hand over and draw my body up, so that I could lie partially across the top of the shaft. In this I was successful, and continued to balance myself, half in the chimney and half out.

There for some time I could only cling with frenzied desperation, praying earnestly to be saved from the horrible death threatening me; but at last I summoned courage to peer cautiously over the outside of the shaft.

Not a bit of scaffolding remained within many yards of me—and that but the poles, with a few boards dangling to them—and there was nothing to break my fall should I quit my hold.

Shudderingly I drew my head over the shaft, for there the darkness hid my danger, while to gaze on the scene without brought the old feeling of being dragged back to me in full force.

Then I began to think of the wife and the little ones whom I had left snug in bed, and bitter tears came into my eyes as I wondered how they would live if I were taken from them. The thought brought me back to more selfish ones, and I kept asking myself, "Must I die? How long can I hold on with this fierce wind besetting me? Is there no hope? Will no one, seeing how I am placed, strive to rescue me?"

Again I turned my eyes downward. In the court yard of the brewery and in the street below, people were fast collecting; windows were being thrown open, and women and children, shrieking and sobbing, were gazing from them at me. The crowd below thickened, running hither and thither. A large kite fluttered nearer and nearer. How I tried to steady myself with one hand, that I might grasp the cord with the other as soon as it was within reach, comes vividly before me now. But it never did come within reach, a gust of the breeze carrying it far away, and dashing it to the ground.

An hour passed on, and though clinging to the brickwork, it was almost unconsciously, for cold and fear had so worked upon me that I became quite dazzled, and the chimneys, the people, the confused noise from the streets, and my own perilous position, seemed to be jumbled together in a tangle which I could not put straight. While in this half-sensible state I heard a voice shout my name. But it had to be repeated twice before I could rouse myself sufficiently to heed what was said.

"Bill, Bill Landsay! cheer up, mate! help is coming!" were the words which rumbled up the shaft.

After this there was a pause for some minutes, and scarce able to control my excitement, I tried to think how this help could come. Then there was a warning shouted to me to keep my head back, followed by a whizzing, hissing sound, and looking within the shaft, I saw a bright shower of golden sparks lighting up the well-like hole and knew that a rocket had been fired.

But it struck the brickwork in its ascent and failed to reach me, so that once more I was left to wait and hope until the voice again shouted for me to keep clear. A moment after a fiery tail of sparks shot upward far above me, and an earnest "Thank God!" came from my heart as I grasped a thin cord that fell by my side as the rocket descended.

By this communication a stouter and stronger rope was sent me. But my danger was not over, for in my weakened and numbed state, it was a perilous slide down it. At first I could scarcely brace my nerves up sufficiently to launch myself over the brickwork, and my head turning dizzy for a moment, I thought myself gone, but, conquering the feeling by a great effort, I slowly descended until about half the distance was accomplished.

Then the horrid fear seized me, "What if the rope should break or not be securely fastened!" and dreading each second that my fears would be fulfilled, in feverish haste I slid on.

Within a few yards of the bottom, overtaken nature would bear the strain no longer, and, loosening my hold, I dropped into the arms of those who had been breathlessly waiting my descent.

Other hands than mine finished the shaft in calmer weather and on a more securely-fastened scaffold; and I, cared for by the best of wives, soon got over the shock of my accident; but, as I go to and fro to my work, and look up to the huge chimney, I often recall with a shudder the hour when I clung to its summit, counting the moments, each one of which seemed to bring me nearer to a dreadful death.

THE ALASKA HERALD.

A. A. STICKNEY. EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

VOL. V. JANUARY 24, 1873. No. 121.

BUSINESS NOTICE.—Volume V. of the ALASKA HERALD will be extended to include one year under the present proprietorship. Volume VI. will therefore commence with the first number issued in May. Subscribers and advertisers who have not already paid their bills will not be called upon until the close of the volume, unless they request an earlier settlement. Advertisers are served with the paper without charge. We also send copies occasionally, free, to persons whose subscriptions we hope to secure for the coming volume. A material reduction will be made in the terms of subscription—a reduction which the rapid increase of our circulation enables us to promise.

UNFOUNDED CHARGES.

Among the statements industriously circulated by malignant persons relative to Alaska, and which sometimes mislead the better men who are persistently begged to listen to them, there are two which we propose to notice. We have heretofore referred to them in these columns; but we find that editors, usually cautious and correct, are still being imposed upon, and their judgment captured through false appeals to their sympathies.

First—The Government of the United States is charged with placing power in the hands of a few individuals to enslave the inhabitants of the fur-seal islands, and of leaving the latter helpless in the power of cruel taskmasters. One way of stating it is, that the Aleuts are "farmed out" to a San Francisco company. This would imply that Government had put up the labor of the people (which it does not own) at auction, and that the successful bidder now has exclusive control of their persons and services. There is not a shadow of truth in this charge. The islands—not the people—were leased for a term of years. In leasing the seal fishery care was taken that while the Aleuts living on the islands should be left free to remain and work for the new company or not, as they might choose, their prior rights, as resident laborers, should be respected. The Secretary of the Treasury fixes the minimum which the company shall pay for the labor of killing the seals, and competition is not permitted to deprive the old employees of their means of support. They receive 4¢ for the labor of killing and stripping each seal, and an additional sum for collecting the skins and delivering them at the salt-houses; they are, in fact, fairly compensated for everything they do. Further, their education is provided for. Schools are maintained during eight months of the year (with, we are glad to learn, encouraging results). Dr. Meany, the physician of St. George Island (the smaller of the two under lease), fulfills the duties of teacher there; Mr. Church, a Massachusetts graduate, is exclusively engaged in teaching on St. Paul island; besides which the people are kindly assisted by all the American residents in acquiring information. The physicians of the company are required to prescribe for the people and furnish medicines, gratis—a tax not imposed by the terms of the lease, but assumed in that friendly spirit which has won the warm regards of the employees. The physicians are, Dr. Meany, a graduate of the London College of Surgeons, and Dr. Cramer (on St. Paul Island), a German graduate. The Treasury Department maintains a strict watch and guard not only over the interests of the Government, as respects the number and class of seals to be taken by the lessees, but to prevent any injustice being done to the inhabitants; Capt. Charles Bryant and his assistants are vigilant and zealous, and their presence, under pay of the Government, renders the natives far from "helpless" against acts of oppression. Besides, it should be remembered that these islanders are not untutored savages; they have sufficient intelligence and the means at their command to make their wants known and to procure a redress of any grievances inflicted by their employers. Two years before the Commercial Company obtained the lease, a number of Aleuts on St. George Island, fearing that Government might leave the seal rookeries without protection and that a reckless, extermina-

ting slaughter would ensue (as had happened at other seal haunts), addressed a letter to a gentleman who was about to depart for San Francisco, asking him to see that the danger should be averted. Fortunately, Congress, in 1870, passed an Act which met the requirements of the people and prevented the fur seal species from being driven from the islands. Under that Act the lease to the Alaska Commercial Company was executed. We think we have shown that it has worked well for the Aleuts. Their comforts have been in every way increased. Houses have been built for them without charge; schools provided, gratis; medical attendance, free; compensation for labor enhanced more than four fold; no one "enslaved," and no one compelled to labor against his will. These are facts which can be substantiated, and we cannot but think that editors who charge the contrary should seek to inform themselves by consulting "the other side." Few questions are fairly understood when but one side is heard.

Second—The Commercial Company is charged with "monopolizing" the furs of Alaska, and permitting no one not connected with it to trade with the natives. As this statement tends to discourage the settlement of the Territory, it is important to know how much of truth it embodies. The Company possesses large means and thorough organization; we understand that in the purchase of peltry it does not spare its coin, thus sometimes overbidding other dealers; but the Indian hunter is benefited by this competition, and so long as it is not carried to such an excess as to destroy itself by breaking down all who take a hand in it, we do not think the especial friends of the "poor natives" should complain. That there is no hindrance to trade except it be a want of capital and energy, (both of which are imperative requisites, situated as Alaska is,) a number of successful houses in San Francisco, engaged in Alaskan trade, fully prove. These firms do a large and profitable business; and it is unjust to them as well as injurious to the best interests of the country, to permit the charge that one mercantile firm controls everything, to the exclusion of all others, to pass without denial. It may take the lead, but it has only the same rights which all possess; and should it claim any other, the pretence would be promptly and effectively resisted. As a sample of the stories circulated by misinformed journalists, who conscientiously believe they are doing humanity a service in repeating them, we will present a recent case. A newspaper stated that a vessel suitable for the coast trade of Alaska had been built and manned by natives of Kadiak; but that through the interference of the Commercial Company she was so hampered with legal technicalities that practically it was rendered impossible for her to engage in the business for which she was built. We felt, naturally enough, indignant; for we have earnestly desired to see the natives of Alaska encouraged in enterprises of that nature. We therefore called at the office of the company, and asked if any such interference had been authorized. The answer was: "This is the first I have heard that such a vessel had been built or contemplated. The charge has no foundation." Of course this does not prove that the Kadiak coaster was "made out of whole cloth" instead of sound Alaskan timber; but it shows that its troubles—if it ever had any—were laid at the wrong door.

The islands of St. George and St. Paul, Alaska, are a source of considerable profit to the Government. They were leased to the Alaska Company, under the Act of July 1, 1870, for a term of twenty years, and during the past two years the Company has paid into the national treasury, under the terms of its lease, the sum of \$633,314. On the 1st of May, \$55,000 more will be paid as yearly rental, which will swell the total at that date, to \$688,314. How is that for an infinitesimal part of a "worthless Territory"? What is of still more consequence is, that the seal rookeries have been preserved from destruction and that the number of seals annually resorting to the islands has largely increased. But for the forethought of Congress, in placing the little seal islands in charge of responsible men, under heavy bonds, they would have become worthless to the Government, and the Aleuts would have lost their accustomed employment.

WE devote considerable space to fur-seal questions in this issue, because they seem to possess a general interest. Alaska has attracted much attention throughout the country during the past year. Not a month passes that we do not find in our Eastern exchanges (either as editorial "steals" or duly credited extracts) evidences that the HERALD is making the varied resources of the Territory better and more widely known than they have ever been. As a consequence, we anticipate a vastly augmented population and such a development of the country as shall wipe out petty jealousies and render futile all attempts to misrepresent the people of the Territory or their industries.

"A QUERIST" asks if we "spell K-a-d-i-a-k according to Hoyle." No; we spell it according to Dall, who spells it phonetically. There are a number of ways of spelling and pronouncing the word, and you may call it "Kotine" if you like; but don't refer us to "Hoyle" again.

"OUR BOYS."

Col. Barnes delivered a lecture in San Francisco, recently, on "Our Boys." One of the most potent causes of hoodlumism the lecturer believed to be idleness, and for its existence he held the trade unions to a great extent responsible. A clergyman not long since made the same charge in a public address; and the prevailing idea among professional men seems to be that so long as skilled workmen place limitations upon the number of youths who may apprentice themselves at the mechanic arts, so long shall we have criminals and vagrants with us. These gentlemen—themselves exempt from the necessity of manual labor, or possessing talents which can be otherwise employed—cannot admit the right of trade unions to adjust the supply of journeymen to the demand, so that each may receive a fair compensation for his labor. Well, unfortunately for their argument, there have been but few attempts to prevent the apprenticing of boys in San Francisco for two years past—the trade societies have apparently yielded the point. The Colonel's facts are exceptional, and few of them recent. (In some branches of industry there never has been any such interposition.) Yet idleness and rowdiness have not decreased. In such of the lighter occupations as have not been monopolized by Chinamen, many apprentices have been taken, but there has apparently been a disinclination to learn the more laborious arts. We think this is fostered by a false estimate of the dignity and ease attaching to the "learned professions" and the handling of goods, stocks, etc., an estimate formed from the statements so flauntingly published, of enormous fees and princely salaries, and of fortunes made in a single day on 'change. To become a good lawyer or physician—yet when the city requires the services of a legal luminary or of a Bolus as counsel or expert she is expected to allow a compensation of \$100 per day for attendance—just about as much as she would pay the mechanic for a month's hard work and twice as much as he would probably be awarded if detained three months as a witness. Then, from various quarters we hear of ten, fifteen, twenty and even twenty five thousand-dollar preachers, of street-opening and park-superintending commissioners who are paid \$5,000 per month (but never a working man invited to take a piece of the municipal pie), and other equally generous incomes from the labor of the mind. Of course these are not the prevailing rates; but they are kept before the youth of the country, like the big prizes at the head of a lottery scheme, in characters which overshadow the small premiums and the blanks, and their effect upon the young is just about as pernicious. The growing American may or may not take to law, physic, theology or stocks; but he is disgusted with the comparatively small rewards promised to manual labor, and loses sight of the fact that health, morals and true happiness are intimately connected with the toil of his hands. If he cannot become a first-class "professional," he can easily become a first class loafer, and somehow he comes to imagine that in either case he shall "above" those who work for small pay.

We think, as above intimated, that trade societies are *not* responsible for the evil which Col. Barnes and every other good citizen deplores. One or two of those societies have made unjust apportionments of apprentice-labor; but most of them have properly estimated the prospective demand, and provided for its being met without importing grown up mechanics from Europe. But it is clear that a large proportion of "Our Boys" could not be employed at the mechanic arts under any circumstances. What, then, shall be done with them? The answer is not difficult in a country which possesses hundreds of millions of acres of arable land. Teach them agriculture and give each graduate a small farm, with aid to commence its tillage, if necessary. Check the tendency of the people to huddle together and suffer in large cities. We believe it is the duty of a State to see that not one of its citizens shall go hungry if he or she is willing to work; and we see no way of accomplishing this result so readily as by educating our boys in the practical arts of husbandry. Each county should have its school-farm; and the incidental relief it would afford to the indigent charges of the community would go far toward reimbursing the public treasury. For those who are willing to leave the city, however, there are opportunities now waiting. Thousands of farmers on the Pacific coast would be glad to receive lads of sixteen to eighteen years as "apprentices;" and were it not for the deceptive glitter which an occasional success in the "gentle" pursuits of the city throws out, many of the young men who need a trade would soon find and learn the best one extant. Years of enlightened treatment of this "boy" question will be needed to effect a thorough cure; but improvement will begin when we begin to act; and as Col. Barnes lecture has fixed public attention and awakened inquiry, we are glad that it was delivered. Its mistakes are the ones which might naturally have been expected in the utterances of a man absorbed in the duties of professional life.

THE MENNONITES.

Some time ago we mentioned the fact that a religious sect in Russia, numbering 30,000 members, contemplated removing to the United States. The origin and peculiar ideas of the people referred to are worthy an extended notice. Simon Menno was born at Wilmonsum, Friesland, in 1505. He was reared a Catholic, and in 1524 was an officiating priest at Pingium. In 1535, having come to the conclusion that the mother church held to doctrines and practices not in accord with the scriptures, he laid aside the obligations and the robes of his priestly office. From that time he devoted himself to the building up of a sect formed originally from scattered bands of Waldenses. Good authority represents him not as the founder of the denomination which has long borne his name, but as its leading mind and the chief organizer of its central governing bodies. For twenty five years he struggled against extreme poverty; and his efforts met the active opposition of both Catholics and Protestants. However, he persevered; became Bishop of Groningen, and formed congregations in Friesland and throughout northern and northwestern Germany. He published a number of works, the principal one entitled "Fundamental Book of the True Christian Faith," in 1539. The Mennonites were subjected to much persecution, and their religio-civil rights were without formal recognition until 1581, when William of Orange became their friend and protector. For nearly a century after that event their liberty varied in degree in different provinces, but was not wholly denied in any. They had not only external assailants to meet, but internal discussions arose and after Menno's death (which occurred at Oldeslohe, Holland, Jan. 15, 1561) these discussions increased in intensity, numerous divisions taking place in consequence. An important event occurred in 1795—the establishment of a theological seminary, which thereafter supplied the membership with an educated ministry and exerted a powerful influence in healing dissensions in the church.

Toward the close of the eighteenth century, several thousand German Mennonites sought refuge in southern Russia—their motives being much the same as those now governing their descendants who are coming to the United States. They obtained a charter from Emperor Paul, exempting them from military service. Of late years this exemption has been the cause of much dissatisfaction in Russia, and the Government has notified the Mennonites that they must either bear arms in the national service or emigrate. The alternative is much less cruel than that given to their fellow-religionists in free Switzerland during the Thirty Years' War, when, upon refusing to furnish their quota of soldiers, they were despoiled of their goods and driven from their homes.

Among the many offshoots from the parent Mennonite body which have occurred may be mentioned the Omish or Amish church, named after Jacob Amen, a Swiss preacher of the seventeenth century; the "Reformed" society, 1811; and the "Hookers," so named because they use hooks instead of buttons in their clothing.

The first immigration of this peculiar people to America took place in 1680, and at the date of the last reliable estimate there were 128,000 Mennonites on this continent, a large number of them living in Pennsylvania, and others being located in Ohio, New York, Indiana and Canada.

According to the best information we have, their total number is about 223,000, distributed as follows: America, 128,000; Switzerland, 3,000; Netherlands, 39,000; Germany, 17,716; France, 5,000; Russia, 30,000.

The Mennonites not only hold war to be sinful and unnecessary, but they are also conscientiously opposed to oaths and capital punishment. They do not marry outside the church membership; they baptize by sprinkling; they observe the gospel ordinance of feet-washing. In every respect save their refusal to share in the dangers and physical burdens of war, they are said to be excellent citizens—never becoming a tax upon the State, but helping in every way to build up her moral and material enterprises. The German-Russian colony to which we have referred will, it is said, settle upon lands purchased by an agent in Kansas.

Otter, Sea, prime, dark silvery	..... per skin, from	15 00 do 75 00
Musk rats	..... do	\$0 05 @ 0 10
Выхухоль		
Бобръ Морской, перваго сорта,		
do do do	..... do	5 00 do 10 00
втораго сорта		
do do do brown	..... do	5 00 do 10 00
черный		
do do do pups	..... do	0 50 do 1 00
блѣднаго цвѣта		
Otter, Land, prime, dark, northern	..... do	1 50 do 5 50
Выдра земноводная, перваго сорта, черная сѣверная		
do do do southern	..... do	1 00 do 1 25
южная		
do seconds	..... do	0 50 do 1 00
втораго сорта		
do thirds	..... do	0 25 do 0 75
третьяго сорта		
Raccoon	..... do	0 15 do 0 25
Барсукъ		
Wolf, large	..... do	1 00 do 2 00
Большой Волкъ		
" small	..... do	1 00 do 1 25
малый		
" seconds	..... do	0 50 do 0 75
втораго сорта		
Wolverine, firsts	..... do	2 00 do 3 00
Росомаха, перваго сорта		
do seconds	..... do	1 00 do 1 50
втораго сорта		
Wild Cat, firsts	..... do	0 30 do 0 35
Дикій Котъ, перваго сорта		
do seconds	..... do	0 20 do 0 25
втораго сорта		
Skunks	..... do	0 10 do 0 15
Американскій Хорекъ		
Seal, fur	..... do	
Котъ морской		
do hair	..... do	0 10 do 0 30
Тюлень		
Beaver, northern	..... do	7 lb from 0 75 do 1 00
Сѣверный Бобръ		
do southern	..... do	0 50 do 0 90
Южный Бобръ		
Indian dressed Deer Skins, smoked preferred	..... do	0 85 do 0 80
Индійскія оленинѣ кожи копченныя		
Deer Skins, raw, summer and fall do	0 10 do 0 15
Сырыя Оленинѣ кожи, лѣтнія и осеннія		
do do winter do	0 05 do 0 10

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THE ALASKA HERALD.

VOL. V.

JANUARY 24, 1873.

No. 121.

It seems California is not to escape the horse disease. It is now prevalent in Nevada, and is moving westward.

RECENTLY there was a hunt in Florence, Mass., which resulted in the killing, in one day, of 19,750 birds and small animals, not one-tenth part of which could be turned to any good account dead, or would have done any harm living.

AN expedition to explore the land of Bashan and Moab, under the command of Lieut. Stever, U. S. A., will set out from New York next autumn to ascertain if Jordan be really such a hard road to travel as is popularly believed.

SIXTY THOUSAND persons attended the funeral of Napoleon III. at Chiselhurst. Throughout Europe demonstrations of respect and sorrow have been observed. "Napoleon IV." may yet be something more than an empty title. No telling what Frenchmen want or how long they will want it.

IN Arizona the Indians are getting the worst of the fight; General Crook is thinning them out rapidly. Per contra, the Modoc Indians, southern Oregon, have gained a second victory over the soldiers, killing nine and wounding thirty.

A LONDON LETTER says the retirement of Bismark from the Prussian Cabinet is really due to a difference between him and the Emperor on the Church question. The Kaiser became alarmed at Bismark's course toward the Catholics, and declined further to follow the Prince in his policy.

THE soldiers who have been stationed at Sitka during the past year pronounce the post a desirable one, the duty being light, and food abundant and cheap. Excellent venison is brought in by the Indians and sold at from \$2 to \$4 50 per head. Fish of all kinds is very abundant, and obtainable at mere hominal prices.

It is pleasant to note that there are good Indians even among the Apaches. Gen. Crook makes honorable mention of a number who acted in-conjunction with his troops in the late engagements, and who proved first-class killers. These good ones will form excellent material for a Bible-class when Gen. Howard returns.

THE Spanish Government denies the report that the United States made an official or other communication to Spain respecting the emancipation of slaves in Porto Rico. The measure, it claims, was adopted voluntarily. Nevertheless, Uncle Sam has been "hinting round" in regard to Spain's failure to keep step with all the enlightened nations of the earth, and it is not improbable some of these hints have taken effect.

LAST week's Pioneer contains an able article from the pen of Dr. B. Adonis, advocating woman suffrage on the basis of a thorough education in the science of government. The idea is good, but it should not stop there. Education should be the test for both sexes—not a mere proficiency in the classics or "ologies," but an education of a practical nature, which, besides the ability to read and write, would include a knowledge of their political rights and duties.

PAPERS entitled "Journal of Commerce" (with a local prefix) bid fair to become as plentiful as the "Christian Advocate" family. The large number of ably-conducted mercantile and trade publications now liberally sustained is in itself a high compliment to the business community. A man who does not take a paper devoted to his calling, now-a-days, must fall behind his competitors, and he who reads no newspaper of any kind is only spared of heaven that he may sit on a jury

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ALASKA



HERALD.

VOL. V.

SAN FRANCISCO, FEBRUARY 10, 1873.

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The Herald is issued semi-monthly. Orders for copies may be left at the office, 113 Leidesdorff street (Room No. 3), or with White & Bauer, News-Dealers, 418 Washington street. Letters and communications should be addressed: A. A. Stickney, Editor Alaska Herald (Post Office Box, 821).

ALONG THE COAST.

[CORRESPONDENCE OF THE ALASKA HERALD.]

EDITOR HERALD: A gentleman who lately made a trip along the coast gives me some interesting notes, which I take pleasure in placing at your service:

While at Kadiak Island, I learned that the petrified body of an Aleut had been discovered. It was that of a large-sized man, and was as completely preserved as if it had only been embalmed yesterday. The hair, teeth and other portions were as perfect as at the moment of death. The body was discovered in a cave by some hunters. It is now in the possession of Collector Sharon, of Kadiak. This gentleman tried to find a purchaser for it in San Francisco, but was unsuccessful. He is now in correspondence with the Smithsonian Institute in regard to the mummy, and hopes to be able to get rid of the "elephant." It is supposed that the mummy has been for ages in the cave where it was discovered. It is a strange fact that the Aleuts to-day know nothing about the embalming process of their ancestors.

Two scientists, during the past year, have voyaged along the sea coast, and have made some interesting discoveries. One of them, a Frenchman, named Pinart, was very successful in procuring a vast amount of information in regard to the language, customs and habits of the Aleuts, ancient and modern. It is believed that the results of his investigations will be published by a scientific institution of Paris, of which M. Pinart is a member.

The other explorer is a member of the Smithsonian Institute, from whose writings the HERALD has frequently made valuable extracts. I refer to Dr. W. H. Dall. He is one of the most persevering and industrious scientists that ever came to the coast. His first work here was in connection with the memorable effort to establish telegraphic communication with Europe via Asia, an undertaking which was finally abandoned in consequence of the successful laying of the Atlantic cable. Last year the Doctor was engaged in the Coast Survey, and while so employed made some interesting discoveries of prehistoric remains in the island of Unalaska. In excavating for the erection of a signal, he came upon articles which indicated that the locality had been inhabited in pre-historic days, and subsequently he found subterranean houses, with lamps full of oil, stone knives, bone spoons, arrowheads, buttons, etc. He also found in the huts three human skeletons in perfect preservation; they were in separate compartments, constructed exactly like the tombs made by the Aleuts of our time. He continued his explorations until he discovered the sites and remains of seven ancient villages on the island, of which only two were formerly known even to tradition.

With regard to affairs at Kadiak, there are at present three stores there, and this competition gives the Aleuts a fair chance to patronize whom they please, and in their purchases get the worth of their

money. The storekeepers find it to their interest to treat the natives well. So far there has been no trouble, and "monopolies," about which so much is written, do not exist. There are no troops on Kadiak Island, and none are wanted: The Aleuts are peaceably disposed and easy to get along with. A weakness for "quass" is about the worst thing that can be laid at their door; and as quass-making depends upon the supplies which the traders deal out of sugar, molasses, etc., the dealers have it in their power to restrict the injurious manufacture. The only complaint ever made against the leasees of the fur-seal islands, so far as I have heard, was on this point. The agents of the Commercial Company were instructed to limit the sales of sugar to one pound per week for each person—a very humane regulation, considering the use the Aleuts were inclined to make of saccharine substances. The rule was only to be enforced until its necessity should be obviated by the voluntary sobriety of the people, and perhaps does not now exist.

Speaking of the fur-sealers, the latest information I have is to the effect that they are well supplied with the comforts of life, and are making cheering progress in the study of the English language and the ordinary branches of education. In this respect—and in many others—the people of St. George and St. Paul are much better off than the Aleuts or Indians of other portions of Alaska. For the latter no system of education is provided. Surely the welfare of 30,000 to 40,000 persons should not be neglected by the Government. The number properly provided for under the lease of the seal fishery is less than four hundred. For their happier lot they have to thank the legislation which has placed the seal fishery beyond the contingency of mismanagement and destruction.

There is not much doing at Coal Harbor. A couple of good, rich seams of coal have been discovered. The old mines, now owned by a San Francisco company, are not being developed very rapidly. A few schooners, however, called there during the last summer, and procured a couple of tons each. The coal burns well, and in view of the high prices required for foreign coal, it is a pity that the mines in Alaska are not more energetically worked.

At Belkovsky affairs are very quiet. The men hunt and fish industriously, during the season, leaving the women to attend to domestic affairs. The latter, of course, have a good time of it while their lords are away, for months at a time. There are two stores at Belkovsky, which give the natives a chance to indulge in some of the luxuries known to more favored localities. A peculiar character in the shape of a Russianized German has made the place his home. He is a man of considerable intelligence, and seems to enjoy his half-savage life very well.

The HERALD is regarded, along the coast, with much favor. It is hoped that through its efforts capital will be led to seek Alaska for investment. You have done only simple justice in your articles calling attention to the inexhaustible fish product of our waters, especially the codfish of the Shumagin grounds, and other sources of wealth in the Territory.

HON. W. S. DODGE, formerly Collector of Customs at Sitka and Mayor of the city, has commenced the practice of law in San Francisco. He is pronounced, by old residents of Alaska, a gentleman of unswerving integrity and possessed of the energy and ability which will command success.

IN A TIGHT PLACE.

It was about eleven o'clock on a stormy evening that I bade good night to Tom Richards, my student, at the door of my laboratory. "Good night, Professor," said Tom; "we are going to have more rain."

"I hope it will not rain before I get home," I replied.

"Oh no, it won't for an hour yet," said Tom.

I intimated that my duties would probably detain me more than that length of time.

Tom was very anxious to know what would keep me up after twelve o'clock; so I told him I was about to commence analyzing the stomach of Mrs. Johnson, whose husband now lay in P— jail (just across the road from the college) on suspicion that he was the murderer. Tom said I had worked hard enough that day, and deserved the night to myself. He spoke the truth. Still, I had delayed examining the woman's stomach so long, and the trial was so close at hand, that I could not in conscience put off the examination further.

As Tom was passing out of the college yard, through the gate, his head turned, bidding me good night, he brushed against a man standing with his back to the college and his face towards the prison. The street lamp showed me that the man was in police uniform.

Re-entering my laboratory, I took down a glass jar from a shelf, and sat down before my sink to examine it. This jar, which contained Mrs. Johnson's stomach, was covered by a cloth, duly tied and properly sealed with my official seal in red wax. Breaking through the cloth and seal, I lifted the stomach out with a dissecting hook, and laid it on a white platter before me, and then became busily engaged in applying those tests to its contents by which we detect the presence of injurious substances.

An hour had passed since the departure of young Richards. I had carefully emptied the contents of the stomach into a number of bowls and basins. I had labored hard to discover traces of poison in all this, but had been unsuccessful. Joe Johnson, the suspected man, had been a student of mine a few years before. I thought him a good-hearted, intelligent fellow, only a little wild, and I really began to hope that he might prove innocent, when, among the macerated food, I came upon a small, infinitesimal white grain. By careful manipulation and the use of my magnifying glass, I managed to get this upon a piece of smoked glass, and examined it.

I was certain I had discovered arsenic, but to make assurance doubly sure, I determined to apply a well known test for that poison.

Accordingly, I placed in the woman's stomach the usual acids, and then turned on the blow-pipe flame, and presently, upon a white and beautiful porcelain ground, there appeared that brilliant, metallic mark, worthy of Cain's brow, which is the sign and signet of the Poison Fiend.

"Yes," I exclaimed, as I saw the fatal button, "Joe Johnson is the murderer of his wife! With the evidence of that mark to back me, no power can save him from the rope."

"Do you really think so?" said a calm, squeaking voice behind me.

I turned quickly, and discovered a tall, thin policeman, withered, weak and watery-eyed, standing in my office door and staring in. His body looked as if it had been rolled out long between his hands, like a stick of molasses candy. His nose was merely an elongated fleshy plug, and his forehead was decorated with two red streaks, instead of eyebrows. He had no expression at all in his face, and his policeman's hat was so large that it threatened to settle down on his shoulders.

His uniform reassured me, and I addressed him thus, with some impatience:

"My friend, I suppose I am wanted to attend an inquest—or what is your purpose?"

"No, doctor, the man ain't dead yet."

"Anything in the surgical way?" (I was a police surgeon as well as coroner.)

"No."

"Well, then, why do you come for me at this time of night?"

"Don't bother, professor. The man ain't dead yet, but they say he will die before morning."

"Are doctors attending him?"

"Oh! he's in good hands, professor."

"What's the matter with him?"

"Well," said the official, "some folks say he's got so much knowledge into him that he can't live under it."

"Cerebral disorder, eh?"

"What?" asked the man.

"Brain disorder, I mean—something wrong here."

I touched my forehead, and so did he, as he said:

"Ay; and I thought I'd drop in and tell you, if you was going to the station to-morrow, to take a look and see if it's post mortem or not. Besides, I want to see where I could always find you in case of need."

I bowed, and attributed his visit to a feeling of curiosity. He sat on the sink, with one foot thrown over the other, and wiped his nose with a dirty handkerchief several times, while his eyes wandered about the room, as if noting all it contained. Finally he spoke, like one who thought himself called on to say something:

"Professor, there's been an accident this afternoon—a terrible one."

"Ah!" said I.

"Awful," said he.

"What was it?"

"Nitro-glycerine explosion up in the iron mills. A hundred fellow mortals killed."

"Sad!"

"Affecting, very." (Here he rubbed his mouth with the back of his hand.) "Professor, what is that nitro-glycerine?"

"It is a very dangerous article," I answered, happy to display my knowledge. "It has nearly twice the destructiveness of gunpowder but, unlike it, does not explode on the application of heat. A red hot coal dropped into it will not explode it. It will freeze; it is yellow and greasy."

"You don't mean to say so!" said the officer, interrupting me in disagreeable tones in the very middle of a choice extract from one of my lectures. "Why, but you haven't told me how it goes off. If fire won't do it, what the deuce will?"

I told him that if it were pressed, or anything fell upon it, it would explode.

"Place it under the crusher of a cider mill, strike it with a hammer, let a weight fall upon it from a height—"

"Yes," said my man; "and that rouses its volcano, does it? How does it come, Professor?"

"In little cans—why, like these," said I, discovering that there was a little can of it on the marble sink, which I had carelessly neglected to replace in the cellar.

I then took a little of the glycerine and spread it on a thin piece of paper, and laying the paper on an anvil, struck it with a hammer. A slight explosion and flame burst from the paper.

"Now, really," said the policeman, starting back. "I suppose, Professor, that there can would make a mighty noise if allowed to explode in here all at once?"

"It would blow the entire building to atoms," said I, resuming the analysis of Mrs. Johnson's stomach.

"No," I heard the policeman remark, in deliberate tones, "you don't say so?"

The next moment I lay on my back, a gag in my mouth, terribly frightened and sick at heart. Over me stood the policeman, and the first thing that functionary did was, looking me straight in the face, to take off his nose. He then rid himself of his red eye-brows, hair, cap and overcoat, and became a determined looking fellow, with the eyes of a fiend and the nose of a Roman.

"So, you think," said the metamorphosed individual, in the tones of a gentleman, "that nothing can save Joe Johnson from the rope! Poor fellow! it does look like it. But you will permit me to remark, my dear Professor, Joe Johnson is fortunate enough to have in me a

devoted friend, as well as a brother. I have undertaken to save him, and he shall be saved. In order to attain this end, it will be necessary to remove from the face of the earth not only the stomach of his miserable wife yonder, but also, my dear Professor—I'm sorry to be obliged to say it, for I believe you were my brother's teacher and friend—yourself as well."

I saw that he was in deadly earnest, and began to think that I was in a tight place.

"Your death must apparently result from accident—at least, so it will seem to the authorities. My brother is in jail; they certainly will not suspect me."

"He took me in his arms, placed me in a chair, and bound me to it, and then from a side pocket he produced another rope.

Was it myself who was to hang instead of Joe Johnson?

No—yes. He placed the line, pulley-like, over an arm of the hanging chandelier. This was too slight a support even for one of my slender frame. It was not to be hanging, then.

To the end of the rope he attached a weight, and raised it by pulling the other end six or eight from the floor. The loose end he secured to the sink. Was he mad? Did he mean to draw me under this weight and send me out of the world in a novel way, by letting it fall and dash my brains out?

To the sink end he attached a long yellow string. Under the weight on the floor he placed the can of nitro-glycerine. I recognized the yellow string—it was a fuse, and would burn sixty minutes. It would burn across the marble slab—there was no hope of its igniting any substance that might warn my friends.

"Do you begin to see through it?" asked Joe Johnson's brother.

I believe I cursed him with my eyes. I could only breathe through my nostrils, and the great veins were swelling and growing hot in my forehead.

Drawing a match from his pocket, he lighted and applied it to the fuse—that little tyrant that gave a man an hour to live, and killed him at the end of it—that little irresponsible terror that, less merciful than Providence, told a man the second he was to die, if fright and horror spared him. Slowly the flame crept, snakelike, around the twine.

"In one hour," said the prisoner's brother, "you will be in eternity! I will watch with you for half an hour—the other half you will spend alone."

He sat down some minutes in a chair, watching the flame. Then he arose and took the piece of porcelain, with the murderer's mark thereon, from the table, and shook his head gloomily.

"I am chemist enough to know it is arsenic," he said. "Yes, these bright metallic eyes, betrayer of the guilty! Science, thou wouldst kill my brother. Thou shalt save him. Let us see in whose hands thou art most powerful. Let the good Professor use his chemicals; the bad brother only asks—a little can of nitro-glycerine."

I heard this speech, indeed; but, great heaven! my eyes and not my ears were busiest then; from beneath the table, covered by the crimson cloth of which I have before spoken, and which I faced, appeared the head of a child. The hair was rumpled, and the blue eyes were just open from sleep. The intelligent forehead was wrinkled strangely. It was my boy Billy. I was afraid he would cry "Papa!" If he did, the implacable man would add the murder of the child to the murder of the father.

But my boy did none of this. He had, I suppose, crept under the table unknown to me, and fallen asleep there. I tried to tell the little fellow to hide again, and wait for the final half hour when my tormentor would be gone. Whether he understood me or not, aided by what he had heard, I did not know; but he quickly withdrew his little curly head, first kissing his hand lightly at me, and then shaking his fist at the schemer watching so belligerently his dumb fire agents.

The half hour wore slowly away. Oh, heavens! what agony did I suffer! not for myself, but for my child. A slight noise might discover his presence; the match might run its tether sooner than was expected. He might be murdered or blown to atoms.

The fuse burned on—on! The half hour is up!

"The brother of the murderer rises to go. Joy!" Commit your soul to heaven's keeping, he said. "You who hold the evidence of my brother's guilt—nothing can save you now."

With that he turned to take his hat from off the table covered with the crimson cloth, beneath which hid my priceless boy. Something attracted his attention. He held out his hands and leaned forward. I thought he had discovered my boy. No; he was lifting something in either hand—the wires of an electric battery. "Professor," he jeeringly said, "Don't you wish you could give me a farewell shock, eh? Wouldn't you turn it on strong, though?" In another instant my boy leaped from under the table and, seizing the crank, turned fast and furiously.

The murderer's brother was in Billy's power. He could not drop the wires; he was helpless and motionless. How my boy cried for help. The old college rang again. The prisoner's brother added his voice to my boy's in his agony. He begged, he beseeched—all his nerves were racked—great waves of galvanism leaped and surged and trembled, and jarred over the sensitive nerve and fibre. Still the boy was inflexible—he shouted and turned the faster. Unfortunately, the battery was not moveable, and Billy could not reach the death-dealing can with his foot, though he tried to do so without ceasing to turn the crank.

Unperceived upon the marble, in the track of the burning fuse, was a pool of inflammable oil. In an instant a great length burned away. It would last just five minutes and no more.

"Father," shouted my boy, "if no assistance comes, this villain must die with us. I dare not let him free! Help! help! help!"

Alas! I could not answer him.

But, thank heaven, some one did. The fuse is burned up. The rope is on fire; the weight trembles—another minute, and it will fall upon the nitro-glycerine. The door opens. Tom Richards, on his midnight visit to the sick, has heard the cry. He comprehends all, seizes the can in his hands; the weight descends, indeed, but not on the deadly explosive. No; down it goes through the office floor—down, down, like an evil spirit, to give back a dull, metallic echo from the stones of the collar beneath.

We were saved.

Joe Johnson, the prisoner, was hanged, but his brother remains unpunished by the law, for he stabbed himself with a knife, and thus escaped the hangman's rope.—*Boston Independent*.

Those of us who take the street cars sometimes, for the purpose of catching railway trains, are nearly always conscious of the gradual growth of a feeling of deadly hatred for the conductor when we find him going as slow as his horses can possibly walk, and resorting to all kinds of preposterous dodges for the purpose of delay, so that he can catch a few more passengers. It is with peculiar satisfaction, therefore, that sometimes, when we are not in a hurry, and he is, we observe how dilatory and aggravating women avenge our wrongs. We like to watch one of these women hail a car, and, as soon as it comes to a full stop, begin a fresh conversation with a companion on the sidewalk. Then the conductor becomes impatient. He asks her to hurry. She takes two steps in advance, turns her head, and gets off some closing remarks to her friend upon the subject of bonnets, or Mrs. Smith's illness, or the condition of the children. Then she makes another start for the car, but finds the approach too muddy, and requests the conductor to move the car forward a few yards—which he does with a muttered oburgation. Meanwhile she interchanges with her friend some more observations about bonnets, and Mrs. Smith, and coming up to tea, and finally mounis the platform slowly, while the conductor places his hand upon the small of her back, (they all perform that maneuver—for what reason no man can conjecture,) grits his teeth, becomes picturesquely profane, and soothes his feelings by transferring a quarter from the company's pocket to his private exchequer. These things are sweet to us. We despise that woman merely as a woman; but, regarded as an avenging angel, she is a most grateful and efficient creature.—*Max Adder, in Sunday Dispatch*.

THE ALASKA HERALD.

A. A. STICKNEY. EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

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CENTRAL POLYNESIA.

Proposals were recently issued for an increase of the capital stock of the Central Polynesia Land and Commercial Company from \$10,000 to \$10,000,000, and the public were invited to take 10,000 shares at \$100 each. The Company was organized under the laws of California, in December, 1871, by the following named gentlemen: J. B. M. Stewart (of Collier, Stewart & Co.); Capt. James McKee, sugar planter, of Honolulu; J. W. Stow, President of the Metropolitan Gas Company; A. Crawford, merchant; Frederick Clay, of the California Cracker Company; N. B. Stone, Postmaster of San Francisco; A. German & Co., lumber merchants; A. Giorgiani, fruit merchant, and F. A. Bee. The objects of the Company were, the purchase of lands, acquiring of harbor and other privileges upon the Navigator Islands, the formation of a trading depot and coaling station, a connection with the steamship lines between San Francisco and New Zealand and Australia, and the building up and controlling at that point of a commerce with the surrounding islands. In pursuance of these objects, the Company has purchased from the High Chiefs of the islands of Upolo, Savaii, Manono and Tutuila, 414 square miles of land, making with former purchases, a total of 300,000 acres. To show the value of these lands, we quote the London Civil Service Gazette:

That these islands possess a magnificent climate, a highly fertile soil, and abundance of labor, and that the combination of these elements must produce a certain result, viz.: success both to the small and large capitalist, few will endeavor to controvert. The capacity of these islands to produce every tropical fruit, flower and vegetable, tobacco, coffee and sugar, tapioca, indigo and arrowroot, has often been proved beyond denial; while the Sea Island cotton raised throughout the group is the most superior of its kind. It is of that peculiar fine quality, long in the staple and silky in the texture, which even in the vast cotton district of America could not be produced to perfection except in a very limited quantity on some small islands off the coast. The prices obtained for this variety show that the Fijian product is superior to that grown in the Southern States of America. A sale in London is quoted of ten bales Sea Island cotton from the island of Manga, at 4s. 2d. per pound. Six bales from the Nanaun Estate were sent to Brussels for lace making, and brought 5s. 9d. per pound. The cotton grown on Dr. Brower's (United States Consul) estate has fetched 3s. 11d. per pound, and while 2s. 6d. may be taken as a fair average, it gives a return equal to £47 10s. (\$237) per acre.

The "Central Polynesia Land and Commercial Company" seems to have only honest aims, and the increase of its capital appears to offer a strong assurance of happy results, not only to the stock holders but to the people of the islands. If successful, the annexation of a number of the groups to the United States may be effected without bloodshed and without money, through the mere spreading of American ideas and influences. President Stewart, who has lately returned from the islands, says:

"Prior to my arrival, the British and American residents had produced in the minds of the High Chiefs a very strong desire that the islands should be annexed to the United States. During my visit the Consul called a meeting of the Chiefs interested, and annexation was fully discussed, and received the unanimous approval of all the High Chiefs, consuls, missionaries, white residents and natives of these islands. A petition to his Excellency, the President of the United States, was adopted and signed by the Chiefs, from which the following is a translation: 'We, the Chiefs and rulers of Samoa, deeming it necessary for our future well being and the better establishment of Christianity, free institutions, fellowship of mankind, protection of life and property, and to secure the blessings of liberty and free trade to ourselves and future generations, do petition the President of the United States of America to annex these, our islands, to the United States of America.'"

The harbor of Pango Pango has been aptly styled the Key of the South Pacific, and the Navigator Islands are fertile and for a large part of the year pleasant and salubrious. A line of steamers will con-

nect them with China and Valparaiso, and the steam line from San Francisco to Australia will, when properly equipped, enhance their importance and value immeasurably.

With regard to what has already been done toward building up a trade with Polynesia, it is stated that during the past year the Company, operating with its small experimental capital, has sent six ship-loads of goods to its depots at Upolo and Tutuila, which have met with ready sale upon profitable terms. It is proposed to extend this trade by purchasing a steamer to distribute goods from the central depot and to collect the cotton and other products of the different groups. To do this and to enable the Company to hold its lands for one year, while carrying on its commercial operations in the Navigator, Fiji, Society, Friendly and other groups, the Company's capital must be increased; but it is thought that not more than \$25 on each share will be called in, and that the lands now owned will in a twelve-month be worth \$2,000,000. The original stockholders are reliable men, and seem to have conducted everything, so far, with prudence and fairness. The enterprise is a hopeful one, and if it does not, in extending itself, fall into bad hands, it will yield a very large percentage of profit to its non-official stockholders as well as its managers.

THE debate which followed the reception of the Queen's speech in the British Parliament, on the 6th inst., indicates a deep seated distrust of the designs of Russia, and a conviction that England will have to act promptly and decisively in order to place her vast Indian possessions beyond the possibility of future "annexation" to the Czar's dominions. With States as with individuals, "a stitch in time saves nine;" but really in this case the danger of a fatal rent seems, from a distant viewpoint, much exaggerated. It is certain that in Central Asia there is a great work to be done by either England or Russia—or, if possible, by both in conjunction. The Czar has offered his great rival a share in the task of reducing those barbarous tribes to subjection and conformity to the decencies of civilization. This was the mission of Count Schouvaloff, which has been so sadly dealt with by the telegraphic reporters. It had the purpose, also, of allaying England's fears as to ultimate results, by keeping her in step with every forward movement. As to the war upon Khiva, Russia has gone so far that she cannot stop short of the direct objects for which it was declared. The jealousy manifested by England may act as a check upon movements beyond the Khivan frontier, or it may have the contrary effect—it depends upon the confidence which Russia may have in her battalions. In the interest of humanity, it is to be wished that the two Governments may unite in an effort to civilize the Asiatic hordes, rather than fight each other for the privilege of ruling them.

THE "Clothier and Hatter," published by Bartholomew, of New York, has been received. It contains a great deal of matter interesting to the trades it represents, and we doubt not is of much service to them. We notice a couple of errors in regard to Alaskan affairs: one in confounding Alaska sable with a highly pungent but unsavory animal which does not figure in the peltry export of the Territory; the other, in regard to the amount paid into the national treasury as the tax upon seal skins. As stated in our last issue, there has been paid on this account and on account of rent, during the past two years, the sum of \$633,314. The special tax is \$2.62½ on each seal skin exported, and the yearly rental is \$55,000. The "Clothier and Hatter" says "the fur trade in New York exhibits considerable briskness, and orders are flocking in from all parts, especially for the fine grades of skins. Jobbers, manufacturers and dealers are on the *qui vive* to obtain fine lines of seal. There is a fair supply on hand of beaver, lynx, Alaska sable and mink, the quality being superior to the general run. Prices for all descriptions of skins remain without material change."

At a fur auction in Boston, recently, low prices were generally obtained. Small fine seal skins brought \$5.50 to \$6.75; dressed mink, light, \$3; dark, do., \$3.87 to \$4.25; muskrats, 21½¢.

THE belles of Sitka are distinguished for their beauty—those of San Francisco for their *Altitude*.

DO ALEUTIAN GHOSTS SIGN PETITIONS?

A "PETITION" dated August 5, 1871, purporting to have been drawn up and signed by a number of natives of one of the Alaska fur-seal islands, appears in the New York Sun's Washington correspondence. Only two of the names are given. Were the "others" published, perhaps they would give the document an unpleasant odor: Is the Sun's "petition" embarrassed with the names of persons who were not among the living on the fifth day of August, 1871?

To aid our contemporary in arriving at the truth, we will copy a paper which we know to be genuine, and which was signed by twenty-nine Aleuts of St. George Island three years prior to the date of its "petition." Had the Sun published all the names appended to its story of wrongs and disabilities, we might have undertaken to show that the names were the same as those here given (with a single exception), comprising twenty-three who were alive and five who had died between '68 and '71. Were it shown that more than one sixth of the list was made up of defunct Aleuts, a reasonable inference would be that names had been transferred from some document to which they had been affixed years before for an object entirely foreign to that of the "petition." Who furnished the correspondent with what he believes to have been a true statement of affairs at St. George in 1871 is not stated, but its text is familiar to us, and we incline to the opinion that it was "fixed up" on this coast less than two years ago, in the manner above indicated. It is our belief that no statement has been prepared by the inhabitants of St. George Island, complaining of the leasees. In this belief we are confirmed by the perusal of a number of sworn statements. We believe that if the signatures given below are affixed to the complaint published by the Sun, they were placed there by some one who copied from a paper drawn up and signed many months previous, and who was not aware of the deaths which had occurred.

In 1868 Captain Archimandritoff, a gentleman of intelligence and prominence, who had been connected with Alaskan commerce from 1838, was asked to represent the interests of the people before the Government. Alaska had then but recently ceased to be a Russian dependency. Things were in a transition state, and the people of the seal islands were apprehensive that the surveillance which had preserved the rookeries under the old regime would not be maintained by the new owners. They thought that some time must elapse before the fishery would be safe from invasion by reckless parties, and they knew that if this were permitted, it would result in the abandonment of the islands by the fur seal and the loss of the employment and many comforts which it was capable of giving them. It was natural that they should apprehend violence and offences, if a strong arm were not immediately thrown around them. They were ignorant of our language and totally unaccustomed to our form of government. For these reasons, they requested Capt. Archimandritoff to be their protector, addressing him in writing as follows:

ISLAND OF ST. GEORGE, 18th April, 1868.

We, the undersigned, inhabitants of the Island of St. George, respectfully request Captain Ilarion Archimandritoff to be our protector before the American Government in cases of violence, offences and ruin of our rookeries of sea animals and our properties by arriving foreigners of different nations. We will await hereto the attention of our new Government.

(Signed)—Pate Rosanoff, Neofeat Rosanoff, Andronick Rosanoff, Alexander Oustigoff, Grigor Colechief, Forka Shane, Evan Shane, Sownestian Mercouliff, Kaprian Mercouliff, Bores Galinin, Alaxa Galinin, Gavarrilla Galinin, Sava Colechief, Evan Philamanoff, Simeon Philamonoff, Platon Veculoff, Evan Arcousky, Evan Popoff, Nicholi Oustigoff, Alapa Oustagoff, Eustin Sweetsoff, Zachar Oustigoff, Varfoloormi Malicinea, Alaxa Sweetsoff, Easoff Sweetsoff, Eoff Philamonoff, Neofeat Sweetsoff, Nichonor Vicoloff, Pate Gleboff.

In rendering these names, translators may vary somewhat; but if the correspondent or editor of the Sun will compare them with his copy, he will be able to decide whether in intent and meaning they are the same. Those which are printed in italics we have seen rendered thus: Sabba Kolechow, Barpholomeus Malovanski, Alexis Shvetcow, Joseph Shvetcow, and Neophilt Shvetcow. These persons were all dead and buried more than a year prior to the date of the

Sun's petition. We state this on the authority of affidavits of Capt. Archimandritoff and Mr. George R. Adams, both of whom had ample opportunities to assure themselves of the facts.

It is the constant effort of certain (or perhaps we should say uncertain) parties to make the press and public believe that the people of the seal islands have been "enslaved," and cannot make their wrongs known to the American people. It has been asserted that they are denied the exercise of one of their highest rights—the right of petition. When such charges are bolstered up by the signatures of dead men, what shall be thought of their validity?

It has been asserted that a copy of a petition was entrusted to Capt. Archimandritoff by the people of St. George Island in 1869, to be by him forwarded to Washington. The Captain makes oath "that the inhabitants of St. George Island never gave or entrusted to affiant any paper or petition whatever in 1869, nor at any other time, excepting the paper dated April 18th, 1868" (translated and printed above).

In conclusion, we wish it understood that we do not charge the correspondent of the Sun with having suppressed any of the names attached to his "petition" with wrong intent. He probably did it to avoid the labor of copying. Had a like indisposition to do clerical work governed the person who framed a petition of similar date and purport, a great deal of misapprehension and error would have been prevented, and a number of fearful essays on "Alaskan slavery" would never have been written by sympathetic but badly duped gentlemen of the editorial profession.

THE San Francisco Chronicle condenses a two-column article in favor of prohibition, and writes it thus:

"Dennis Coleman gets drunk and beats Mrs. Dennis Coleman, who also gets drunk. Death ensues either from the beating or from erysipelas which sets in after the wounds are given. In the Great Ledger above, whisky is accredited with another murder. Society is to bear the expense of a Coroner's jury, a pauper burial, a trial for murder, and perhaps a gallows, to carry another life to the innumerable list of alcohol's victims. And yet the trade goes on; Government licenses it, the city authorizes it, and society and taxpayers endure it."

It is contended by some of the luminaries of the press that prohibition is not only impracticable, but would be unjust to those who have sufficient control of their appetites to stop drinking when they have enough. Without considering this question at present, we wish to urge the importance of legislation for the protection of those who, notoriously, are not capable of exercising the restraints of reason, and especially of those upon whose sobriety the welfare of a family depends. In every city and town such persons exist, and it should be made felony to sell them intoxicating liquors.

A DESPATCH from Bombay states that Sirdar Abdel Rahman, under Russian instigation, captured Fort Hissar, a dependency of Caboul, and sent the Governor a prisoner to the Russians. Hissar is a good starting point for the Russians in any movement they may contemplate against Afghanistan. The same authority states that Sirdar Mahomed has made a successful attack on Sherobat, in Caboul. The Governor of the city was likewise captured and delivered to the Russians. If this news proves correct, England will see in it a menace to her rule in India, as Caboul is the half-way station on the road from Khiva.

THE subject of compulsory education seems to be agitating our friends at the North, and we doubt not will before long seriously engage the attention of our law-makers. General education has become of much greater importance to the body politic since the adoption of universal suffrage; its importance to the individual is now, as always, inestimable. In one respect, if no other, is its importance paramount: in conferring the proper understanding of their duties upon voters and jurors, to which duties all classes of men are now amenable. It is therefore policy to educate, and our State Government is fully awake to its importance.—*Alexandria (Va.) Sentinel*.

Mrs. EMILY PITTS STEVENS thinks that "the inherent and constitutional cursedness of man precludes the possibility of his lecturing with success on heavenly topics." A very common post-marital conclusion.

Whitney's Musical Guest, Toledo, Ohio, is worth \$20 a year, for its music alone; other contents, say \$3. You can get it for one dollar.

THE ALASKA HERALD.

VOL. V.

FEBRUARY 10, 1878.

No. 122.

THERE IS NO DEATH.

BY LORD LYTTON.

There is no death! The stars go down
To rise upon some fairer shore,
And bright in Heaven's jeweled crown
They shine forevermore.

There is no death! The dust we tread
Shall change beneath the summer showers
To golden grain or mellowed fruit
Of rainbow tinted flowers.

The granite rocks disorganize
And feed the hungry moss they bear;
The forest trees drink daily life
From out the viewless air.

There is no death! The leaves may fall,
And flowers may fade and pass away;
They only wait through wintry hours
The coming of May-day.

There is no death! An angel form
Walks o'er the earth with silent tread,
And bears our best-loved ones away,
And then we call them "dead."

He leaves our hearts all desolate,
He plucks our fairest, sweetest flowers;
Transplanted into bliss they now
Adorn immortal bowers.

The birdlike voice, whose joyous tones
Made glad these scenes of sin and strife,
Now sings an everlasting song
Around the Tree of Life.

Where'er he sees a smile too bright,
Or heart too pure for taint and vice,
He bears it to that world of light,
To dwell in Paradise.

Born unto that undying life,
They leave us but to come again;
With joy we welcome them the same,
Except their sin and pain.

And ever near us, though unseen,
The dear immortal spirits tread;
For all the boundless universe
is life—there are no dead!

THE power with which recollections of home come to wanderers on a foreign strand is often so great as to move the wanderer to tears. For instance, a man was walking along the street in Cumberland, Maryland, the other day, while a boy was shoveling snow from the roof of a certain house. Just as the man passed the dwelling the snow began to slide, and in less than a minute about twenty tons of it, together with the boy, lit upon the passer-by and buried him completely out of sight. The spectators instantly began to dig him out—supposing, of course, that he would be found a corpse; instead of which, he was discovered sitting with his knees doubled up under his chin, his hands to his face, and his eyes filled with tears. They shook him up a lot, and asked him if he was hurt. He roused himself and said "No!" He was a native of Switzerland, and this kind of thing reminded him so strongly of the happy days he used to spend in the home of his youth that he felt as if he must cry or burst.—*Max Adler, in the Sunday Dispatch.*

Pacific Coast Diary for 1873.

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