

April 1st 1881 to July 7 1881

Private Journal

St. Michaels - Alaska

W. Nelson

Note

There appears to be a perfect lack of any feeling of conscience or moral duty among the savants - that which the experience of ages has taught them as best they do - guided by superstitions, customs and usages the reason for which are in many cases unknown. I do not know a case in which they do not look upon that most conducive to their own ends as the most "moral" if the word may be thus used.

I asked why they do so and so they answer "we have always done so" considering this an unanswerable explanation.

pagumss
1 = 200 marks

DSS. W.	390	"
Popsm	500	"
S. ma	900	"
H. ma	820	"

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E. W. Nelson

Baron Wrangell tells of the use of a Raven's Head as a head-dress by a Rinder Chukchee chief to bring good luck and a welcome (p 272. Hopen Fam. Library H 113. 1861)

OK

List of books and papers to be
referred to

"Worship of animals & plants" Fortnightly
Review Oct 1, 1869, p 422

H. P. Lull's "Early History of Mankind"
1865 - Also same author "Primitive
Customs"

also "Researches into early History of
Mankind & development of
civilization" 1878

also "Backgammon among the
Pop. Sci. Monthly Feb 1879"

also "Belts' Naturalist in Nicaragua"
"Lubbock's Pre-historic Times"
and also "Origin of Civilization"



April 6th

Continued notes from page 30. in
^{Intro.} guide to study of Ind. languages
In former times when the
unburied used to throw the
dead out upon the tundra they
were in the habit of planting
two short sticks about 3 feet
long crossed over the face of
the dead = ~~and~~ and
by his side was cast the various
things now placed by the box.
My informant says that every
body was thus treated once but
he thinks it was from seeing
boxes made for dead in other
villages that the custom was
introduced here. He never
expose their dead until now and
as the burial of dead is universal
to South of here it seems very
probable that the custom was
first introduced by people
who in their predation said

had seen the ornamented
grooves to the south of, or on the,
lower yakon.

It was a common practice for
them to throw female infants
out upon the tundra to die if
they were not wished by the ~~family~~
father or mother. It was a
common thing for men to
keep two wives in early times
the first wife having the main say
and had control of the food.

Both took food into Kashim houses
without destination. When a

young man wished a wife and
a young girl to his taste he told his
parents and if they approved then
one of them went to parents of
bride and if they agreed their
consent was given. The suitor
then took his finest cloth,
and going to bride's house
clothed her in it and then
the pair then they either

took up their abode with the
parents on one side or other
or they made a house of their
own. There appears to be none
of the betrothing children at
an early age by their parents
which I am informed obtains
on the lower yakon.* A
childless pair frequently or as a
rule adopted either a boy
or girl orphan so they should
have a support in their old age
and also leave some one to
mourn for them and make
feasts for their spirits after
they die. This custom is in force
at present as is the manner
of choosing a wife.

The practice of planting ~~poles~~
stakes beside the grooves bearing
a wooden model of the seal
spirit, of various animals or
of an oar or paddle. ~~is~~ is always
observed before the sun just before

the frost to dead and each
relative who will make an *squska*
for deceased whittles out a pole
or stake upon which is placed
any of the models mentioned is
deceased is a man - these
images show the sex of deceased
and upon the spear, ^{model} is painted
the totem of deceased and
~~directly~~ upon the side of
the box if a place is afforded ~~there~~
is painted in black ~~the~~ the
totem of deceased if he was a
hunter if he was not a hunter
no totem was painted until the
stakes were placed before an
squska when his totem
was painted on the box - If he
was a bad man or without
relatives to make a frost for
his memory then no totem
was placed. If a very bad man
then his body was placed in
box and an offering of food

and water ~~after this~~ made
according to an invariable
custom but no weapons or other
~~marks~~ of respect in the way
of articles of use were placed
by the box and thereafter he was
forgotten - and no frost was
ever made for him.

If deceased was a woman her
father's totem will be put
on her coffin if her father was
not a hunter if he excelled in
hunting any animal then this
animal will be replace the
totem upon her coffin.
At present these practices are
still observed to a great extent
here but sometimes son's grave
will bear zoo totem the
picture of the animal which
their father excelled in
killing though the grave of his
mother's father bears the best
totem. The ancient totem is

more in use however than
the new one which in all
probability is a degeneration
of the totem system. At present
it is difficult to ascertain
just what importance was
attached to the totem by the
natives in pre-Russian times
owing to the manner in which
the Russians have always
made sport of and ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~the~~ ^{the}
native customs until the
natives have become ashamed
to speak freely of them to a white
man and many of the ancient
beliefs and usages have become
obsolete or are rapidly becoming
so among the natives of this
vicinity from their contact
with whites

Upon the sub-tundra are
said to live dwarfs of the first
pair of which I have the following

Very long before the Russians
came to Alaska there existed a
large village at Pikmiktalik.
It was one winter day the people
were much surprised to see
a man and woman accompanied
by a child coming down the Pikmiktalik
R. The man wore a parkie made
of a single white fox skin, the woman's
was made of two arctic hare skins
and the soles of two muskrat skins.
The man ^{was} stood about three feet
high ~~accompanied~~ ^{accompanied} their son about
12 or 15 inches out ~~front~~ ^{front} than
their short stature. The man
was drawing behind him a sled
heavily loaded with his ~~things~~
things and larger than the
sleds used by the natives of
Pikmiktalik. Coming up the
bank the man easily drew
up his sled and taking it by
the stem raised it up and
placed it easily upon the sled

frame - A feat which could only have been done by the united force of several of the villagers. The visitors now entered a house & were welcomed. They remained here for some time the man taking his place among the men in Cashin. The man was very fond of his little son and one day as the latter was playing outside a savage dog bit him so severely as to kill him. The father in a rage caught the dog by the tail ^{by one hand} and struck it so hard against a post that the dog fell in ^{two days}. Then the father prepared with great sorrow a handsome box for his son by which he placed the ^{latter} various toys &c and then retired to his house and refrained from all work for four days at the end of which he packed up his sled and with his wife & child


farewell to the sorrowful villagers, who had come to like them very much, and retraced their old road - ~~S~~ Before this the villagers had always had the bottom of their sleds formed of long strips extending fore and aft but the dwarf's sled had the bottom of numerous cross pieces which struck their eyes and since then their sleds have been thus built. Up to this time the villagers had always cast their dead out upon the tundra as food to the dogs and other animals but after seeing the dwarf make the box for his son and strew various things around they followed his example as well in the four days mourning as in making boxes for the dead. Since then the dwarfs or others like them have been seen from time to time upon the tundra

Dressed in fur clothing with
2 wands & arrows in his hand
but if anyone tries to approach
he suddenly disappears into
the ground. Many times hunters
have seen their tracks upon
the tundra but none have yet
spoken to them since the pair
left Pikmiblatik. They are said
to be perfectly harmless.

The skulls of all Belugas
killed in net or by spear or
lance are carefully saved
and upon no account must
a dog be allowed to touch
them. For should this occur
then the hunter will always
be unfortunate in his
return endeavor to secure
the beluga - his nets will
tear so the beluga will avoid
his net and his spears will
not strike the whale.

Myunik, the most intelligent
and best hunter here allowed
a dog to eat part of head of
a beluga he netted last
fall and his lack of securing
any other belugas all the
fall was pointed out as
an infallible consequence of
his dereliction. ~~With~~
The heads are carefully taken
and placed in some out of
the way place where dogs
never go and with them are
placed a lot of broken spear
shafts minus their heads and
barbs - Why the spears are
placed here I do not know
yet.

Deer, wolf, wolverine, bear,
skins are dressed by the men
alone only - while the women
dress small fawn skins as also
the skins of hares, muskrat & fox
muskrats and sometimes duck

The men tan the seal skins
which are prepared as follows—
Mukluk skins are tanned by
leaving the skin, after it is cleaned
of fat, in a mass until it begins
to become sour and the hair
loosens when it is scraped clean
of hair and stretched upon a
strong frame by a cord passing
from numerous points around the
edge =  Then it is scraped to
remove superfluous fat & water
and dried and is ready for use and
becomes an article of trade when
it is folded into 4 folds or doubled over
as follows (dotted lines = folds)
Serp skins are dipped in hot
water for a moment to ^{loosen} ~~make~~
loosen the loosening
of hair, but otherwise treated as
the mukluk skin. Seal skins
with hair on are simply stretched
and dried. If the hair is oily
it is thoroughly washed in urine

Deer skins are always tanned
with ~~hair~~ hair left on is washed
on one side in urine and then
rolled up & allowed to soak thus for
a few hours and then it is
unrolled and the remaining
sinews and other matter upon
the surface is removed with
the stone scraper. After this
is well done the skin is dried
and again thoroughly scraped
then it is hung up in kashim
when the fire is built and it dries
until it is hard and brittle as
poor pasteboard. Then it is
taken down carefully and beginning
at one end it is carefully & slightly
scraped all over the scraper
now breaking the roots of the
hair and the surface skin or
epidermis from being cracked all
over rendering the skin pliable
when it is ~~thoroughly~~ thoroughly
scrapped again. Then decayed

fish eggs are well boiled
and when they are ~~boiled~~ to
a mild warmth they are smeared
over the skin and it is again
wrapped up in a hard bundle and
in 3 or 4 hours it is opened and
worked by the hands until it is
dry after which a good scraping
ends the process.

Fawn skins are soaked in
urine and then thoroughly
stretched and then worked with
pumice stone and the hands
until it dries and the process
is ended.

Marmot skins are worked
in the teeth and hands
until soft and then stretched
and dried on a frame and are
ready for use or they may have
a light wash of oil or any softening
liquid.

Parchment seal skin is prepared
is prepared by removing hair

and then soaking all the oil out
in urine & then suspended
upon stretching frame outside
in cold weather and it is done.
All the white parchment like
integuments are prepared
by cleaning well from oil
and hanging in cold.


The dark reddish color is
given to any skin by soaking
the inner bark of the alder
over night in urine and
washing the skin with the
decoction - * — — —

In ancient times when
people were hunting along
the north coast from Bygones
Island to Cape Pring Wales it
was not uncommon for them
to be blown or forged across
to the Asiatic shore by wind
or ice and the moment they
were seen by the natives then
they were killed without mercy.

An old Aziak In. man
tells me that he once saw
a number of sleds and
a lot of natives from the Siberian
coast arrive at Aziak after
drifting some time at sea.
They were welcomed and at last
made their way back by
way of Cape, Pr. of W. The same
man says it is sometimes
frozen solidly across Behring's
St. and that sleds cross but
they only travel with light loads
and one man to a sled and
large teams so to make quick
time as the ice is likely to
break up at any time.

The natives say if one of the
small skulpins such as
inhabit the lakes & ponds on
tundra is taken up it in
the hand it will gain heavily
soon after and the fish called
itvi shukh tu li~~ti~~

The throwing stick for spears
must be a cubit (from 1st finger
tip to elbow plus one finger breadth
for Beluga hunters and their spear
the same as all this style of throwing
spears must be 2 cubits with
an added thumb width for each time
the arm is passed over for a new
cubit and then the final cubit
has added the width of the closed
hand in place of the thumb width
added the other times.

For seal hunting they are less
particular about throwing bows
Their bows were a fathom
long & bound with sinew and with
bone strengtheners - the bows
had a double bend = 
Their arrows were tipped with
stone or bone, deer horn or ivory
and each man made his
arrows as long as the distance
from tip of extended thumb of left
hand or if a short handed man from

tip of extended first finger to
the inner end of right
collar bone.

April 10th

Went to other side in P.M.
and Mr. Murcier gave me
a fine greenstone ady (#7415)
which was found some years
ago upon the side of a mountain
back from the Yukon a
day or above Nulato - The
ad was found imbedded in a tree
and completely overgrown so
that the finder in cutting the
tree (a spruce) was quite surprised
to find this ad in the wood near
the butt. This locality is
in the neighborhood of the
mt. from which the ^{next} Ingaliks
used to obtain this kind of stone
and sell it to those farther away.

Mr. Greenfield gave me two
fine jillets of the bill-neck
skin of *Colymbus adamsii*.

which were brought from
Kotzebue str. this winter.
These jillets are worn by
men in their winter dances.

[see cat. no 7416 + 7417]

Still from Unalakleet from
Mission today report the
snow all gone and the
natives from Unalakleet say
it is summer there but
winter here.

11th

The weather became suddenly
cold last eve. and from the
fine thawing weather we
had the 1st 8 days of April
there came on a change to
a gale from north with
falling temp. Therm. down
to 6° last ~~was~~ night

12th

Still at work upon my Inuit
dictionary etc. - Today we
had quite a snow fall of

from two to three inches
with a S.W. gale - In the
even the wind rising and
temp. down to $+10^{\circ}$.

Natives just arrived today from
the first village beyond Kollik
report geese having been
seen there (Tu klak) some days
ago about the 10th or 11th inst!! and
say they have been seen on the
Kuskokwim some time ago -
A pair of *Larus fuscus* was
seen over the village here
on the 12th. - Cock of tamarins
have been uttering their
loud harsh challenges since
the 1st inst - though this cold
weather puts a temporary
stop to their passions,
Their necks began to show
umber colored feathers about
the 10th.

The warm weather about the
6th drew flocks of Redpolls

Ingalik Raven Legend

and Snow Buntings about
but they have retreated
to the interior the past few
days.

24th Nothing of note
since last entry except the
steadily continued cold
weather -2° in early am. of the
22nd & 23rd - Several inches
of the snow on the 18th
19th - Considerable high
west wind has packed the
ice in along shore -

Some time ago I secured
the following legend from
a Nulato Ingalik
Once, when people were all in
form of ^{animals,} bears, wolves etc, the
earth was hid in thick ~~dark~~
darkness so dense that when any
one went out for food he was
always accompanied by others
and forming a long line one

holding fast to the skirts of the
preceding one's hunting shirt
they went out short distances
but were always careful to go
come with as little straying as
possible for fear of being lost.
At this very large village where
all kinds of people lived - various
ways were tried in vain and at
last the people turned in despair
to a rook and asked him if he
could help them and they, at same
time make him many rich
presents. The Rook says he will try
and set out and alternately running
as man or flying as Rook he goes on until
he comes to a solitary house - flying
up to an adjacent tree top he waits
at last sees a man come outside
The R. calls out yū khoi, yū khoi
or (where is the dawn? where is the dawn?)
The man looked up in surprise,
then ran in telling the people what
he heard - The R. saw he had to go

gather and as flew on and at last
when he was tired he stopped on
a tree near another solitary house
and saluted the first one he saw with
the same cry as before with the
same result.

Thus he travelled on for many days
until he saw a faint glimmer
of light in the horizon far away
and each day it became plainer,
but each day he reached another
house where he asked the same
questions as before until one
day when the light was quite
bright before him the rook at
the house told him that just
beyond lay a very large village
where the old chief with ~~young~~
daughter had the sun shut up
in a bag. R. hurried on
when he saw the place before him
he went back a little and
flying up in a cawing he
began plucking ^{the} leaves

and covered himself with them
and then closing his eyes a
moment he thought he had on a
fine sable parkie on and looking
saw he had. He then went to
a birch tree and taking ~~x~~ rolls
of the bark placed one around
each leg & then as before he
had on a pair of deer skin
boots - with the same material
he made moccasins and
with parts of various plants
he made all the various articles
of dress of a young man. Chew
gum & molds a Tanana knife
& birch bark sheath then
thinks it into the real thing.
He goes to ~~some~~ Chief's
house, is well ^{recd.} ~~recd.~~ & thinks
the girl falls in love with him
& they are married and
on the 5th day she is confined.
When two days old the child, a
boy, walks and about

soon begins to cry.
P. married girl when he had ~~so~~
found it impossible to find where
the old man kept the sun.
The old man gives the young one
all kinds of toys but the latter
will not stop crying for the reason
is thinking earnestly all the
time "Cry" "Cry harder" at
last Raven says to the child
"you must be crying for the
sun your grandfather has shut
up somewhere. The child now
howled worse than ever until
the old man took a bag from a
hidden recess & taking out a
bag containing the moon
hung it up in corner of the
house so the child could
see it. The latter was quiet
P. sees as the old man closes
bag that there are two things
there left and he thinks how
he may secure all three

The main obstacle is the old man who never quits the place at last. R. ~~comes in from outside~~ ~~side~~ ~~as~~ ~~the~~ ~~dogs~~ ~~are~~ ~~eating~~ makes someone outside cry out - "the dogs are eating your fish" - All rush out leaving R. & old man together; R. then jumps up & cries "don't you hear, the dogs will eat all your fish, go ahead I'll follow you & he hurries the old man along through the door before the latter can think. When R. sees the old man well out in the low passage he hastily runs back claps the moon into the bag & flies through skylight just as the old man got outside.

R. lit on the first tree and opening the bag cast the first piece he found, which was the sun, up into the

sky and daylight spread over the rock. The second piece he cast up in another direction & the moon was seen. The 3^d piece he broke up into various small fragments and cast them up to form the stars and the two larger fragments thus thrown at the end he made Venus & Jupiter. R. now returned home and was feasted and thanked and loaded with presents at the place he had passed on his way and when he came home he was made a great chief and never did any more work - the others always supplying him with the best of everything.

Ingalik Legend of the two Shamans

In a village near the Yukon there once existed a village containing many people - One day a mysterious sickness began to afflict the people and one after another strong men and women fell back suddenly and expired and great was the grief and fear of the wretched survivors. In great haste they went to the Raven Shaman who was living in their village at the time and laying many rich furs and other presents before him they brought him to aid them and stop the people from all dying. He accepted their presents and preparing himself he went outside the Kashim and walking slowly around it he carefully examined the snow - just behind the place he discovered an

Ermine track leading away from under the Kashim into the woods and ending his search he cried ah - perhaps you are what I am after - He then followed the track far away until it changed to the track of a man and this he followed several days until it led him to a large village - Here he looked about and seeing a house near the Kashim he entered it and set a time as a guest then he heard the men of village come ^{out} of the Kashim when they had been taking a sweat bath - Raven went out to the doorway and peered through a crevice at the people but was disappointed for he said "it was none of those" just then another large powerful man came out

with his eyes tightly shut
as the smoke in the kashim
had blinded him.

P. exclaimed to himself -
"that is the one" and as he
thought this the Ermine
Shaman, who had his back
toward Raven, cried out,
"Who is looking at me - some
stranger is looking at me!"
Not long after all re-entered
the kashim and among the
others went Raven
The women brought in food
and Ermine Shaman asked Raven
to eat with him. P. went
+ sat down but kept thinking
how could he kill the Ermine
Shaman - the latter suddenly
exclaimed "you need not try
to hurt me I know what you
are thinking of; you better eat
with me". P. did not dare
eat at first but Ermine S.

began and so he followed suit
and tried to think what he
could do to the food to kill the
Ermine Shaman - again the
latter told him not to try to
do anything as he was watching
him - just as there only
remained a mouthful of food
in the dish Raven managed
to insert in it a minute black
piece of something which
Ermine swallowed unconsciously.
They soon after lay down and
in a little while Ermine
became very ill and cried
to Raven, "What have you
done to the food? If you do
not cure me of this sickness
you have brought you will
be sorry" Raven answered,
"Why did you go and make
so many of my friends die
now I have fixed you and
you will not recover for

I will not aid you"-
Ermine groaned and said
"Curse me, for if I die your
life will end at the same
time. R. refused & started
for home hurrying on
day and night to get there
before he died for the farther
he went the worse he felt until
at last he reached his village
and had to be carried into the
Kashim and lived just long
enough to tell his sorrowing
people what he had done and
the cause of his death and then
expired -

He is placed in a grass box
with his bear spear, snowshoes,
bow & arrows, flint & tinder &
for making fire, with an
axe as well all placed about
conspicuously outside except
the flint, tinder & tobacco which
were put in a fire bag and

laid in the coffin -
When he was buried he
(Raven Shaman's soul) felt
himself sinking slowly
down, down, until he found
himself standing upon the
bank of a great river exactly
counterpart to the Yukon he
had known since boyhood - stones
close around him upon the
snow, which covered the frozen
river and the land, lay
the articles ~~he had seen~~ which
had been placed by his grave.
Gathering them up he looked
about and saw the track of
the Ermine Shaman leading
up the frozen river upon
the ice and he followed the track.
By and by he saw ahead of him
the Ermine Shaman walking
slowly along & as R. came
near R. halted and waited
for him

As he came near P. thought
ah-if I could only kill
him again he would be
annihilated - E. understood
the thought however and said
have you ~~to~~ not done enough
that you wish to still do me
harm? We are both dead
now and that should be
enough" - All right answered
P. let's travel on together
as we are going the same
way - and so they proceeded
and at night fall they came
to the ramparts of the Yukon
(300 miles above starting point) and
P. taking his ax cut a pile of
logs and seated by a cheerful
fire they ate of the food their
friends had given them when
they were buried - each giving
the other something to eat -
they then went to sleep.

The next am - they arose & P.
put the charred ends of the logs
together which were left from
the fire and said our friends
who come after us will see
the fire place here and will
make this their first halting
place always after -
Then turning to E. he said
"well, which way are you
going to take now?" The
latter answered "I am going
there pointing toward the
part of the heavens ^{now} occupied
by the constellation of the St. Bear
Ermine. then asked P. where
he was going and the latter
pointed toward the point
in the eastern sky occupied
at that season (December
and January) by the morning star
Very well I am going
said Ermine and he began
to float slowly up toward

heaven - He was a few yds
 above the ground when R.
 raised his spear and
 threw it so well aimed that
 it struck and remained in
 Ermine's back (in ~~the~~ ^{small}
 of back). Ermine cried
 out and then bent his
 body forward and threw
 his hands back and this
 floated up and became
 the constellation of Ursa
 major (as follows. the small
 star marked "a" near base of
 dipper handle being the spear
 head in E's back.



Raven then walked far off
 into the dawn and has ever
 since shown himself as
 the morning star in winter
 while, the year around the
 other times round, round
with the spear in his back

* May 2nd 1881

St. Michael's
 On the 29th of April the first
 goose was seen, since then
 a few scattering individuals
 have been seen - The temp.
 was down to -8° April 26.
 One of the natives from the
 village (Nikolai Chugaitin) was
 here a few days ago and
 made a remark that he
 was the father of another girl
 just born a few days before.
 With the most matter of
 fact way he said "I was going
 to throw it (the infant) out

upon the tundra but I
felt sorry - it was too dear
to me." This is one of the oldest
residents here who has
been in constant intercourse
with the Russians for over
40 years yet he would still
throw his child out to be
eaten ^{alive} by the dogs or to die
of cold or hunger.

Natives from Cape Lisburne
and Point Hope say that during
the past winter (in Dec. or Jan.)
two men went out in the
night to put their seal-nets
out, for they say this is the
best time for catching seal
there in winter as the
seal cannot see the net,
while they were setting their
nets and some little distance
apart one of them heard the
steps of an approaching
White Bear close by

and he instantly laid flat
upon his back on the
ice hoping to escape notice
as he had no weapon of any
kind with him - To his
horror the bear came shuffling
up and stopping began to
smell along his body and
ended by standing and pressing
his cold nose against the
tip of the hunter's nose and
sniffed vigorously to see if
the man still breathed.
The latter retained his
breath until his head began
to swim when the bear heard
the other hunter moving
about and with a parting
sniff at the terrified hunter
he started off at a trot for
the unsuspecting victim.
As soon as the bear was
a short distance away the
frightened Eskimo sprang

up and fled on the wings
of fear as the death shriek
of his companion struck
his ear. The next am
the villagers set out led
by the ~~widow~~ wife of the hapless
hunter and all armed with
guns they came to the scene
of the occurrence just
at dawn and found the
bear had as eaten all but
a portion of his victim and
he was still engaged upon
this when the widow fired
the first shot into him which
was followed by a volley
from the rest which ended the
career of the bear. The
widow then drew a long
hunting knife and rushing
like a fury upon the carcass
of the bear cut and slashed
until her strength was
exhausted and the animal

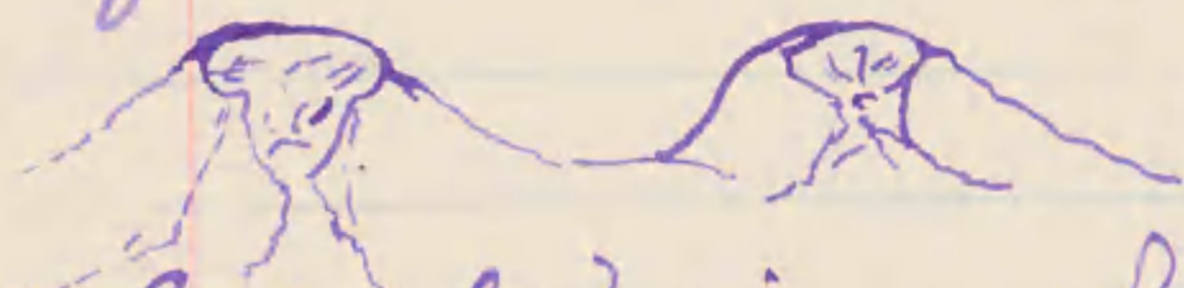
skin hung in shreds -
Every winter the bears do
more or less damage to
the natives of the north coast.
Hence among the natives
of St. M. and probably among
other ~~natives~~ ~~inuits~~ the
idea is held that if the
Red- or the Black Bear is
made sport of or called by
any disrespectful terms
the bear will know it at once
and the next time the one
thus ~~or~~ ~~will~~ skin goes out
away from the village he
or she will be torn by a
bear and killed. Consequently
the natives always speak
respectfully of them.
They say it makes no difference
whether the one thus speaking
is in his house and the
bear in the nets - the latter
will know it

They also give the beaver
the capacity to understand
^{the} language of man if the
latter be within hearing
distance. An old man I
had questioned said that
if a beaver gets all his
body in a hole except his
tail he can hold his tail pressed
so firmly upon the ground
that it is impossible to get ones
fingers under it to secure
a grip but if you say -
in innuit "Beaver, lift ~~up~~ your
tail" he at once complies and
is forthwith drawn out
and knocked on the head as
a reward for his compliance.

May 18th
Went to the other side of
Fay yesterday and stopped
all night and today made
an excursion to the top
of the higher of the twin mountains
about 10 miles back inland
to the S.E. of this place with
Mr Greenfield - of W. F. & T. Co.
The walk occupied us
nearly 3 hours each way
over very ~~very~~ rough ground
covered with hard tussocks
and knobs which wrenched
one from side to side until
our joints ached before we
reached home again.
~~For~~ A mile on such walking
is nearly as tiresome as two
of ordinary firm level
ground - for here at almost
every step ones foot twists
and turns on the knobby
tussocks or perhaps sinks

Suddenly knee deep in
a concealed hole and
nowhere is any good firm
foot hold to be found but one
goes stumbling, slipping
and staggering along and
when tired ones progress
resembles that of a drunken
man on a pavement
and ones joints fairly cry out
to have relief from the trying
work - After practice however
one can stand considerable
of this - The natives will go
scrambling about all day
without fatigue to speak of
Numerous parties of
Sandhill cranes were
seen during the day all
coming from the Arvik
R. and all high over head.
Several parties of geese
were seen coming from
the same direction.

We found that the two hills
are old broken down craters
as follows - the bottom



of the pit being about on
a level with the base of
hill (300 ft.) and opening to
the eastward - the top
of the hills were covered
with scoria of which
the hills were evidently
composed - The sides were
so steep that a large piece
of scoria set rolling would
go leaping down to the bottom
of the hill either in or out ^{side}
the rim. We found arctic
willows on the extreme
summit which had the tips
of their stems about 3 inches
long of new growth and
the catkins but just

begin to swell - these
willows begin growing as
soon as the snow thaws away
on an early spring in some
places in April -

As we came down the
hill slope we came upon
a beautiful pair of *Lagopus*
rupestris which were walking
gracefully along together feeding
upon old berries we were
within 20 feet but the birds
beyond looking at us curiously
paid no heed - we walked on
slowly and the ♂ uttered a low

~~rolling~~ rolling *kr-r-r*
and the ♀ answered with a
low clear whistle-like *yop*
like a very faint *ma* and
clear utterance of the *yop*
yop of a hen turkey.

The birds fed along until
we were not over 15 ft. and
then the male ran along

a few feet with his eye
membraned erect (these latter
I see from another spec. are
colored exactly as in albus but
are shaped as follows: - only
two filament edges
in place of ^{tufts} as in albus



The birds shortly took flight
for about 100 yds and
stopped on the hill side the
male lighting upon a stiff
stretched wings much like
albus and at the same time
uttering a louder and
longer *kr-r-r-r-r-r* than
before - ~~though~~ This note
is very similar in quality
to the *kr-r-r* uttered by
Anas acuta

The ♀ was sprinkled with
gray feathers all over ^{spanning}
but the male had only 3 or
4 dark feathers near the

Eyes along the black bar.
On our way up and back we
saw many of the common white
Ptarmigan.

Several ~~the~~ small spiders were
seen running about on the
patches of snow during the
day.

May 14th

A lot of geese (Humbolds, Hutchins
and leucoparia) with two
Cranes came in today &
Secunda crane

No. 1923 which measured
L. 36 in. Sp. of W. 68 1/2 in. Iris
orange yellow - Bald part of crown
dark crimson or blood red -
with a change to yellowish
mottling about eyes.

May 15th

Chondestes virginianus and
Numenius borealis first seen
yesterday and today -
Fringilla semipalmata has

arrived sparingly - Anas
acuta common -
Also Xema, Larus brachyrhynchus,
Anas boschas, Anas carolinensis
have been obtained or seen
more or less common -
Long-tailed Jaeger also seen -
The past 2 or 3 days has been
beautiful weather.

16th

Passerella iliaca is here also
Spizella monticola and
D. lapponicus.

The warm sun of yesterday
and today has formed water
pools in many places
and the ice is beginning to
look black or rather dark
in a kind of clouded appearance
characteristic of the ice after
the warm weather of spring
sets in. The prevailing
north wind for the past 20
days has brought in all

[*Mergus serrator* & *Colymbus septentrionalis* here on 13th

the floating ice of the Sound to the seaward so there is no water to be seen from eggs. I learn from natives who came in today - the ice is still solid and unbroken from here to the island - beyond it is well broken up. I began packing specimens today. One or two *Gallinago wilsonii* were seen some days (2 or 3) ago.

17th

Cold & foggy with SW. wind a crane #1927. Measures as follows: L. $37\frac{1}{2}$ in. Sp. of W. 7 2 in. Iris pale orange red. Coaries 135 grown in one gosse examined yesterday. From Mr. S. I learn that the Lynx, is said by the Tanana natives to hunt rabbits in packs of 5 or 6 - the spread as they utter a whistling noise as they sweep in a

line the length of an island covered with bushes. The natives are very careful about the fresh bones of this animal and when the meat is sold to a white man they are very careful to secure every bone and take them away for they say if the bones are eaten by a dog they will catch no more Lynx in their snares. The meat is said to be very white and tender and good eating.

A Tanana native once caught a Wolverine in a Lynx snare and as this animal is notorious for its cunning, he was sure some dire misfortune awaited him and he left the prize in the snare for some time

afraid to touch it but
at last the idea of such a
valuable skin going to
waste caused him to go and
take it out but he kept
saying as he took it out "God
damn the americans"

" " " as fast as
possible hoping thus to draw
the evil upon the heads of the
latter in place of on his own.

May 22 -

Grus	=	1930	d.	40	in.	Sp. g.	72 1/2
"		1931	"	36	"	"	70
"		1932	"	35	"	"	67

Iris orange yellow

May 24th

Raining yesterday and
today with the temp. from
35° to 42° and the ice looks
pretty wet tonight. This
appears better than on

the 21st when we had
a snowfall of about two
to three inches.
A few ~~blue~~ *Branta nigricans*
were seen on the 28th & 19th
20th and yesterday today
the regular flight has set
in - Eiders ducks have
been about for 5 or 6 days
and Loons & various ducks
& snipe are now arriving
in numbers.

A set of 5 eggs of *Haraldia* were
taken on the 20th and
fully developed. Eggs have
been taken from geese
Mergus serrator here in flocks
for 8 days - *Stegia arctica*
common today.

May 25th

A stiff gale from the S. with
snow and rain today.
The ice was broken from
shore and drifted slowly out

giving the welcome sight
of open water.

26th & 27th

The ice was well driven
off shore and broken up the
last two days - a stretch
of 15 to 20 miles of water.

28th

My workman brought in
Azostrichia coronata & today
also a White Crowned Sparrow.
and reports the murre as very
scarce yet about eggs.

29th

My man brought in some *Tringa
maculata* today of which
out of about 8 or 10 only one
was a male I examined the
neck and as well as I could
make out the part inflated
to distend the breast is the
gullet which becomes very
soft and elastic. I could not
find when the air was

introduced into the gullet as it
became ruptured. The skin
on the throat ~~becomes~~ was
very soft and loose hanging
almost like a dewlap and
thickly lined internally with
a thick irregular layer of fat.
The latter probably tends to
aid in producing the deep
~~to~~ bass tone of the note.

Last eve the first *Hirundo
horrorum* came to the place.
The cold rain of the past
week putting it a downd
behind. Quite a number
of Swan, quail, Corone &
ducks eggs have come
in lately.

All these species of Jaegers
seen the past few days
Also the Rusty Elk Bird -

May 30th

A native brought in a *Chenopsis fulvius* this morning #1940 -
measures L. 9.40ⁱⁿ sp. of w. 19 -
Iris dark hazel, Tarsus dull lead blue

Two species of Red Phalarope =
♂ #1941 L. 8²/₃ sp. of w. 16³/₄
1942 " 9¹/₄ " 17¹/₂
31st

Rainy yesterday & today.
Only a trifling patch of snow
remains here in the most
sheltered nooks and the ice
which still closes the inner
bay is thawing away rapidly.

June 1881

1st
Pleasant day.

2d
Warmest day up to date rising
from 28 in early am. to

I shot a pair of *Tringa maculata*
which measure as follows
#1943 ♂ L. 9²/₅ in sp. of w. 17¹/₄
1944 ♀ " 8¹/₂ " 16
Grouse - #1945 L. 36 sp. of w. 67

June 7

Grouse.
#1946 L. 37¹/₂ sp. of w. 73 ♂
1947 " 37¹/₂ " 73 ♂
1948 " 37 " 72 ♂
1949 " 37 " 64 ♀
1950 " 34 " 75 ♂
1951 " 34 " 66 ♀

Branta hutchinsoni

#1952 L. 22 sp. of w. 46 ♀
1953 " 23¹/₂ " 49 ♀

Somateria fischeri

1904	L.	22	Sp. DW.	36	♂
1905	"	22	"	36 1/2	♂
1906	"	21 3/4	"	35	♂
1907	"	21 1/2	"	35	♀
1908	"	21	"	35 1/2	♀
1909	"	22	"	36 1/2	♀

My workman brought in the just measured species with a lot of eggs numbering about 100 & including a set of some, ^{fresh} of which he shot the ♀ as she left the nest and he also took 12 eggs of *Xema* - ~~the~~ See in egg cat. for other eggs all under June 2nd.

He reports only one or two pairs of *Xemas* nesting on the island when I secured so many eggs last spring and says the *Xemas* are much less numerous than formerly up the canal and that all kinds of birds (small species) are nesting freely near our last

year collecting ground.

I learn for the first time now that each year in fall in Nov. & last of Oct. the Ptarmigan of both species gather in great flocks along the North shore of Noton Sound & cross the sound to Stewart Is. & the mainland & seek the sheltered interior. They fly in the evening & after dark and it is in this flight that the natives secure so many in nets at the head of Noton Bay where the birds come across from Noton Is. in great flocks -

In April the birds pass back flying only at night and in large parties at ^{night} was one of these migrating parties I saw at the village Mill one eve. last Oct. or Nov. just as darkness settled down. All were

Herring's Spawning water 44.20

headed for the mainland as
can be seen in my notes at
the time —

June 15 + 16

The Herring have been
running for the last day
or two and spawning along
shore upon the sea weed
growing along shore on the
rocks. The water fairly
boiled with fish which might
be easily caught by ones hand
as they walked and turned
among the sea weeds. The female
would glide slowly over the
weeds or wriggle through
them depositing eggs which
at once adhere by the peculiar
secretion they were covered
with — these eggs clung as
readily to ones hand against
which eggs were also deposited
if it was held in the water.

A great amount of seaweed
was covered with eggs above
low water mark so that the
low tide the next eve left
them exposed & they were
dried & on the following high
tide were washed off: the eggs
deposited below low water mark
alone were left. The temp. of
the water at time was 44.2°
The water was ~~was~~ colored
a dirty milky white by the milt
for 2 to 3 fathoms or over from
shore. 17th + 18th + 19

Herring still running
and spawning outside.
On the latter date the
"Corwin" U.S. R. S. Capt.
Hooper came in and
brought a letter giving me
notice to go on a cruise with
him to St. Lawrence Is. also
to the Arctic in search
of the "Jeannette" at which

I was much pleased and spent the 20th and 21st packing and preparing to leave St. M. In the afternoon of 21st the A.C.'s steamer St. Paul arrived and brought Leavitt my relief for the signal service and taking my mail I went off to the Corwin at 6 P.M. and she got up steam and left for St. Lawrence Is. where I am to gather Crania and thus. Specified then a short arctic cruise to pick up a man left in the Arctic on Polinechin Is. to try & get tidings of the Jeannette and then back to St. M. to send down mail and then on for the real work of the expedition to try for Wrangell land.

Fine sunset between 10 & 11 P.M.

22nd

Standing a W. SW direction today. I saw a fine walrus & shot him in the morning but did not secure it as the fellow sunk very quickly. Murres seen from time to time were the only birds until we passed out from the discolored water of the sound into the deep blue of the wide half of Bering Sea. In the eve. the wind began to freshen and to the westward a peculiar whitish haze like the bloom of ice was seen

The wind blowing a light gale but steadily increasing as we stood along the northern shores of St. Lawrence Is. which we struck about midway at 6 A.M. The wind was so severe that we were compelled to keep on by the two villages of dead which I was to visit. The wind blowing

a stiff gale from the N.
and making heavy drakes
all along the shore. We came
to anchor in the evening behind
the NW. point of the island
which is terminated with a sand
spit on which is a small village
of natives whose round topped
mumuk huts of walrus skin
are very different from those seen
on the shore of Norton Sound
When tents only are used in summer.
When the wind moderated a
little in the eve. a small bidarra
came off with a half dozen
men on board who presented a
striking variety of physiognomy and
showed a greater range of features
than I have seen among so few
natives of one village before.
Their umiak had its sides
very much straighter up and down
than the umiak in Norton Sd.
These people talk a mixture

of the language used on sledges
and to the Southward along Norton Sound
My interpreter from N. M. said he
understood about half they said
and to do any trading a coast
native from near Plover Bay who
talks English was used as all these
St. L. people make (commonly) excursions
in their umiaks to Plover Bay to buy
deer skins for Parkies - They used
formerly to visit Cape Row at
times on the American coast
They lash large seal skin floes
alongside their boats. The men
practice the tonsura and on
one man I saw ^{tattooed} two short lines
at the corner of each eye on temples and
a double circle on each side of chin
nearly at the point where the ear
holes are pierced - No labret holes
were seen. The sketch below shows
these latter modes



I was slightly seasick all day
so did nothing but lie in the Cabin
24th

Early this morning the gale from
the north increased and we
stood along the west end of island
and came to anchor again in
a small bay near the northern end
of the island. On our way along
the high rocky coast forming
a series of cliffs we saw many
sea birds among which the murre,
Pigeon Guillemot, Crested Auk and
"Chookie" were all plentiful.

A few Cormorants were seen
and Larus kolgovi were quite
common wheeling & skimming
about in the high gale like a
petrel. Last evening a Stercorarius
pomatorhinus was seen pursuing
one of these birds along shore.

The bay in which we anchor was
formed by a glacier of which
phenomena Prof. John Muir

~~On board finds abundant evidence~~
on board finds abundant evidence
all along the shore in the
sculpturing of the mountains
and in terminal moraines &
[note from St. M. - The natives tell me
that Ravens kill young fawns by
picking out their eyes - White
Lewls catch or chic hares by striking
the claws of one foot into the
hairs back and then drag with
the other on the snow or ground
and flap the wings back until
the hare is exhausted.]

At St. M. I have seen a pair
of Swallows remain several
days after the other swarms gone to
wait for their young which
were to young to part with the
main body.

The spec. of *Actodromas acuminata*
was taken at Holham Inlet the
first Sept. 1880. by Capt. Hooper who
took a *Larus marinus*

the same season at the
Diomedes
Pomarine Jaeger from Pt. Barrow
& others as well as Larus glaucus
seen near Herald Is.

Got under way in the eve and
stood along the coast until rounding
the S.W. point we saw a few
native houses perched on the
point of a bluff and running
in about 200 or 500 yds off
shore dropped anchor as we
did as a few natives were seen
squatting near the top of the bluff
behind some rocks. Soon after
coming to anchor Capt. Hooper
Prof. Muir & myself went on
shore and found a number of
ruined huts of natives who
perished in the famine of
1879-80 in one house two lay
coiled up & in another 8 natives
with their utensils &c

scattered about when they
were last used. These huts
were on the slope of the hill on
the southerly face and from
a few rods from the sea up to
the top of the hill. The houses
were framed of inward arching
whale ribs & jawbones with
now & then a piece of wood
These bones were arranged
like the logs & posts of the native
houses on Norton Is but
were (as would be expected from
their materials) much ruder.
And are covered with a layer
of rocky soil a foot or two deep.
Standing at various points on
the hill ^{the} in the usual style
each made of a whale jawbone
upon the very top of the hill
were two summer houses
the dwellings of the people
who came running down to meet

as the men in black and
white parkies made from
'Amie' skins and the women
in kamlaykas ornamented
with bright tassels of dark
reddish dyed seal pup fur and
with the crests & bill ornaments
of the Crested Auk sewed in
rows around the seams.
Their deer skin clothing they
make in the same style as
the people from the Siberian
coast where they get their
deer skins. The women
also have tattoos in the same
style. Two pleasant looking
little girls were seen and
with the exception of a single
rascally fellow the dozen or so
natives were very fair samples
of decent Eskimos.
Their summer houses are built
of ~~the~~ strips of whale bone cut
from whales jaws and

upheld by a single jaw-whale
rib - being used in places
this frame being a galloway
and the whole covered with
walrus hides.



The jaw bone
marked (a) is weighted down with a
large rock of 50 or 100 lbs. to keep
the frame from blowing down.
The interior of this house measured
about 20 ~~feet~~ ft in diameter and
10 ft high at highest point - In addition
rooms or "pologs" were hung on the
sides marked the private apartments
of each family. These people
appeared depressed and far from
lively and one man with a
sweep of his hand said his
village was "all mucky"
i.e. all dead. The off hand way
with which he said this was
amusing though at the same time
we could only look with

Compassion on the poor wretches
who live surrounded by the falling
huts of friends or relatives who thus
lie dead in their own houses or
straw along in the ravine
Close by as the jamming struck
people dragged the dead out before
dying themselves. There were
about 100 dead lying in the
vicinity of this village.

All the utensils of the people
lay about in the houses.

When we landed a pair
of Snow Buntings were seen
and a pair of ones shot. The native
children (two of whom were nice
looking little girls) ran eagerly
off to show my man their nest
which contained 1 egg & was taken
Along the shore were many
Kittiwakes (Katznes) and I saw
the burrows & ~~in~~ one crushed spec.
of the largest species of *Arvicola*
so common at St. Michael's.

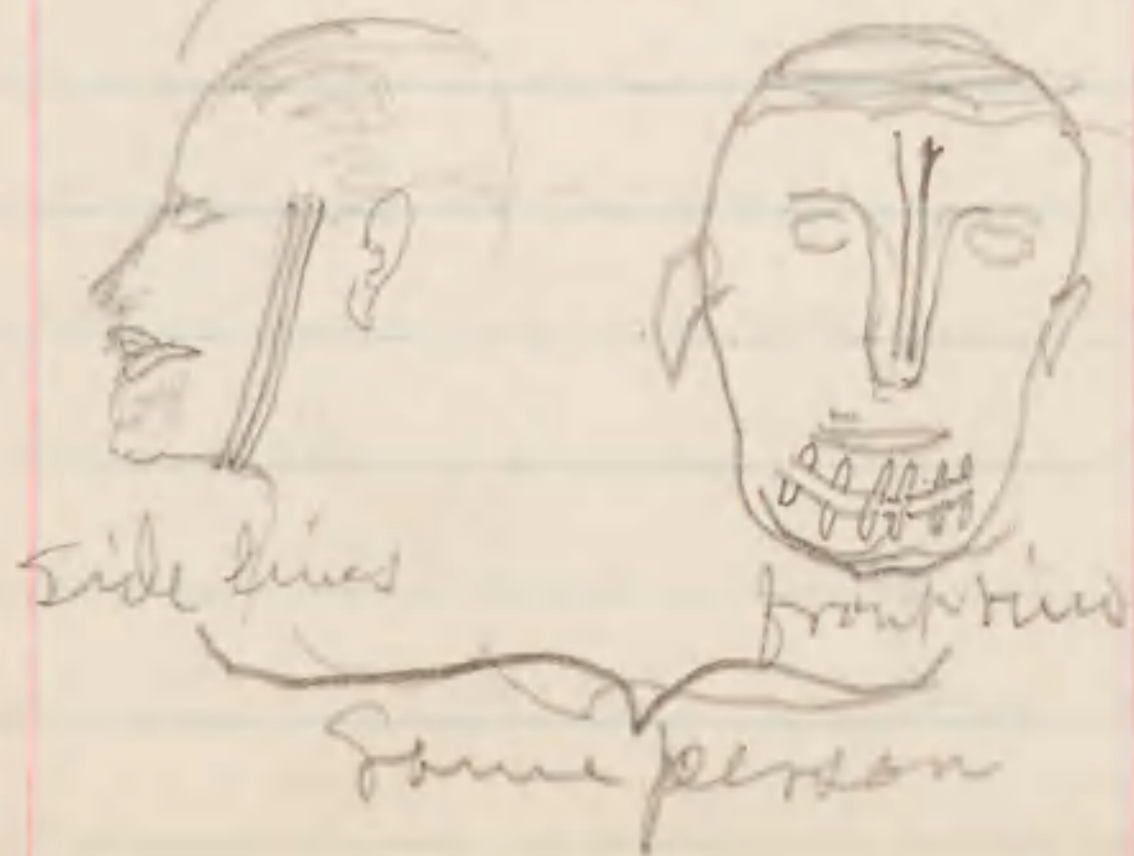
A ♂ *Arquatella* — sp? same
as on seal is? was seen on
beard uttering a hard metallic
trilling note a little like
that of the Semipalmated Sandpiper.
After the ♂ P. rivialis was shot the
♂ flew from rock to rock and
kept uttering a low plaintive call
continually till we left.

Some cormorants (Violet Green)
were flying about.

The gale still holds on from the
north and we remain at anchor
till afternoon and at signs
of the making up of storm started
across for Plover Bay.

Went to Plover Bay. I went on shore in
a.m. I tried to secure a photo of the
people but there was too much
wind. The natives here talk so
much like those on 2. None of
Boston so that I could make out
considerable of their conversation.

their verb and case endings appear identical with those used at St. M. as are their combinations as *wi hlu* or "and one" my interpreter from St. M. managed to talk with them very well ~~and~~ though they laughed at his communication yet they understood him with a little hitch now and then. The women tattoo here with the patterns used on the Eskimo coast of Asia. The style of the lines being varied according to fancy in some cases the following sketch shows the pattern on a little girl



1881

1982 Plect. ~~lap~~ nivalis ♀ June 24.
St. Lawrence Is.

1983 Plect. nivalis ♂ June 26

1984 — — ? ♂ " "

1985 spoonbill sandpiper ♀ " "


1986 Larus glaucus ♂ " "

1987 " — ? " "

392 (1 nest set) Plect. nivalis St. L. Is. June 24 '81

The men practice the toncun
The clothing is the same as on
the mainland of Asia. They have
a queer mixture of Kanaka +
English + Eskimo

St. L. Is. is mainly of volcanic
rocks well marked and
worn with glaciers in a
N. + S. course sloping to the S.
A few small craters (post glacial)
~~are~~ were some rising 1500 to 2000
ft. Prof. M. found the native
graveyard about a mile back
from the village with the bodies
sometimes under an oval

cairn and mostly laid full
length on ground & surrounded
with a line of rocks as follows.
~~with~~  The stick
(see a.) was planted in
ground or at foot of rock &
projecting upward like a bowsprit
5 to 7 or 8 ft. The victims of famine
were strewn about without any
graves. I tried to secure a
photo. of a group of women
& children but the wind blew
too much. When I finished
looking through the camera one
of the men said, with a careless
matter of course tone "Ha mucky
now" meaning "will she die
now?" pointing at his wife
we being sure that I was
trying some big medicine on
her. As we prepared to go we
saw 15 or 20 flocks of Emperor
Gulls flying to southward over
sea. A pair of Harlequin glaucous

were seen as were the glaucous
gull and later in the day
a Pomarine Jaeger.

Going off we started in afternoon
for Aklov Bay which became visible
(in the heads) as soon as the haze
cleared up in eve. The Asiatic
shore being visible from St. L.
As whenever clear weather
permits. I sat up all night
with Capt. H. in the pilot
house and watched over gradual
approach to the bold rocky
coast until in the morning
about 4.30 am. ~~we~~ dropped on

June 26th when we
dropped anchor inside the
Spit about a mile below
Emma Harbor and close
to the coal pile left by the
Russian Gov't vessel two
years ago for Nordenföld
and for some of which we
are in here. On the spit

is a collection of walrus
hide covered huts like
those seen on the L.S.
in the midst of which is a small
frame building put up by a trader
who was located here for one winter
until his companion was killed
by the natives since when the place
has been occupied by the natives.
This trader as well as many
of the numerous vessels calling
here sold whiskey & the people
are consequently poor & willing
to sell themselves for alcohol
and are poor though they get
considerable whale bone and
oil and walrus ivory.

The scenery around the bay
is fine from the steep mts
rising from 1500 to 2200 ft
abruptly from the water
all about. The mts are
masses of small angular
chip like fragments of

gray granite and a kind of
quartz rock of dark greenish
mottled with black.
The bay extends about
16 to 18 miles back into the
mt ~~and~~ in two branches
which unite just above our
anchorage. In the right hand
branch close to the junction
with the other is Eumad^{bay}
the winter quarters of H. M. Ship
Dlover.

The men began collecting and
I started out with my gun.
When we came in Murres, Pigeon
& Crow Guillemots, Loast and
Crated Auk. Glaucous, Kolybes
and Red legged Kittiwake gull
with numerous Violet Green
Comorants a few Som. V-nigra
a Pomarine Jaeger and one Raven
were seen. A Larus-like
argentatus was very common
and one spe, obtained out of

several shot the others drifting slowly off shore. I went over the nets through a notch but was only rewarded by seeing one or two snow buntings, one of which uttered a loud clear musical song which sounded clear and strong from the high rocky summits of the ridge. This song is harder, louder, and a little shorter than the Lapland Song Sparrow but it sounds well in the rocky solitude broken only by the trickling of water finding its way beneath the stones down the hillside. A dark colored spider was also common among the stones and was the only insect seen except a brownish red caterpillar near the net top on the

barren stone still living after the winter. Probably these larvae do not attain their growth in a single season. Flower Bay & the series of very similar bays in this part of the coast are all fjords and show marks of glacial action from a northerly direction. On St. L. the snow was still laying in any place where drifts had formed in winter and we saw a few pieces of ice on our way to this point. In Emma Harbor up the ice was still left and the hills all about have heavy snow patches scattered abundantly over their sides. The ice still covers some small fresh water lakes just beyond Emma Harbor. These lakes are said to abound in some kind of fish by the natives. As I found scattered here and

them where a small patch
of earth had formed on the
rocks often in patches smaller
than our hand some beautiful
flowers among which the
Anemone

2 sp. of Draba. 2 sp. of Echinaria
one Sedum (stone crop) and
an alpine Phlox a Cary
and a Poa. All these
plants are dwarfed but bear
beautifully tinted flowers.

~~and~~ I saw a Salmon trout in
the water near them.

At 10 am I returned to the
vessel and in the P.M. the
Captain and I went to
the native village. The native
women taking us there in
their bidarra - We went
through all the houses but
found them the same as at
St. L. Is. The women are
tattooed as at this latter

place and the language is
nearly the same so that I
could understand considerable
that was said and could make
myself understood more
easily and the inflections of
the words appear the same
as at St. M. - with a slightly
different sound to the vowels,
mixed with the Inuit which
is the true language of these
people are numerous words
from the Reindeer Chukchee
I bought a few ethnologies
and secured a couple of
photographs and going back
found marmots quite common
burrowing in the rocky soil
of the spit close to the native
houses I secured one species
shot upon a small wet grass
grown flat a spoon-bill sandpiper
a black cap warbler? and saw
a small plover with a ring-

of blackonits breast like a
honey neck but its note appears
different. I then went back
to the base of mts. a mile
from village where the graves
are placed some on a rocky
bank a hundred feet above
the flat and others on the flat
itself. The dead are frequently
buried under a mass of stones
in a hole made in the stone
for the purpose and ranged
around in a wide oval like
sketches for St. L. Is. a larger
stones - over the head at several
graves are placed a pile of
4 or 5 sets of deer antlers.
Scattered about other graves
were seen a broken musket
and other articles all broken
before leaving. Many bodies
had been laid down & enclosed
in a ring of stones as mentioned
with no implements and

nothing placed on the body
laying at the foot of grave &
extending away therefrom and
often held in place by stones
were sticks of wood several
feet long & 2 or 3 inches
in diameter none were ever
planted at end nearest feet
& inclining upwards & outward.
I now returned on board and
the vessel having cooled we
prepared to leave and a crew
Chukchee who had been on board
for two weeks just was sent
on shore with the natives
This fellow who was taken on
at St. L. Bay showed signs of
insanity all around to St. M.
and back and as we were ready
to start from St. L. he stabbed
himself near the right nipple
piercing the lung and then
jumped overboard but when
a rope was thrown him he

Chung to it till dawn on
board. It was curd for and
watched all night and showed
evidently the whole time trying to
get a knife from a sailor to
kill the Capt and some of
the officers.




We steamed slowly out around
the head marking the entrance
to the bay and as we passed
we saw a path leading in a
zigzag course up to the summit
where a shelter of stones ^{with} ~~was~~
seen - This look out ^{with} by the
by the natives to watch for vessels
in spring and another one was
seen by some of the officers near
the village on the out near
Spit.

We stood up along the
Coast for St. Lawrence Bay
Passing several native
villages before I turned in

June 27th

We reached the S. head of
St. Lawrence Bay and stopped before
a native village to inquire
for the Rumber Chief
from whom we expect to
get skins - We learned
that he is with his people on
Mechigme Bay and so
taking a man on board who
talked a little English we
went up to the mouth of the bay
but found it too full of ice
to pass the S. head of St. Lawrence
Bay the mouth of Mechigme
there are several villages
with a large one near the
latter place. There are
other places in Mechigme
and our interpreter gave
a large river flow into
the head of this bay.
About a hundred people
came on board when we

anchored off this latter
village and a more
villanous crew I have
not seen in the north
The men are tattooed
the women open dyed
as at Plover Bay the
women are similarly tattooed
but they talk differently
for neither I nor my
man could understand
a single word they said
these people are probably
all degraded Peleudes
people but their features
are very similar to
those of the Eskimo.
I secured some photos.
They brought on a lot
of spawning smelt the
males of which have a
curious keel shaped
development of the scales
on each side

King Eider ducks were
quite numerous in flock
all about. A man was
sent to call the searching
Omnibath but the Capt.
not wishing to wait for
him started up the beach
again. The natives use
Umjats etc. made from
the ribs to herand all
these boats are very straight
on sides with very slight
flaring and all carry 3 or 4
instead of 5 or 6.
A good man has a little
tattooing on face. One
man has a yellow dot on
each cheek near corner
of mouth  and
a boy was  seen
at Plover Bay with
the following on forehead
over each eye of which
reminds me of  the

Raven to Lem.
28th

Early in the morning
in a thick fog we
made the western Diomedes
and stopped to land 3 men
with an outfit for ascertaining
the current in the strait.
I fitted out & left my
men to collect some of the
sea birds which were in
myriads about the island
peeping up a continual
low humming noise and
looking like a swarm
of bees. A lot of natives
came on board they were a
far pleasanter appearing
crew from those seen
yesterday and I could
make myself understood
as they talk the Eskimo
vernacular closely allied to
that used at St. 7th.

Having landed the party we
stepped on post east Cape
a bold rocky head land and
for Cape Sledge. Came
a lot of the same black
winged gulls & gull
at Plover Bay kept in
the water all the day.
29th

Snow squalls all day.
We arrived in the morning
just off Cape Sledge. Some
inside which to the west
side of the Vega
mountains into the
The shore is bordered with
a couple of miles of low
marshy ice making it
difficult to land though
the native village is
plain sight.
A Pomarine jaeger in
black plumage - a lot of
King eiders, murre, Pigeon

guillemots, and drake
ducks and the gulls
before mentioned were
seen beside a duck
which I could not
recognize.

The water is about
38° today and a fresh
North wind.

We passed Cape George and
12 m. N.W. of there we came to
anchor off the village of Tapkan
for from 1/2 to 2 miles off
shore it extended a belt of
much ice with heavy
cakes strewn abundantly through
it which the steadily freshening
N wind with the accompanying
swell caused the cakes to toss
up and down about so to prevent
a boat landing much as I
wished to land. The entire coast
from E. Cape to this point is
high - from 575 to 2000 ft. or

over in barren hills.

We waited about just off a
high point which lies
just off the village of Tapkan
and which we afterwards
learned is an island with
a small bay inside - After
a time we saw a party of
natives appear on the top of
the island and then a flag
was seen and soon we made
out that the party was
after were there and very long
they were seen coming over
the ice with their light skin
boat and in a couple of hours
they were alongside the edge
of the ice which the heavy
sea was tossing about in
a rough manner a surf boat
and the tugs were sent off
and a line thrown out to the
men on the ice which they
made fast to their skin

boat and then the lifeboat
toward the buoyant skin boat
over the toxic mosses of
ice along the edge and into
the water. Once the boat was
turned ready over and
by a large ice cake hung
almost under the feet
of the men and we thought
all would be thrown into
the water but a moment later
they were floating safely in
the water free from the
ice and were soon on board
the ship. The party consisted
of 1st Lt. Herring & 3rd Lt.

with a sailor & a native from
near Bloss Bay as interpreter
beside a native from the village
who came off to be paid. The
party left their winter equipment
except arrows on shore with
their dog sleds and the
wind rising to a gale from

the north wind raised a chop
and started for us and the
ice could be seen to
the north though the wind has
been with the eye for some time.
Snow squalls and fog shut
down in the eve, and the
wind increased steadily with
a heavy swell. We learn
from the party taken on
board that they have seen land
on Keliichin Id. which they say
to be 1200 ft high by bar. I
advanced up the coast with
dog sleds carrying their
skin boat and sleds, things
at the rate of about 20 miles
per day and reached Cape
Orman where they left their
heavier things and made camp
26 mi. farther to Cape Wankarem
they found in the possession
of the natives a number of
articles obtained from

the wreck of a vessel
which came floating down
the coast from the 1850s in
the fall of 1880 and which
was drifted away to the N.E.
On this vessel the three
natives who went on were
seen four men lying dead in
their beds and the living
floor was covered with
water. The objects were
cut away with axes.

From what we heard
Hopper is quite sure this
was the wreck of the
"Vigilance" Capt. Nye - which
was lost in the ice the fall
of 1879. The party report
the natives along their route
up the coast except to
where we found them
to be all friendly, but very
curious and continually
annoyed them by their

inquisitiveness. I will
make some extracts from
the journal of Lt. Reynolds
upon this trip under a future
date - see

June 30th

We ran down and rounded
East Cape early this am -
passing a large village on the
north side of the point on account
of the heavy surf there from
the gale blowing on shore
from the N. at the time.
A few light snow squalls
during am - with fog
nearly all day in trapped
masses making over and
the rough tops of the mts
on the Cape & flowing down
in broad streams of water
through the canyons to
disappear in torn fragments
just way down the cliffs.
The hill sides abundantly

shown with long narrow
banks and sharp rocky
declivities down which
took blasts of wind in furious
gusts throwing up spray
in clouds from the top of the
waves and making what
are termed 'woolies' which
made the ship surge at
her anchor and rushed
through her rigging with
a loud humming noise
after we came to anchor
under the cliff close to the
village under the SE. point
which rises to
a height of 2500 ft
is formed by a loose and
disintegrating gray granite
covering the slopes with
a deep layer of angular
blocks like the hillsides
at Flower Bay. The
wind blew so hard all

day that we did nothing but
lay at anchor and not
a single native dared
come on board.

As we came around the
point we saw a small
cascade formed on a small
canyon near the water edge
which the wind kept
in a mass of spray often
lifting the water up and
tossing it in every direction.
The dark frowning
cliffs around whose stern
faces wheeled and turned
flocks of Kittiwakes (Puffins)
Murre and Auk with
a line of small cakes of
ice trailing slowly past
the point by tide round and
the heavy snow banks every
where on shore made a fitting
scene for this guardian
to the entrance of the Arctic




Summer house
East Cape.

As we approached the shore the houses each with the dark rounded entrance gave the appearance of a group of cliff swallows nests scattered irregularly about - We counted 54 houses which must contain at least 250 people and I believe more while another village of nearly equal size exists on the north side of the Cape. Ruinous underground houses the walls built up of stone and covered with earth were seen in the midst of the other houses but I did not find whether they

live in them during winter or not. Many pits showing former building sites were seen. Only women children with a few old men were seen in the place all the men having gone off to the vessel to trade their whalebone walrus ivory & white fox skins which these articles with some Reindeer skins are all that this coast produces except a villainous crowd of natives. Passing through the village we climbed the hill and saw a few snow buntings near the top and on the summit Ptarmigan, Snowy Owl. Flitting over the median slope was seen a single Budytes and a small flock of *Agrius* *linaria* passed over the village while I was there. Upon the brow of a ridge above the village was

situated the grave yard
as I approached it I came
upon a small black, one-eyed
dog with a hyena like
cast of countenance devouring
the remains of a dog of 12 or 14
yrs. old. Only the head and
chest remained - As I
drew near the dog slunk away
with uncanny tail as though
ashamed of its ghoul-like task.
The graves were scattered over
this & the adjoining ridges for
a mile or more. - The bodies
were mostly buried under
a foot or two of stones in a
hole, made for the purpose
and the body being always
stretched out full length.
In many cases rough plants
or sticks of wood were laid
over the top of all and held
in place by large stones and
among the stones crossing

the body usually at one side
was placed the ritual of
deceased, the spearhead
showing the owner and the dog
got-terrors and lumps the women's
graves. Above grave was
a large bear's (Polar) skull and
sometimes some deer horns -
On some arrow points I
saw the red the raven taken
= $\frac{1}{2}$ so common on the American
thorn. I was able to make
myself understood to these
people about as at Plover
Bay them appearing to be
the same admittance of the
Reindeer Chukchi -
The clothing & tattooing $\frac{1}{2}$
of the same pattern as noted all
along this shore. I found at
the graves a stone lump about
15 inches long shaped as
follows  and made of
some soft stone - also

A stone pipe zone
and a hammer stone
Here and there where rocky
soil gave foothold on the
wind swept slope peeped out
pretty and fragile flowers
of a orabala, ranunculus.

1 Cordamine, 1 Primula
a beautiful blue forget-me-not
a mystensia, Calina and
a Ranunculus - and a
Potentilla - several Carex
and a Poa formed the
plants in flower and
a dwarf willow - All
these plants are short
none rising over about
3 inches in height
and the bright and delicate
shades of purple, violet and
pink with white and
yellow which gayly spanned
the sunny slopes in the
lower & sheltered positions

made a pretty contrast
to the rugged rocky surrounding
and down two ravines danced
and plashed two snow and
rivers in a series of
cascades and rapids to run into
the sea at the base of the
cliffs around which circled
numbers of sea birds -
Prof. M. located ^{the location of} two great
ice sheets sweeping down
from the N. across this point -
This cape is formed by a
peninsula separated from
the main land by a low
neck across which the
ice sheet swept.

I went on board &
returned to secure ^{some} photographs
of the place but with poor
results owing to lack of time
and high wind -
Early in the afternoon
the Curwin got under

was and with a high
wind we stood across
the Strait to the larger
Diomedes Is when we
stopped barely long
enough to take on the party
left there on our way up
and then we stood
down into Fanning Sea
for Cape Tchaplina to land
for the interpreter for
the land party just taken
on board.

My man has secured
a lot of Crested, Parrot Billed
and least Auk, a few
Pigeon Guillemots & Bride
Eggs of the three ~~first~~ first
species which nest
abundantly on the
island beside murres, both
Puffins, Violet Green Cormorants
Kittiwaks and perhaps
other species.

July 2
Stood down the coast
until when off Cape Tchaplina
when we saw a lot of skin
boats laying off in our course
waiting for us we took them
in tow until all were alongside
numbering some 9 or 10 boats and
about 130 or 140 men and a few
women. Many of the natives all
along this coast talk English
which they have learned from the
whalers. Some of their expressions
are very funny given with
the odd intonation of the
words. Capt. H. says that when
he passed here last year
without stopping a man called
out from one boat "Captain, why
in hell don't you stop and
anchor?" [The interpreter
for tells us that the natives
on the N. coast told him
of boarding a few walrus hunters

when off Cape Derby a steamer
with three masts having
on board two Eskimos from
the American coast ~~and~~
one of whom had labret hole
in lip ~~and also~~ there
were also on board plenty
of dogs sleds - This was
two years ago and was
undoubtedly the Framette
on her way up - She was
seen just as new ice was
making in fall.

The natives came crowding
on board until the deck
was covered - all of them
bringing white - Fox skins
whale bone and walrus ivory
to trade - They said no vessel
had stopped there this season till
now - They were a good natured
set talking a mixture of Eskimo
and Reindeer Chutchi
I secured a few ethnologies

from them and also 16 fine white
fox skins for a robe. These skins
I paid a pound of tobacco (leaf) costing
22 cents ^{per each skin} or six boxes of Army Caps
for 5 skins -

About noon we passed on and
in the evening we stopped off at
Bay and left for with the
understanding that he is to accompany
us north if we spend the winter
in the Arctic.

We now turned toward St. Loo
which is our next halting place.

July 3 -

At 4 am the Capt. roused me
saying that St. L., was close
at hand - Dressing hurriedly
and after a cup of coffee in
the pilot house with the Capt.
the vessel came to anchor
off a small native village
and I went on shore in
the dingy to place with boxes
squirrel sacks to obtain

Cronia and ethnologica for
this is one of the villages in
which all the people starved
two passages - I found two
houses with about 25 people
and secured a lot of Cronia
and returned on board
When the Corwin raised anchor
and stood along the coast 6
or 8 miles farther east another
small village to another and
much larger place in all
by which the people were all
dead. The wind freshening
made a bad swell on the rocks
shore by this place and I
landed in the surf boat and
the dingy was sent in with
bags & tools. In the first
village the dead - with one
exception were all in the two
houses lying in their clothes
as they had died but at this
village which must have

contained about 200 people
nearly all of whom died. The sailors
soon made an entrance through
the roofs of two houses in a
narrow narrow passage and
interiorly I saw bodies about
as they had died the bodies were
all covered with their
clothing and curled up in
various positions as though
sleeping from death. In
one house there was a
pile of dead numbering 20 or 25
persons in one corner. In the
next house I saw a pile of
one upon the other in the
corner while those who died
last lay about on the beach
in 9 good numbers. In all
the houses the wooden dishes
of the place were turned
bottom up & kept in the boxes
as they were placed on the
stretched people who had

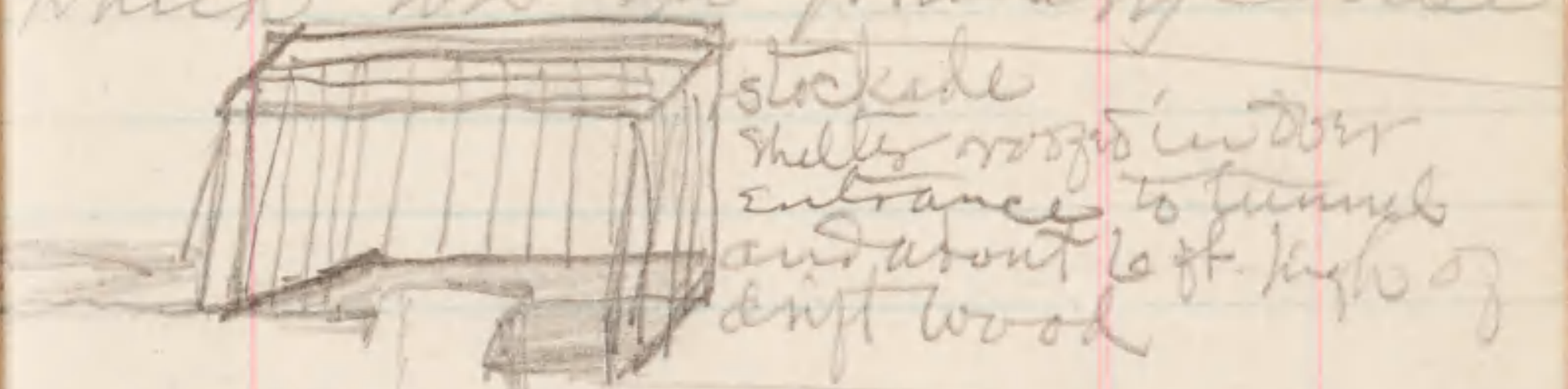
the misery of starvation left
 as their only gate. * Each of
 these houses however was
 closed from the outside as
 noted below. The following
 sketch shows the structure

of one of these winter
 houses. The tunnel is about
 20 yds or 25 yds long
 and has a



and frequently curved
 has a
 x is the chimney of a whole winter hollow
 (a, b, c, d = sleeping berths
 to one side in its course
 as though to prevent draughts
 various utensils, clay pots
 Kantags, arrows, and among
 the most valuable things were
 pieces of armos of narrow strips
 of bone laced together in an
 overlapping series. I secured
 various fine things and

saw scattered about guns,
 knives axes and ammunition
 showing that the people had
 means of procuring game if
 they had not lacked the requisite
 energy. In all the houses
 were empty whisky bottles
 and it was probably this
 which was the primary cause



of the deaths aided
 by some enervating disease
 and the resulting mention
 on the part of the people
 Ininga alpuha; Turnstones with
 Saddle-Lapland Longspurs
 Snow Buntings, Glaucous
 Kittiwake & Short Billed
 Gulls common & Emperor
 seem why I first landed also
 2 P.P.s. of the strange duck

have obtained in fall at
St. M - the males were
mostly white with some
black - I shot a female
of the party in the same plumage
as those shot in fall -
Several flocks of King Eiders
some Haploids (a lot)
Red Phalaropes, some
Arctic Terns and some
Amur's Thrush + Crested and
Parrot Billed Auklets and
a few Pacific Eiders with
one down (arcticus) makes
full the list of birds and
a small number of the
animals seen. Though
drawn about the village
were great numbers of
Walrus heads many
skulls of dogs which I
saw some footprints near
the village first visited -
The bodies of the people

placed outside formed a continuous
series from half a mile away
up to the very entrance to the
houses - becoming more
more numerous near the village
and the latter were apparently
pitched out regardless of any
of the usual care bestowed
in disposing of the dead
in some cases however the
body lay beside the entrance
in disposing it out with the
tools of the person at his
side - Two years had elapsed
the clothing of the dead was
leaving the bones covered with
the sun dried skin -
At 11 AM - I had secured
partly made collection
along the sea, seeing it was
difficult to subside though
there is still much of
value left - perhaps twice
as much as I secured

2019	Phalaris cristatella	♂
20	"	♂
21	"	♂
22	"	♀
23	"	♀
24	"	♀
25	"	♀
26	"	♀
27	"	♀
28	Parrot billed Auk	♂
29	"	♂
30	"	♀
31	"	♀
32	"	♀
33	"	♀
34	"	♀
35	"	♀
36	"	♀
37	"	♀
38	"	♀
39	"	♀
40	"	♀
41	"	♀
42	"	♀

2043	Parrot billed Auk	♂
44	"	♂
45	"	♂
46	"	♂
47	"	♀
48	"	♂
49	"	♀
2050	"	♂
51	"	♀
52	"	♂
53	Uria columba	♀
54	"	♀
55	Larus kotzebui	♀
56	"	♀

393 (32) eggs, insects of each *Simothyncha pusillus*

394 (23) " Parrot billed Auk

395 (32) " Crested Auk

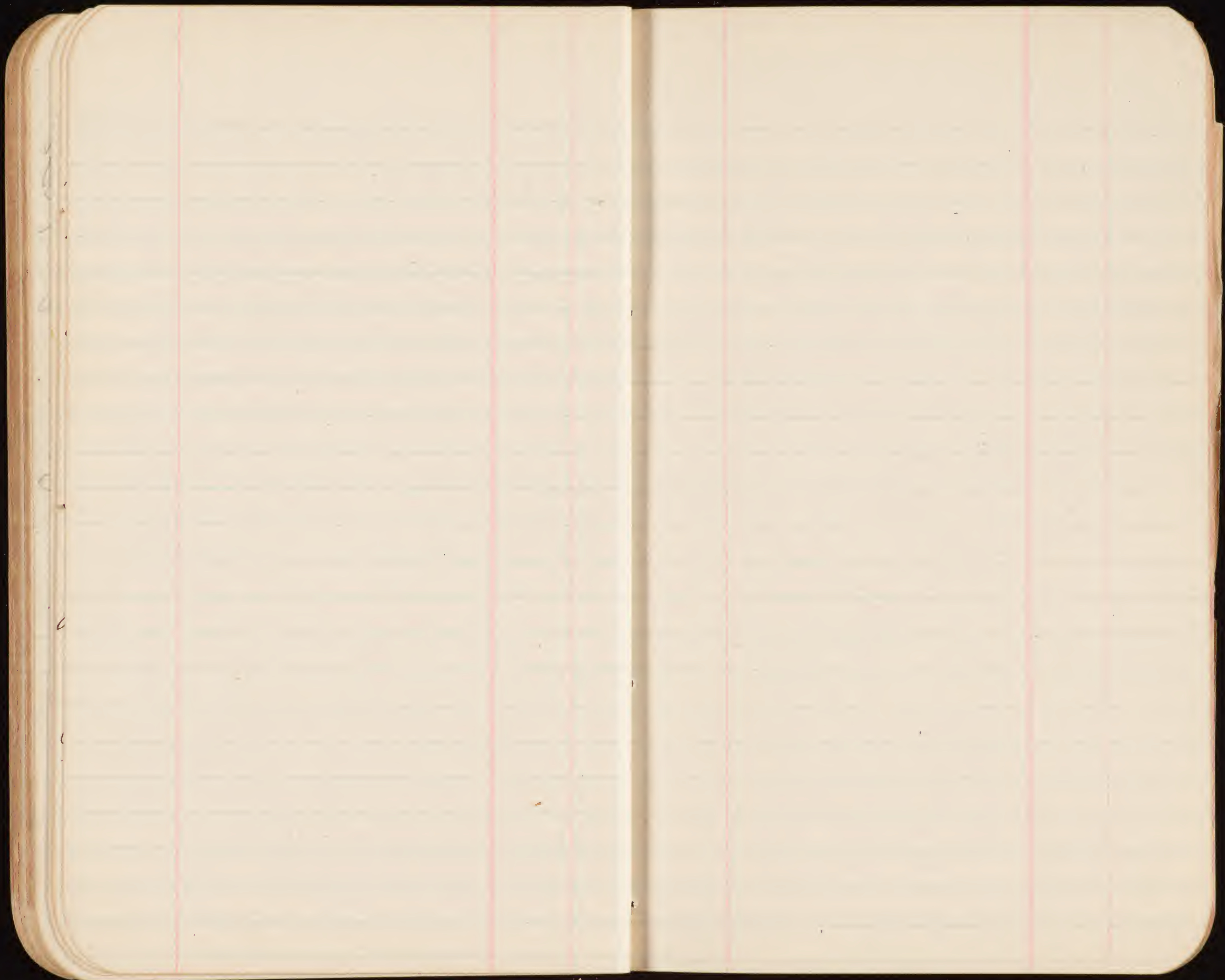
All these eggs were from the Diomedes Is. June 30 - July 1
 In the afternoon of the 30th we reached St. M. and found all well & everyone busy on the new north steamer which is being put up.

St. Lawrence July 31, 1877

Quite a lot of nice things
were brought me from
the upper Yukon by the traders
there.

The 5th 6th and 7th.

I spent packing and
completing my arrangements
for quitting St. M. there
is a striking change
between the Siberian shore
and here. Here the grass
flowers form a thick mat
and young birds are nearly
fledged while there the rocks
are half covered in snow and
the birds are sitting on unhatched
eggs. The surface of the
sea changes from 38°
near Plowss Bay July 20th to
 55° in the E. shore of Norton Id.



Yukon

Marmot

Sierraculata

L. O. J. p. 572-74

See description
Manx hawk
p. 94 & 95

~~In pale orange red
Gross~~

Am-dogs learning to howl from
 Eskimo dogs utter a most ridiculous
 quavering note that excites one to
 laughter - dogs howl when bell is rung
 and at noon - and answer one another

~~Cranes were seen in straight flight~~

~~foxes caught only when starved~~

Such fitch like objects are
 supposed endowed with reason

~~3 men going out in famine (thief) dogma~~

Eskimo says he likes drum & song better
 than organ as he understands the former
 while the latter is a meaningless noise
 in his ears - No god nor any name
 for a supreme being - (See worship plants

variously for thought) Review Oct, 1869 p. 42

and "Early History of Manhood" p. 42

Everything out of common is looked on as
 through supernatural interference

Killing Canada Jay Young as described Mercie
 and

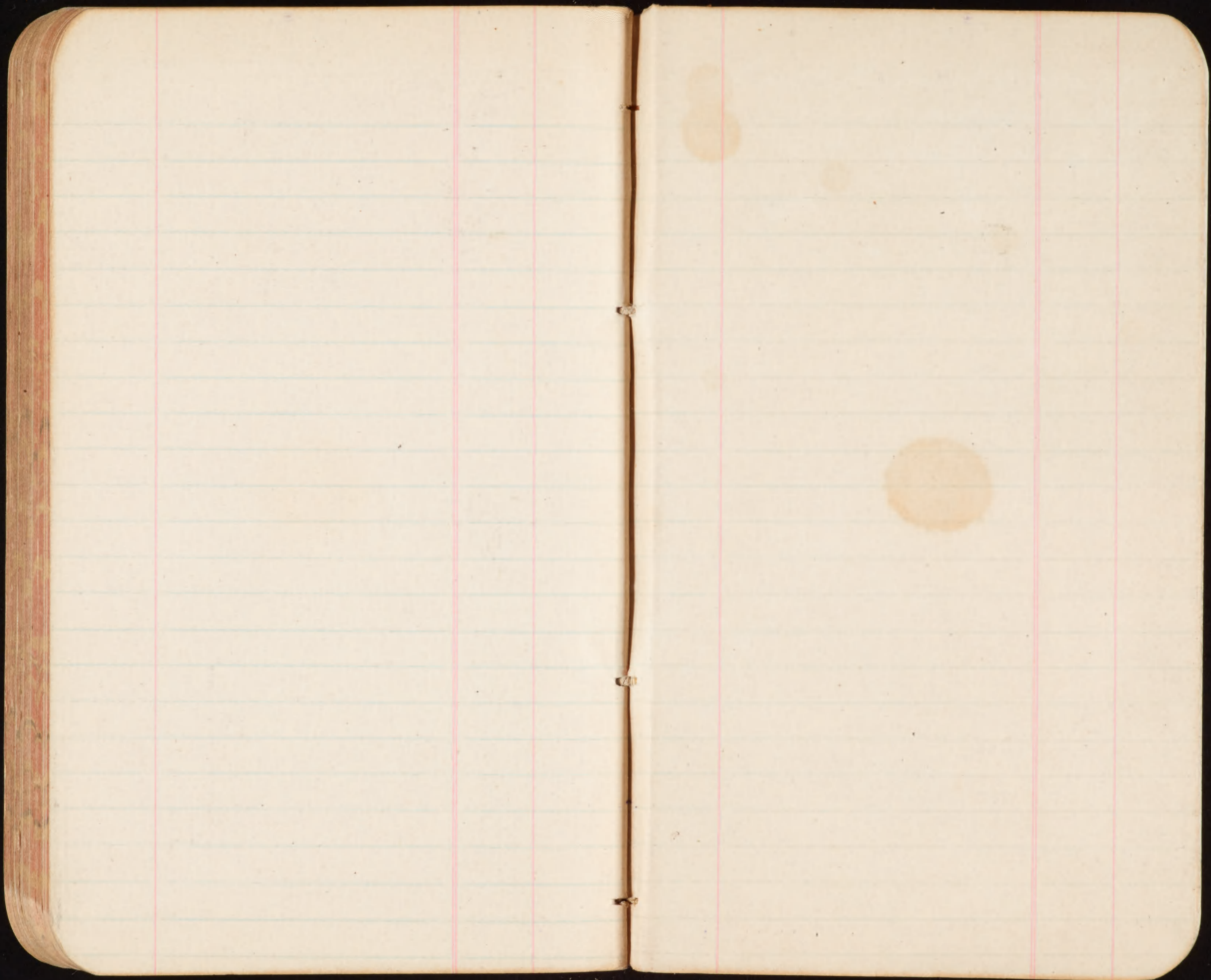
Ingalik mourning —
cleaning themselves with human
urine — etc —

White Owl catches the bones of dead
birds till the harp is exhausted. Ravens kill
jaws. Sometimes a pair of old swallows
are left 4 or 5 days before they
faint in a nest.

extent of
Moose den
Gukon

Marmot

Trinaculata
4110 a lechol



Sketch of Rocks on the side of the Lake
July 3 1881



On the 13th of July 1879
A meteor apparently
4 or 5 in. long in diameter
and moving from E. to W.
was seen at Ft. Reliance
Upper Yukon - it appeared
about 1/4 mi. high at first
and descended gradually
to within 200 yds of
earth when it vanished
or rather was extinguished
or came to an end.
The observer J. McQuesten says
the front was black becoming
red in the middle and from
the tail end flew a stream
of large red sparks which
would fall slowly toward
the earth for some distance
before becoming extinct.
The meteor was comparatively
near the observer when
it ended its career so
he is positive it was used
up and destroyed by the sparks
it gave out.

Among the Aleuts it is
believed that the Bears can all
hear & understand what is said
of them even though they are not
present & if they are made sport of
they will devour the seagulls.

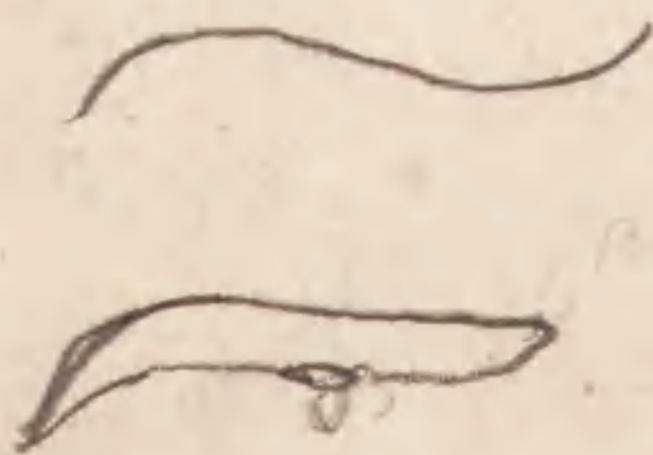
The Beaver is also thought to
understand anything he hears -
lifts his tail if told by hunters.

The Spirits of Seals understand
and talk same as men.

Mymanitely of a talking dog
made to talk & understand
by a shaman

All animals are believed to
have a Spirit -

After death of animal its
spirit haunts its old ground
invisible ? ?



Last No. Bird at St. M. = 1981

" " " nest eggs " = 391

" " " fish " = 319



Length of tail 12 2/5 in
chest " 8 " 11 1/2 " body dark

Mass of 16 lb.

Tail = 5

Head & occiput 2 2/5

