

Wm. W. ...  
... ..

July 12 to Sept 12

1881

Wm. W. ...

OK

~~W. H. ...~~

Ed Nelson

"Siberia in Europe"  
(Russia of the Petchora)  
Henry Seebohm  
Scitoner Fulford

Note Aug. 12.

As we were leaving Wrangell Land I saw two small seals come up a number of times close alongside the vessel. Both were smaller than or at most not larger than the smallest species of pupa at St. Michael's - their heads appeared entirely of a dusky chestnut color joined in a well defined line of demarcation by the silvery gray of the neck. The chestnut reached to the base of skull. Capt. Hooper tells me that he saw others of this same seal last year when cruising along the ice in this vicinity.

Landing on Wrangell Land

August 12

In the early morning the fog lifted a trifle and we stood back into the ice for the shore - We found the ice has seemed still nearer toward shore so that we only had about a couple of miles to steam through - The bare hills began to show faintly through the drifting fog & the jagged peaks of the hills stood out distinctly as we began pushing our way among the loose ice and right before us a small river could be seen flowing down a small cut between the rounded hills & emptying into the sea - As we thumped onward our way in through the ice mounds & hummocks of soft kethuak were seen but no other signs of life - The ice became so dense that we were obliged to stop & the propeller began grinding &

running until several times  
 the engine was stopped. This  
 with the wreck state of the rudder  
 fastenings made us apprehensive  
 of an accident for as we neared  
 shore we found here a  
 grounded case of ice in 8 to 9 1/2  
 fathoms of water, while the rest  
 of the pack of lighter but still very  
 heavy ice was running 1 1/4  
 miles per hour to the north along  
 the coast and should we by  
 chance be disabled we would  
 be swept off into the midst of  
 that vast unknown icy space  
 to the N - where in all probability  
 the Grinnell has met her  
 fate. As it was however we  
 were fortunate in reaching a  
 small open space of water,  
 the mouth of the small  
 river whose current keeps  
 the ice off shore a few rods  
 here & dropping the anchor

Position of the mouth  
 of Charles River - { 177° - 40' - 30"  
 71° - 04' - 00"



Mouth of Charles River, East Coast of Wrangel Land August 12, 1881

1 - position of Grinnell

The cutter was lowered & the Capt-Doctor, Major, Reynolds & myself landed upon a stretch of shaly beach made up of crumbling black slate upon which in the 1/4 mile of this beach lay strewn about a dozen drift logs varying from 1/2 inches to 1 foot in diameter at some places a small note trace of a former presence of snow was to be found but to our surprise there lay strewn among the other drift wood the following articles showing man's handiwork - stump of tree which had been cut with an ax - a small spur like a small boat's mast - a piece of board which did not look as made - two pieces of wood from some vessel both showing soft ash - and a double bladed paddle of

native make & the pattern of the jaw in use at Cape Nauyasoo and neighboring part of the Sitka Coast - All these articles showed from their position that they were undoubtedly near drift. They were scattered by two mouths and straggled on the small growing island & strewn there lay the skeleton of a <sup>right</sup> whale. To each side of beach landing the shore rose rapidly into cliffs of crumbling slate & captured in ~~strange~~ narrow strata showing different <sup>shades</sup> deep ~~strata~~ strata with a gray light ones on the left making the strange curves & angles more striking than anywhere. The country away from the shore rose in several rounded swelling hills becoming higher in the interior where however the hateful fog closed

its new welcome jobs to  
us but lifted ~~once or twice~~ enough to  
give a momentary glimpse  
at the base of some much  
higher mts. than any visible  
along the mountain side, regular  
dills forming the part of the  
coast. Unfortunately however  
the ~~most important~~ ~~over the~~  
top and ~~refused~~ ~~an~~ ~~un~~  
satisfactory glimpse at these  
ones which form 3 high peaks  
visible far off shore on a clear  
day. Capt. H. calls these ~~the~~  
Muir Mts.

The summits of the hills were  
very smoothly outlined & we  
could see by the faces  
of the cliffs along shore the  
strata and from above they  
regardless of the angle they  
took to the plane of the surface  
showing marks of the overlying  
glacial action.

As we came to anchor about  
ships length off shore a couple  
of ~~pairs~~ of sides Ducks (female)  
with a half grown brood  
rock swam gently away along  
the shore beyond the mouth  
of the river (some V-nigris) and on  
landing the pleasant chatter  
of a couple of ~~part~~ families  
of Snow Buntings greeted us  
as these party little fellows  
fluttered up from the top of  
the brush among the drift wood  
and took refuge some on  
the great snow bank half  
covering the face of the cliffs to  
the right while others scattered  
about in the vicinity ~~over~~ the  
hillsides & along the stream.  
The crumpling slate cliffs with  
ramifying veins, a white  
quartz straggling irregularly  
across the faces with the narrow  
snow blocked track at their bases

offered me inducement for my  
own to linger there so we  
left at noon Mr. Reynolds  
with the American flag and  
started on the glacially sloping  
hillside. As he neared the top  
the crew on the Corwin  
crowding the foremast gave  
us a loud & rousing cheer  
backed by the Corwin whistle  
to which we replied with  
equal spirits. Then we scattered  
about this way & that on the  
hillside. The rocks were not  
nearly from recent times  
and also were clearly on the  
shale slate covered the  
surface with fine soft fragments  
in spite of which however  
a sparse scattered vegetation  
dotting the ground here & there  
with some dwarf grasses & little  
shrubs to a stretch of barren  
desolation whose cold fog

obscure shows appear to  
repel any attempt to invade  
their silent ~~depths~~ and  
unknown wilds. Walking  
alone over the ground where  
ever I went was a dwarf of  
its species and where for ever  
one or two plants here seemed to  
sist a foot or more of crumbling  
slate & mud the utter  
desolation of the country without  
a sign of animal life seemed  
to strike into ones mind with  
a chill feeling impossible to  
describe. At five yards farther  
I reached the top of a small  
rise & was much pleased to  
see a Snowy Owl rise & fly  
hurriedly away though I  
was fully 200 yds distant  
from it a little later I  
found some remaining rocks  
in drift spots and near  
the banks of the river in two

places I found numerous droppings from wild geese showing that they visit this area, place though probably simply in passing on their way further to the north to the low land beyond the Cape just north of here. Just before we came to Anchorage this morning I saw a Red-throated Loon pass overhead winging its way toward this same low land the presence of which was also shown by the several flocks of black-headed Turnstones which were so common in the ice as we came in this bay. On top of the hill a Golden Plover was seen also numerous burrows of Lemmings or a closely allied Marmot and the tracks of White Foxes were seen to be numerous by all - and to close the list

of animals noted I may mention a strange little snake which one of the Sailors found dead upon the hillside & brought home (NB, this latter is in alcohol.) On the top of the hill to the right as shown in sketch a post or staff was erected with a flag & a bottle containing a record was hung to it. The best guide to this place is the remarkably shaped hills, which from Cape Corwin which are about 5 to 6 miles to the right of ~~Common~~ Clark River, and are shown in the sketch on the following page. Taken about 6 to 7 miles off shore to the east. By SE - everything showed black & dismal about the rapid passage along



10 miles N.W. of Clark's River

S.E. side of Mountain Sound August - 12-1881





Aug. 13<sup>th</sup>

Kept to the eastward all day along the pack which lay in an unbroken line to the north so that it was hopeless to try and get near Herald Island for some time. A heavy sea with high westerly wind all day increasing in the evening until the furniture &c in the cabin began sliding and tramping about. Thick & foggy showers all day.

Aug. 14<sup>th</sup>

Steaming for Cape Lithorne all day - warm showers from the W. all day, the temperature moderating greatly and rising to over 50° in the P.M. and the

water at surface to  
in the evening we  
sighted Cape L. 10 to 20  
miles to the southwest  
for the current setting  
northward along shore  
had put us out of  
our course thus far.  
The sea rolling to  
heavens to think of stopping  
at the Coal mine the  
Capt. headed us toward Jay  
Cape where we hope to  
have news from the "Webster",  
which was ~~lost~~ in the  
ice at last accounts.

Aug. 15th Jay Cape  
Steamed slowly up the  
coast all day and in  
the evening spoke three  
whales off walrus to the  
S. of Jay Cape. The  
protection was very

great and these vessels were  
in sight this morning  
at 8 a.m. & though we kept  
on at 3 knots per hour yet  
it was only until 4 p.m. that  
we reached the first one  
5 p.m. - when we spoke the  
two others (4 other vessels  
were also seen far off shore)  
and learned that the  
"Webster" was crushed in  
the ice July 31 and the  
crew all set on shore at  
Point Barrow and  
part of them had got down  
the coasters were on  
the vessel we spoke last  
viz. "John Howland" (New Bedford  
Rock) the Capt. returned  
on board from her & sent  
back for the Lt. mate of the  
wrecked vessel who was  
then & who soon after came  
on board and gave us the

following history of the  
loss of the vessel

On the 27th of July at 11 am they  
were closed in by the pack after  
speaking the preceding day  
having to beat to windward against a  
SW. wind. Their bow was headed  
on toward Point Barrow to the  
E. where the native village  
was in plain view. The natives  
came on board the evening  
before from this place.

At 12:45 PM the ice pack closed  
in against the immovable  
shore ice, a flaw of the whaler  
& her sides so crushed in  
below the water line that in  
30 minutes the water was up  
within two ft. of the deck &  
every one was put to throwing  
provisions, clothing & other  
necessaries upon the ice  
while as fast as this was done the  
captain on the ice who had been

on board who came off with sled  
began carrying everything away  
canned meats, pilot bread, salt  
meat and even the chronometer  
charts & sextant were carried off  
The boats were placed on the  
ice and with a few things they  
had saved from the natives  
the crew started ashore for the  
well soon after. The gilled  
was pulled over on her beam  
and thus held by the ice was  
carried slowly off to the north  
by the drifting ice which  
had closed in to a solid ~~flat~~  
pack, by the time as far as  
could be seen.

The moment the vessel  
became crushed the natives  
climbed aloft like monkeys  
and cut away all the sails  
which were dragged upon the  
ice they also stole the boat sails  
from the boat after the sails were

put upon the ice - the  
Capt. got out of their clothes  
chests upon the ice and was  
trying to get them ashore when  
a couple of natives offered  
help - took the chests down  
before long these men lay flat  
behind and were missed in  
a short time - the next  
morning the chests were found  
on the beach rifled of their contents  
and later natives were seen  
with the clothes bag, used to  
return anything. The chests  
& took of the natives were  
torn up & scattered about  
among the natives the latter  
refusing to give anything back.  
The natives were seen eating  
the canned meats & pilot bread  
broken taken from the ice  
and when they were asked  
for some by the wrecked party  
they said they would sell some

for tobacco. The natives brought  
seal walrus meat & fish, seal  
blubber and musk at St.  
Barrow for twelve days and  
then they came down the coast  
having a small boat with them  
and I saw the natives  
at St. Barrow they stopped at  
St. Barrow - a boat may  
be going down the coast  
led by the Capt. - they went  
to St. Barrow in Pt. Belcher  
they were not found to see  
if food on the way and were  
observed to boiling & eating grass  
while the Capt. was still going ahead  
were ~~observed~~ to four days with  
but two ducks between them.  
The Capt. (Clifford) & mate reached  
St. Belcher when they remained  
some time until finally the ice  
opened up sufficiently so that  
the natives started down the coast in

umiake to go to their summer  
meeting grounds and in four  
days from this start and on the 30th  
of July they reached the whaler  
"Coral". The crew ~~was~~ picked  
up in small parties along the  
coast from Pt. Belcher up to Pt. Barrow  
between this date and August 15th  
when the whaler first reached the  
point as we learned afterwards.  
After questioning the mate we  
started up the coast in the eve,  
with beautifully calm mild  
weather and followed the coast  
along as close as the soundings  
would permit in order to take off  
any people who might be left.  
The mate of the whaler told us that  
she was drifted off her anchor beam  
in the ice & disappeared to the  
north the day after she was  
crushed -

Aug. 16th Point Barrow.  
Arose in the morning to find us  
standing along shore on the coast  
with numerous fragments of  
drift ice here & there. Along shore  
with many large fragments  
a ground in from 2 to 6 fathoms.  
We kept along all the am-  
speaking several parties  
of natives who came off in  
umiake from some of the  
many small summer settlements.  
Scattered all along from  
Icy Cape north to Pt. Barrow  
each village numbers from 2  
to 10 conical lodges commonly  
covered with pieces of sails  
taken from the numerous wrecks  
which have taken place  
in the vicinity of this stretch  
of coast along Point Belcher  
called by the whalers the  
"graveyard" or no man's vessel

have left their bones here  
coolly in the am. we passed  
the Sea Horse Islands and  
just before noon a dense fog  
shut down upon us when  
only two or three hours run  
separated us from Pt. Barrow.  
We had to lay to and anchor for  
the numerous fragments of  
ground ice made it dangerous  
to proceed - During the next 3  
hours the fog raised & settled  
several times and kept us  
in a tantalized condition  
and at last after we had a  
glimpse of the settlement  
at Cape Smyth a party of  
natives came off & we learned  
that the last of the wrecked party  
was taken on board the  
whaler yesterday - We got  
on a little farther and the  
fog shut down again so  
thick that after running

about 4 miles we had to  
blew the whistle & without  
attracting attention from the  
4 or 5 whales which the natives  
told us were at anchor just  
off the spit of Pt. Barrow -  
Defies we had given up all hope  
of seeing the Point and the  
Capt. had almost made up  
his mind to turn back and  
find his way along the coast.  
The fog <sup>partly</sup> lifted, and some  
natives came off & told  
us the Point lay just ahead  
and directly the air cleared  
so that we saw the whalers  
at anchor close to the  
Village on the end of the Point.  
We were much pleased &  
steamed away at once and  
an hour or two at  
anchor off the Point Glass  
beared the Steam whaler  
Belvidere Capt. Owens.



The brig Legal Tender  
lay close by and reported  
herself just from S. F. with  
mail for us - which was  
brought off at once -

The cutter being cleared  
away Prof M. & I went on  
shore to visit the village  
while Lt. Myrick took

a set of observations for  
the magnetic dip & intensity.  
Landing among a lot of  
rough blocks of ice rounded  
near the edge of shore

Prof M. & I with an interpreter  
made our way across a  
wide stretch of shingle lying  
in successive ~~layers~~  
ridges reaching back

half the width of the spit  
and which extends from  
Cape Smyth to this extremity.  
Four vessels lay at anchor here,  
and 2 could be seen a

few miles to the N. The coast  
from little above Jey Cape  
upto Cape Smyth is elevated  
from 30 to 70 ft in an almost  
continuous alluvial bluff  
which, sodded out on top,  
stretches back to the low  
marshy ground which is  
everywhere in the interior.  
Scattered all along the  
base of this bluff we saw  
~~scattered~~ pieces of drift wood  
but not enough to be counted  
on for fuel for a party wintering  
here. From Cape Smyth the  
elevation land facing the  
coast to the S. descends to  
an elevation of 10 to 15 ft  
above summer high water  
and is reduced to about  
a half mile in width  
all the way from Cape S. to  
Pt. Barrow a distance of about  
8 miles of this narrow stretch

or spit separates the  
west of the ocean on the  
west from Elson Bay on the  
east and is made up entirely  
of pebbly shingle gradually  
rising in successive  
small ridges or benches from  
W. to E. for at least half  
the width of the spit and  
these mark the position  
of the ice and water in  
spring before the ice leaves  
showing according to the  
natives I questioned -  
Following this belt comes  
a narrower one sparsely  
covered with dwarfed  
vegetation and a thin sandy  
soil mixed with the gravel  
and shingle.

This silt flat is only 3 to 5 ft  
above spring high water  
and is limited on its  
eastern border by the

Sandy

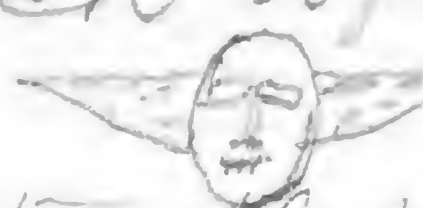
pebbly beach of Elson Bay.  
The native village occupies  
the highest part of the spit  
which is its northern  
extremity. Pools of stagnant  
water were quite numerous  
whenever the ground offered  
a suitable place -

Very little drift wood was  
seen along the spit - far less  
than to the S. of Cape Smyth.  
He reached the village about 8 PM  
and I tried to secure a photograph  
of the village in the ~~of~~ obscure light.  
The winter houses are built  
of whale rib or jawbone and drift  
wood frames covered with  
earth & turf on top which is  
bright green - their food or  
meat caches are built much  
in the same way of the same  
material except that in the latter  
the entrance is through a kind of  
trap on the top while the former have

the usual tunnel entrance  
standing close beside the ~~entrance~~  
caches and ~~the~~ winter houses  
are 4 post platforms upon which  
at 6 or 8 ft elevation are piled  
the nets - skins & various articles  
& utensils of household & hunting  
gear. Scattered irregularly  
among the ~~massive~~ dome  
shaped caches & winter houses  
and the platforms - were  
conical lodge shaped frames  
like all those seen along the  
coast this side of Cape Franklin  
only the numerous sockets of  
vessels along here have supplied  
these people with heavy canvas  
covers for them. - All  
kinds of whaling gear, bands  
guns, lances &c &c bread  
trunks, boxes & the various  
spoils from wrecked vessels  
lay scattered all about  
on the ground & on the

- platforms - Numerous umiaks  
lay along the shore & several  
Kajaks were seen all made  
on the same model as those  
at Kotzebue So - except that here  
at Pt. Barrow they are much longer  
while only the same width  
The tool & weapons of the natives  
were ~~very~~ nicely made of  
walrus ivory & wood neatly  
combined as the samples obtained  
will show.

Unfortunately it was so late when  
we were on shore that most of  
the people not on the vessels were asleep  
so we did not secure much -  
I saw a fine soapstone lamp weighing  
about 3 lbs. It was about 2 ft. long  
and 1 wide - and shaped & divided off as  
in the sketch  
Below.

Among the things I found were two masks with an attached board on the back as follows. I succeeded in  buying one after some trouble the owner, saying it was for use in catching whales. He had two little wooden models of right whale 3 inches long tied together by a line a fathom long and fastened to this mask. These whale models he refused to sell saying they were for use in the usual to catch whales. These are used by some kind of Shamaning.

The women here have remarkably mild pleasant appearing features while nearly all the men are marked by most villainously ugly faces showing the most evil looking community I have seen anywhere along the coast. Many even among the young men with lowering brows, short light drawn upper

lip with the projecting under one and the small vicious eyes give an animal like ferocity to their features that reveals their hideous character of cold blooded ugliness - There are about 300 people living here and 70 to 80 houses. ~~Tried to~~ I made some inquiries of the natives about the game to be found here or in this vicinity and obtained the following -

Reindeer numerous especially in winter on the low hills to the South-East of the point a couple of days trip with sleds - The natives gather in boats up a small river in spring - I saw a number of good deer ~~carcasses~~ bodies lying in the caches at the point - These had been killed in spring brought down the low temperature of the cache sunk into the perpetually frozen ground here but the flesh showed no signs of taint.

Great numbers of King Eiders  
with a smaller number of  
S. V-nigra nest on the tundra  
about Cape Smyth - Black swan  
also nest on these tundras with  
other waterfowl just now  
plentiful I could not learn  
the eiders can be killed in  
numbers at their flying place  
when they cross the spit about  
midway of its length. When they  
pass daily from Elson Bay to the  
sea & back - this lasts all summer  
while in spring eggs in nest  
moulting young ducks & geese  
may be had. In spring &  
fall fish are numerous  
are not uncommon all summer  
the fish are Dog salmon - Salmon  
Trout & a species of White fish.  
In spring & early summer  
Walrus are very numerous  
also again in fall - Seal are  
also common during the

Open season and are caught  
through ice in winter.  
Polar Bears are not uncommon in  
winter. From the numbers of  
white & red fox skins and Wolf skins  
in the hands of the natives it is  
evident that these animals are rather  
common at no great distance.  
We got on board about  
10 P.M. and were given until  
tomorrow eve. to prepare letters  
for sending down on the "Legal  
Tender" which takes on board  
a cargo of whale-bone & oil & leaves  
soon for S. F.

Aug. 17<sup>th</sup> Point Barrow  
Rain and fog most of the day  
Spent most of the time in preparing  
our mail - A lot of natives  
come on board in the afternoon  
and a collection of worse looking  
wretches it would be hard to  
discover - They have an air

of ill concealed spite which shows in the brutal sullen way they go about with lowering brows as though ready to perform some vile treason at a moment's notice. The whalers are afraid to offend them and are continually giving them presents which the natives rather look upon as their right and as we saw on some two occasions it required only a slight contradiction or any denial or demand to give their faces a sideward & gloomy expression though they were helpless & had to submit with as good grace as possible. Should a small party of men be set down here for a winter near these rascals they would be forced to lead a most miserable existence for not only would they lose

their property by constant pilfering or outright robbery but their lives would lie in the hands of any desperado (of which every place along the coast boasts a few) whose whim should lead him to organize a treacherous attack (See Shepard Osbornes "North-west Passage" for magnificient account of these people and I can vouch for their not having improved in any way except to have better arms since then.) The whalers have up to date kept the people here supplied with torch lighting rifles & fixed ammunition and though there was no whiskey to be seen yet it is a common thing for the whole settlement to be on a grand drunken bout in summer. Winchester rifles are common

all along this coast and  
At Point Hope we saw one  
native with a Sharp's Rifle  
while I saw several natives  
at Pt. Barrow showing cartridges  
for this gun & asking for more.  
In fact the first request they  
make when opening trade is for  
cartridges which being refused they  
turn to something else.

The evening shut down gloomy  
& wet

The current runs from  
a west to one or half around  
this point at present.

Open water only extends off  
10 to 15 miles to the north  
and west. The Capt. of a  
whaler here tells of  
being shut in the pack  
off to the north of here a long  
way and remaining fast for  
a month. A large part  
of which time he was

19 days at anchor  
70 C. distance Hope  
21 to drift

lying alongside a great floe  
of level ice reaching off  
as far as he could see to the  
north from the mast head -  
He remained here for days  
so motionless that the drift  
lead was not stirred from  
its original position on  
the bottom. Afterward the  
pack opened out & he with  
another vessel near by  
managed to escape.

August 18 - Left Pt. Barrow

Early in the morning a number of  
whaling Captains came on board  
before we were up and invited  
the cabin ~~to~~ <sup>to</sup> leave  
to get a little farther on along  
the N. shore ~~and~~ they came  
to say goodby and leave some  
letters on board. They expressed  
much pleasure at the prospect  
of their being a signal station

located here.  
When we were steaming all  
along shore ~~on the day~~  
as from Point Belcher  
~~Red & Black-headed Loons~~  
were common - also numerous  
flocks of Red Phalaropes and  
King Eider Ducks with a  
few V-nigra

Long-tailed Gulls were also  
quite common - A few days north  
of Jay's Cape saw a pair of  
Knob-billed Auks close by  
the vessel - these auks  
also the same species is  
common at the L'Anse-de-  
Belcher.

When we landed with us were  
quite a number of Banks  
Sandpiper and the Black  
headed Turnstones were  
seen about some small  
pools. Also a few small  
Brantings and today

The Arctic tern was quite  
numerous darting about  
attacking its shells -  
The Pomarine Skua common  
all up the coast was here  
also and the natives brought  
off some Black Grouse just  
killing their wing-bathes.  
At 2 P.M. our small wind  
on board the tugat under  
anchors steamed away  
down the coast just as it  
began blowing a stiff SW  
wind - which lasted until  
evening and with the  
current against us made  
our progress very slow.

Aug 19  
Passed Point Belcher in  
the morning and kept  
along shore the coast  
all day as the wind was  
strong on shore was too heavy



to permit a landing at Pt. Belcher  
as we had hoped.

Aug. 20th

Steaming down the coast all  
day. We hoped to be able  
to coal at the mine near  
Cape Beaufort but this was  
ruined by a heavy fog with  
foggy weather so the idea  
had to be abandoned.  
The Coast was over for  
a short time at ~~the~~ near  
Cape Sabine (to the south of)  
at the mouth of a small  
river to look for coal  
but we found none &  
was obliged to return bringing  
some fossiliferous sandstone  
We then passed on and  
left Cape Lisburne behind  
about 5.30 PM - The rough  
frowning cliffs of this tall  
headland stood out under

a cap of dense fog whose  
ragged and gusted frayed  
drapery obscured the brow of  
the cliffs and shed a pale  
peculiar light over the  
green brown of the cliffs  
whose aged wrinkles, crevices  
and water worn scars  
stood out strangely. Down  
several narrow cut channels  
ran small foaming streams  
of water dashing into the  
sea at base. Tall about  
appearing. The sea was in  
at fog circled the heads of  
murres & Kittiwakes,  
just at dark about 9 PM  
we passed Point Hope  
upon which the sea was  
breaking in huge white  
rollers. The wind & sea which  
had been heavy ever since we  
left Cape Lisburne  
were still heavier, and

The Coowin went staggering  
along under sail & steam  
about 8 1/2 knots per hour.

August 21st

Standing along all day across  
the straits to Kotzebue Sound  
toward the Diomed Islands.  
In the afternoon a fog set down  
of variable thickness but denser  
toward evening.

We reached the Straits and  
passed through late in the  
evening. The fog and darkness  
prevented any sight of the  
shores or islands being seen.  
This is a notorious place  
for fog.

Aug. 22nd

A gale from the S. all night  
with the current against  
us kept us in the straits  
until the morning as the

foe set down pitchy dark and  
forced us to go under little  
steam for fear of striking.  
The fog & misty rain fell all  
day with the wind from the  
same direction & rising in  
the afternoon to the same time  
the fog increased so much  
in density that between 4 & 5  
P.M. we were forced to anchor  
with the kedge out.

Aug. 23rd

Fog with gale from the SE. & S. all  
day we steamed & sail about  
slowly all day but the  
dense fog precluded the idea  
of trying to get into Plover  
Bay though we cannot be far  
away from that place.

Aug. 24th - Plover Bay

The fog lifted in the early  
morning and we steamed  
ahead all day reaching

Plow Bay at 5 PM -  
When the fog lifted we found  
that the current had set us back  
75 miles since we passed the  
strait. Capt. H. says it runs  
an average of  $1\frac{1}{4}$  knots per  
hour with a temperature of  
about  $40^{\circ}$ . The bare, repellent  
faces of the mountains  
abut on top by caps of  
snow & grim & stark  
came steaming into the harbor  
and found a snow bank behind  
the spot the schooner Golden  
Horse with Lieut. R. Ray  
and his party of men on board  
on their way to establish a  
station at Point Barrow  
for the Signal Service.  
Ray wishes to explore the  
Colville & Nunatog Rivers  
and if the ice is sufficiently  
favorable hopes to make a  
journey off to the NE. over

the ice to try and discover a  
new land in that direction  
This plan had already been  
in my mind and I think  
it will be very likely to  
succeed unless the roughness  
of the ice prevents.  
Mr. Murdock an ornithologist  
is in the party and Lt. Ray  
assures me that he intends  
paying attention to the native  
customs and beliefs.  
I presented the Lt. with my  
sledge and Capt. H. gave him  
a small sled & a lot of  
deer skins which will  
be very useful to him.

Aug. 7<sup>th</sup> - Plow Bay -  
Lt. Ray came on board  
to breakfast this morning  
and after a chat on his  
plans and then the  
Corwin took the schooner

in tow & took her  
outside the heads when  
her sails filled with  
a light breeze - Ray  
went on board and  
I we saluted her with  
the whistle & flag & she  
dipped her flag. Stood  
off up the coast toward  
Point Barrow. The Lt.

says the charter for this  
schr. to take the party to  
the point & find the whole  
party of 10 men amounts  
to 4000 and his charter  
and outfit to not over  
2500.

As soon as we cast off  
the schr. was returned  
to our anchorage & the  
crew were employed all  
day as usual.

I took a turn on shore  
in the afternoon but

only found some King Plover  
& a little sandpiper and  
a single Budytes flavus  
a single Raven

all the way down the coast  
from St. Lawrence Bay the three  
species of Auks common on the  
Greenland were numerous  
were also the Murre, Kittiwake,  
Puffin Fulmar  
2 species of Puffin & a  
number of Murrelets & Pigeon  
Gullenots - I have not seen  
the Marbled Gullenot to pass this  
season and do not know where  
it breeds though it must be  
somewhere along the coast.

The Glaucous-winged Gull  
were rather common &  
also King Eiders flying in flocks  
to the south with also some  
V-throated Scoters. The first  
Eider seen was passing  
southward today after we left.

An albatross (same common in  
Aleutians) was seen as we came  
into the Bay the other day.  
Cape Ludovick coming down  
where several flocks of King  
eiders were seen passing  
south.

## Aug. 26 Flook Bay

Raining heavily all last night  
but cleared up early this am - and  
the sun remained covered with slow  
moving clouds high over the tops  
of the mts. A light mist barely  
shaded the surface of the water  
all the day. The steam launch  
was made ready and soon after  
started taking a couple of  
natives from the spit along for  
intermediate, the Capt. started up  
and started up the bay to visit  
a camp of Eskimo hunters  
living there according to the  
natives. The steam launch  
sailed up the bay past the mouth  
of the harbor where

20th Sept. Flook Bay  
21st Sept. Flook Bay  
22nd Sept. Flook Bay  
23rd Sept. Flook Bay  
24th Sept. Flook Bay  
25th Sept. Flook Bay  
26th Sept. Flook Bay  
27th Sept. Flook Bay  
28th Sept. Flook Bay  
29th Sept. Flook Bay  
30th Sept. Flook Bay

Moors wintered in the Flook Bay  
on up the main arm of this  
deep glacier fjord.  
On every side the mountains  
rise abruptly from the water in  
cliffs and sharp slopes of  
granite and jagged granite  
whose summits made a  
serrated line 2 to 3000 feet  
above the water. The sides  
of the slopes are a dull gray  
mottled with white quartz  
scattered over with rounded  
a whole lot of a pale reddish  
that sometimes the mts. have  
an appearance of redness  
all - deep narrow & deep  
along the sides - sharp ridges  
along which serrated lines of  
spurs and peaks of weathered  
granite showing jagged line  
This combined with the  
almost total lack of vegetation  
which shows the red bare rock

in harsh satiating repetition  
in forbidding prominence  
gives an air of desolate  
and deathlike impressiveness  
to a scene which seems to  
weigh down upon one's  
like some wild and reluctant  
dream-scene. The presence  
of numerous waterfalls in  
the bay only appears to add  
to the wildness of the scene  
for their quick and  
dangerous or the whirling or  
gliding by one to find wings  
with voiceless motion all  
in keeping with the rest and  
one might make these the  
wild spirits of this solitude  
while the snow white hills  
at a distance would pass for  
gentler spirits but in this  
voiceless wild upon the  
stillness which the impatient  
puffing of the little steamer

broke like an ill timed interruption  
Here & there at the base of the  
cliffs a small patch of  
green show where a little  
soil had lodged & furnished  
the plants a chance to gain a  
foot hold.


As we passed along many Mormon  
Linnæata were seen & a few  
M. cirrhata when we first started  
Phalaris pectinatus was also  
quite common & several which  
I caught were found gorged to  
the bill with small crustaceans  
which abound here.

Mottled Guillemots were also quite  
common along shore with  
Pigeon Guillemots. A number  
of violet green Cormorants  
and some Glaucous & many  
Kittiwakes (as before)

After about 3 hours steaming  
we approached the rest of the  
bay which we found closed

back in an amphitheatre  
like valley a mile or two  
road by S. Long - upon the  
knoll-like summit of the  
main spit at the head of the  
bay with the stone built cells  
and the houses of the  
for the wintering party  
The grass on the plain was  
scattered about half grown  
not very tall, and the  
and small pieces of  
wood as though the  
had been abandoned  
for some time. A hundred  
yards farther along stood  
two of the oval or round topped  
tents of the Reindeer  
we were in search of  
who were all out looking  
at our approach. They  
and sent their  
were made of numerous  
of old worn deer skin

a great piece of patchwork  
of not less than 200 pieces. The  
men who met us were two  
tall young men - sons of a  
tall dignified middle aged man  
who was the husband of one of the  
women who came down  
father of a girl of 20 years -  
so old whose hair dressed in a  
braid on each side of her  
hung fastened with strings of  
beads. She was quite clean  
features with a light complexion  
for a native. This family occupied  
the larger tent which stood inside  
A house or small tent in  
which lived an old couple  
hangers-on of the other family.  
Both tents were extremely  
filthy both inside and out  
the ground being covered with  
garbage so that the whole  
camp smelled very badly.  
On the same side of the ledge

As time went on under which  
lay a mass of filthy despoiled  
skins scattered about on the  
ground inside the house were  
a few wooden trough like things  
some of which were filled with  
clothing and small articles - some  
had bladder skin shoes  
filled with oil or bear tallow  
and in one corner a tub  
of wooden ware filled with  
fish, mostly salmon trout  
This with a few small strips  
of pieces of seal walrus skin  
line, stone marrow-bone  
cracker -  a few  
wooden kettles holding water  
and a couple of Mountain  
Sheep-horn water dippers  
comprised the rest of the  
house furniture except a  
single stone lamp with some  
chips of wood at Cape  
Wankarem. The house

offered the Captain some deer  
fat in a piece of intestine but  
he politely declined.  
Several Eskimo dogs were  
wandering about outside  
sniffing suspiciously at our  
heels and some of the usual  
Chukchee model sleds  
were seen standing against  
the outside of the tent with  
a half dozen deer sleds  
made on the same model  
but for much heavier material  
Against several of the  
sleds stood brightly polished  
tray spears on shafts some  
~~two~~ a few long. The man  
pointed out a hole torn in  
the side of the tent where a  
Brown Bear came down  
to make an entrance one  
day when the women were  
then alone and after making  
a lunch upon some Rabbit



standing in line he walked  
back to the hills leaving  
the women to recover their wits  
at the end of the day. Some piles  
of money they outside were  
shown as being earned there  
and he got going to some way  
the hills to the end of the  
when the men were  
They were of the same  
polished and polished  
shirts made of mountain  
wood  
The journey had not  
the same and I looked  
for the day when the  
land then was in the  
ground the first of the  
when we saw that  
We departed the  
we had the road  
the we young  
took back  
started

rocky valley at a loping  
trail with the spring pit  
of practiced mountaineers  
men like all the  
many of the men  
Cap. ... straight ...  
looking man with ...  
neck ... long narrow face  
as compared to the ...  
They all ...  
which they ...  
could ...  
who ...  
with them ...  
a favorable impression  
honesty ...  
The ...  
when at last ...  
drew some ...  
a ... into the ...  
The five young men ...  
... along and ...  
village had ...  
the houses when they ...

the deer) we went down out to  
meet them as the old man told  
us the deer did not like to come  
near the houses when the dogs  
were. Passing over a mass of  
broken covered knoll with  
various plants filling the  
interspaces forming the  
densest mat of vegetation we  
had seen in the vicinity  
we came to a meadow like  
flat through which ran  
several small streams  
which kept the vegetation on the  
meadow bright green and  
dotted with blue flowers  
through the trees we passed  
down through the meadow  
valley again in the heart of the  
woods - into came a herd of  
about 200 reindeer their  
sleek coats glistening in the sunlight  
they rambled gently along picking  
a mouthful of grass at intervals

at intervals or playfully  
shaking their heads at one another  
once I saw one meet another  
kind first & shake at another  
with motions of the feet  
thus they save some of their  
time in the way and in the  
night do until they were  
wide in front and then  
they passed down and  
then the young things which  
came following in the herd  
began playing around  
about I got out of the  
of several I think of the herd  
they are beautiful animals  
they have slender horns, and  
shiny eyes and sleek coats  
of rich dark brown or mottled  
milky white and brown make  
a picture of strange & rarely  
handsome. The jaws all  
the herd has their horns velvet  
though some of them had begun to

shed it & it hung in long strands  
from their hands looking like  
Spanish moss hanging from the  
branches of a dead cypress -  
We told the natives we wanted  
to buy two deer & they said  
they would sell us the flesh of two  
fawns but that they would not  
part with the skins - I tried hard  
to get them to kill an odd one  
so I could get ~~its~~ its skin for  
a specimen but they refused  
saying they needed the skins  
to load their sledges with all  
their effects when fall comes  
and they have to get out from  
the mountain valleys to the  
tundra where there is less  
snow. Each young man went  
to the herd & walking up to  
a fawn caught it by the  
leg & separating it a little  
from the herd had his companion  
hold it ~~with its~~ by the head

while he took his knife &  
placing the knife point over  
the heart on the left side &  
sliding it with the left hand  
made a quick thrust & a  
second turning motion & the  
lock of the ~~head~~ <sup>head</sup> fell  
into the chest cavity - The knife  
was thrown as soon as the  
deer was dead on <sup>the</sup> side.  
The old woman then came  
up & taking some blood from  
his out she would ~~be~~ <sup>be</sup> ~~be~~  
think the deer was dead. Away  
from the animal a snow bank  
of the ice was the skin laid  
at <sup>ground</sup> a ~~low~~ <sup>low</sup> ~~side~~ <sup>side</sup> with leaves &  
things under the fawn nose and  
then poured some animal <sup>fat</sup> ~~fat~~ <sup>fat</sup> ~~fat~~  
partly into the side of the fawn  
mouth as it lay open - Then some  
more upon the throat & more  
just above the knife wound.  
The above was all the ~~observed~~

noted and as soon as the parties  
were fairly dead the women  
skinned them.

They said if they had not the  
skins of these animals that  
the next winter the dogs would  
have died or had to be content  
with the skins by paying  
them.

The young fellows then stepped  
to the coast & each shouldered  
a kayak & brought it to our  
boats getting our things on  
board prepared to sail. They  
then went out to the old  
passages came up & showed  
an empty house, which was  
captain present by him with  
a bear one of which he  
uttered an explanation of  
passages & tried to show the  
captain about the sailing  
conditions of the passage  
at camp. He then

were covered with a thin  
disease (psoriasis) - so his  
visit was declined.

We started out 3.00 PM -  
reached the coast  
at 7 PM on the 2nd day  
the way up we had seen  
and on the 3rd day

I secured a few more  
of one of the Eskimo men  
which he then told me  
the coast was not  
the best place to  
to get here today they are  
belonging to the Eskimo  
the time of year.

I shot a Redpoll Gull just  
as we approached the ship -  
I secured the following  
short list of Eskimo  
words to day.

- White Bear *tem ka*
- Green " *kan gam, ken gan*
- Mountain Sheep *ki ti pah ran*

1. Kung-moo Kiu rāng  
 2. Hild " il u wī' lū  
 3. Bao át au  
 4. Sleh ū rū ōr  
 5. Nūn ō  
 6. Nū rōk (in pithy)  
 7. Nū rōk  
 8. Nū rōk  
 9. Nū hū k  
 10. Nūn mit kung  
 11. Nū rā  
 12. Am gō rōt  
 13. Nūn a rān rā  
 14. Nūn gō kām  
 15. Nūn = Kū lān

Brown bears in the mountains here  
 are very large in height  
 and are used for sweeping up water from the mountains  
 that occur in the river. The bears are very  
 fierce and will attack a man if he  
 goes near them. The lower end of the  
 mountains is a forest.

While at Port Bay we learned  
 that a Russian steamer had  
 been here & gone north and  
 that the "Rodgers" steamer  
 search ship steamer left  
 here for St. Michael about a  
 week ago.

Aug. 27 Left Port Bay  
 Early in the morning we  
 steamed away from here  
 & headed for Barings Is again  
 into a dense fog which  
 hid everything from us outside  
 a hundred yds radius.  
 Nothing of interest today.

Aug. 28 Arrived  
 Barings Is all the day -  
 In the afternoon we stopped  
 at the large house on the  
 for a few hours as the dense  
 fog & heavy drizzle pouring  
 into the straits made it  
 nearly impossible to proceed -  
 The night on shore we  
 bought a number of ethnological  
 objects from the natives here  
 living in houses half dug in  
 the side of a hill and formed  
 inside of rough dried planks  
 like all the houses about the

Alaskan coast turns on  
sledge & thing so. In place  
of dirt the outside of the house  
is protected by a rough rough  
upright wall of stones with  
an arched stone covered  
passage way 20 to 30 ft long  
leading on a slight incline  
up to the floor of the room  
where are oval openings  
admits one to the room  
with benches on each side  
3/4 ft from the floor.

This is the winter house  
it is the usual delight  
and is covered with stones  
of a red white yellow and  
built upon the surface of the  
ground with a simple arch  
entrance of stone or shales  
and the house generally  
much smaller and built  
carefully articles from the  
interior placed upon the

posts over the entrance to the  
summer house or close by it  
is erected the coaks for the oven  
furnace & skins. The frame work  
is of this or of wood but  
the sides & roof are made of  
walrus hides & covered  
with oil.

Some of the houses have an entrance  
to the summer house through  
a short stone room or tunnel  
built up of wood & stone  
A note, perhaps the house has  
benches for a number of  
where they have some things  
The house is very small  
2 ft in height to the top  
them to make to the  
Chukchee at least 10 ft  
It is a little interesting  
and some now they have  
to incur much trouble  
to get the things in  
and some will not

3 & 4  
zone across among the  
step ~~steps~~ here.

I tried to get a better view  
but found that they had  
taken all their things  
apart & showed the skins  
for the summer.

The Phalaris cristatella  
is molting its orange  
colored bill or mandible  
giving quite a different  
impression to the head  
and - A young Albatross  
like the one seen at Point  
Bar was seen just as  
we anchored today.

The following sketch shows  
the parts in which the  
bill ornaments are shed  
of Phalaris -

Obtained a partly albinos  
specimen of the ~~crissal~~ and  
the ~~crissal~~ today



- 1 = 1st shed
- 2 = 2d " "
- 3 = 3d " "
- 4 = 4th " "
- 5 = piece shed with 1 & 2 or 3 at most

The sketch below is of a scallop lamp  
seen at Point Barrow - The lamp  
was 2 ft. long - 10 inches broad and  
weighed about 30 lbs.



Aug. 29<sup>th</sup> Post Cape Serby  
Steaming on toward the NE,  
Cape of Wrangel Land with  
a rough sea & heavy wind  
from the NE, all day -  
Passed Cape Serby in the  
PM - and were out of sight  
of land to the west of  
Rogers Fulmar etc.  
Pomarine Gulls very  
Numerous in the PM

Aug. 30<sup>th</sup> Wrangel Id.  
Wind to sea as yesterday  
kept on our course till after  
noon when land was seen  
and was raised rapidly  
until when we were only  
about 20 miles off Wrangel Id.  
when we found the ice  
forming a thin sea which  
shut off in front of us -  
extending far away to the S -  
also to the NE - so we

backed out & stood along the edge  
of the pack which this NE wind  
is pushing steadily along down  
the shore - we had to get  
in to Herald Is. - around to  
the north of this pack but it  
is very uncertain.  
No trace of snow or low snow  
could be seen and but very  
few snow banks were visible -  
The ice is much as when we  
left at this part of the coast.

Aug. 31<sup>st</sup> Herald Is.  
Early in the morning we stood  
back around the ice to the  
north and peaked in for  
Herald Is. which came in  
sight in the middle of the forenoon.  
The high north east wind and  
heavy sea which continued  
all last night increased  
much during the day that  
soon after noon we were



forced to lay to about 10 miles from the island -

By eve, a heavy gale and a very heavy sea made the crew in solid plunge about in a very peculiar manner.

### September 1st

The gale & sea from the NE, continued with increased violence all day and we kept our position, 1.00 E to 0.00 W for it was so rough that had we tried to go <sup>any</sup> further the boats on the deck would be rolled under and washed away - As it was they were frequently displaced and into the main cabin and had rolled over and the deck was completely washed by the heavy surf.

The at 1.00 W to 0.00 W

### Sept 2

Said too in the still continued gale from the NNE until 2 PM when the rudder ~~stop~~<sup>was</sup> was broken by a heavy sea - As soon as this was repaired at 3.00 PM we got under way and started off for Kaituma S. We were continually slipping down in the sea - took in two boats on deck to prevent their rolling into the water during the heavy sea (the rudder is so weak from its being broken & poorly mended the first part of the season - numerous small squalls all the first two-thirds of the day - The day was very - with the swarting waves of a dark sudden darkness becoming in the Cor when about the sea's choppy and everything

at 1.00 W to 0.00 W

Combined made the outlet  
watched by me as you see.

September 3<sup>rd</sup>

The wind east, and  
very light all day. The tide  
subside still running from  
the point but having continued  
the temperature rising  
than before and now it will  
for the ice which kept the  
Dune hidden it would be  
impossible to see.

Just before eight PM we  
left the ledge & came to  
anchor to wait for the fog  
which did not clear but we  
sounded a current of 3/4 a  
knot setting to the NW -  
a number of Rodgers  
Falma saw one knob  
but seen during the  
day. We are probably lying in  
the vicinity of Pt. Hope.

Sunday

September 4<sup>th</sup>

Said too in the fog until  
noon when we got under  
way & steamed slowly to the SE by  
E. - Some Arctic Terns  
stayed common gulls  
glauca & the gulls were also  
about about noon  
The fog kept on all day which  
giving a misty or dense  
in the air that we came  
to anchor at 10 PM for the  
night.

Monday

September 5<sup>th</sup>

The wind was at 10 AM - at  
11 AM along our course toward  
the head of the bay. The fog  
was thick. A solitary Redpoll  
Linnets strayed off in the fog  
& came aboard early this  
morning for a time and then  
departed. On the night of the  
5<sup>th</sup> the water was full.



Native village on S.W. coast of Seward Peninsula  
Cape York, Alaska, August 1881

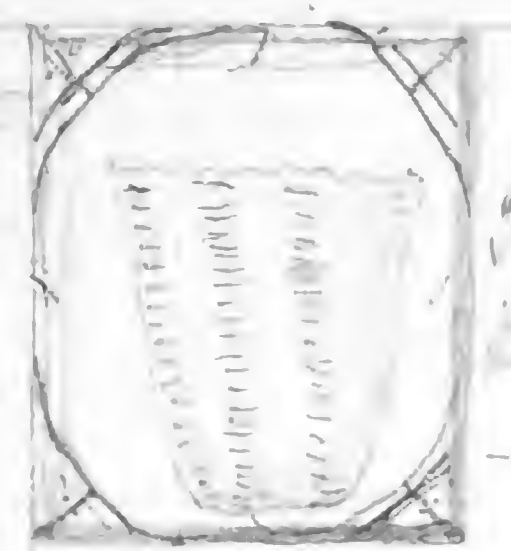
At this place about 100 dead walrus victims of famine  
two years ago were found - walrus bones in the hole

of phosphorescent globules  
flashing out & appearing like  
mystic and with nearly a great  
intensity - the water was splashed  
all of these paths with a glow  
as it was on several nights  
along the straits on our last  
trip down there.

At 10:30 we came to the  
point of Cape Craycroft

~~Monday~~ ~~Tuesday~~  
Sept. 6 - Hoikam Inlet to the west  
About 5 a.m. we got under way and  
steamed down the coast past several  
small summer <sup>fishing</sup> villages until  
off Hoikam Inlet when we stopped  
Anchored - There was a fresh wind  
blowing & Capt. H. Prop. M. & I went  
on shore - We found that there  
were but some 2 to 3 tents in  
place of the 150 which were here  
when we were off this point  
earlier in the season  
Frames were up along the shore beside

Sept 8<sup>th</sup> spent day on elephant  
the tents and hung full of  
drying fish - which latter consists  
of dog Salmon and the rich  
red flesh makes a bright patch  
of color on a ~~thin~~ distance  
adding greatly to the appearance  
of the village. I secured photos  
of the camp which will serve  
better than a description -  
the natives were a good natured  
lot but too susceptible to all  
a few towns & wild descriptions  
bring all. They told me that  
they had bought plenty of rifle  
cartridges from the C. P. of the  
people who were here some  
time ago - There were several  
Chay pots about the camp one  
of which I bought - Several about  
the size of a pint mug & two  
holding 3 or 4 gallons were seen  
These latter were shaped much  
as follows -



I tried to buy ~~one~~  
but there was  
no very good ones  
The natives would make  
such a job of the matter that  
I did not get one  
The Capt. bought considerable  
including Anasacuta, a  
American & a good sized  
teal. The natives were set  
their salmon nets by pushing  
on a long pole into the water  
and as the pole was rooted  
over the end and then  
withdrawing the pole  
they the houses their dogs were  
staked out & there were many  
fat and contented looking  
little children toddling about  
After a short time we returned  
on board & started for the  
head of Kotzebue str. The weather  
& water became very warm  
as we advanced and the

Wind calming down  
 we had a beautiful evening  
 the sun coming on bright colored  
 clouds not dense pearl and  
 so clear brilliant light  
 in the full moon swayed  
 like a lava molten silver  
 on whose face we could  
 see very distinctly with our  
 glasses the <sup>spots</sup> ~~spots~~ <sup>spots</sup> ~~spots~~  
 ahead lay a broad silver  
 path of glittering light along  
 which we steamed. As the  
 orange and yellow faded  
 over the sun the stars and  
 planets came out one after the  
 other with their brilliant  
 diamond points dotting the  
 sky in solitary radiance  
 for the smaller stars were  
 rendered invisible by the  
 brilliancy of the moon. About  
 9:30 P.M. we came to anchor  
 just off Chamisso & Puffin  
~~to the north~~ <sup>Chamisso Peninsula</sup>

Chamisso Island  
 September 7th

In the morning at 10:00 AM. we set to  
 the dingy & pulled up to Puffin  
 Is. which we found consists of  
 a rugged, precipitous mass of  
 (apparently) talcose rock.  
 The soil is porous for 3 or 4 feet  
 down so that the water comes  
 with a low but thick growth  
 of bright green grass between  
 any soil given it a foot tall.  
 The water that comes down a  
 rugged hillside like small  
 rills affords a ~~very~~  
 on its rugged sides to a large  
 number of little waterfalls.  
 The rocks were all piled  
 and ~~very~~ <sup>very</sup> rough many  
 of them ~~in~~ <sup>on</sup> the narrow  
 shelf like patches dotting the  
 face of the massive piles  
 like ~~islands~~ <sup>islands</sup> ~~of~~ <sup>of</sup> the ~~island~~ <sup>island</sup>. They  
 were ~~all~~ <sup>all</sup> very innocent  
 and the only one I could get

at in the short time I was  
on the island shot & loaded  
curiously at me until I  
caught him in my hands.  
Myriads of Horned Puffins  
circled around the island  
or stood in rows  
along the edges of great boulders  
and rocks ogling us with  
amusing gravity and only  
screaming off & taking wing  
when we came within 10 or  
20 feet. The island is composed  
in some places of hard  
lava rock held in the dirt which  
fills it. The grass growing  
rank in some places  
and is trampled down by the birds  
as though the place had never  
before a large number of  
people. Under the rocks  
the grass is narrow and  
winding in everywhere &  
even for moments one of the

occupants would pop out &  
with a startled glance  
scramble away & launch himself  
into the air. A constant  
screaming & grating issued  
from these underground nurseries  
from the Puffins upon the  
rocks though these latter  
occasionally showed with a  
businesslike air a  
surprised air. The Doctor  
began climbing up the steep  
side of the rocks & a Puffin  
perched on a rock a few  
feet higher stretched himself  
up the full length of its  
body and craned its neck  
over and gave a keen  
scrutiny first with one eye  
and then the other as though  
too surprised to utter a  
sound & then he brought  
out several deep grunts  
as a kind of commentary on

this strange apparition. The Doctor turned interrogator to his companion to find the cause of his strange sound. The latter repeats the assertion and the repetition of the noise by the Puffin reveals its origin.

Not a single young one was seen - There were thousands of *Thomomys arctica* & only saw one *circinata*. While at the Cliff I saw a Puffin going in & sticking its tail <sup>up</sup> all held crosswise in her beak. The young of *Larus Kotzebuei* (the only other bird on the island) all occupied nests more or less circular forms of pieces of mud, mud & seaweed placed like <sup>thin</sup> saucers shaped mats on the shelves & craggy niches - I secured a fine photographic view of

this part of the rock.

Leaving her we crossed the narrow strait to Chamisso Is. A reef connects the two Is. & drift under water & produces a tide rip in which we saw 3 *meropodites* which raised their heads well out of the water several times & then sank back out of sight. A number of *Alb. Equidens* and *Alchordia propinqua* & other animals were seen here - We ascended on a fine white sand beach on the western side of Chamisso Is. and climbing its side we made our way back to the signal post & erected on the southern side by the quick assistance of the marking the position of the astronomical station

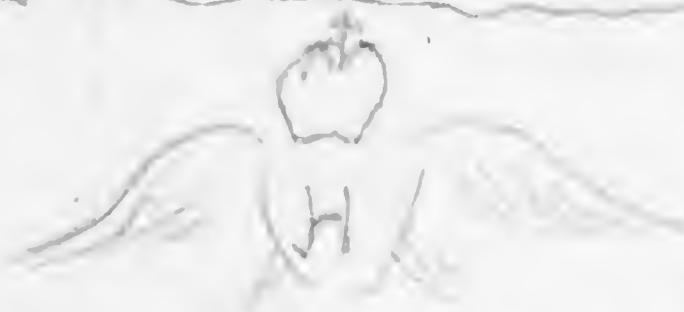
location by the former. I secured a photograph of the place upon the top of the largest post which is about 15 to 18 ft. high is inscribed the following on a space near summit

H. B. M. S.  
 BLOSSOM  
 SEPTEMBER  
 1826



About the base were inscribed in Capitals "H. B. M. S. Herald 1848" and Blossom July 1849. These inscriptions on the southern face - Also on the same post was the "Corwin" 1880 & U.S.S. Yukon. 188. On the small post about 2 to 3 ft. high was carved

The following which is translated on the outer column -

  
 P. A. K.  
 Э К С П Е Л И = "Potiphar"  
 И И Я  
 1838  
 С 29 Я В  
 А Н О С Е М  
 Т С + М С

Both these posts are erected upon a jutting rock and supported by a mass of rocks at their base. They are in a good state of preservation though the inscriptions are becoming defaced by exposure to the weather. All about

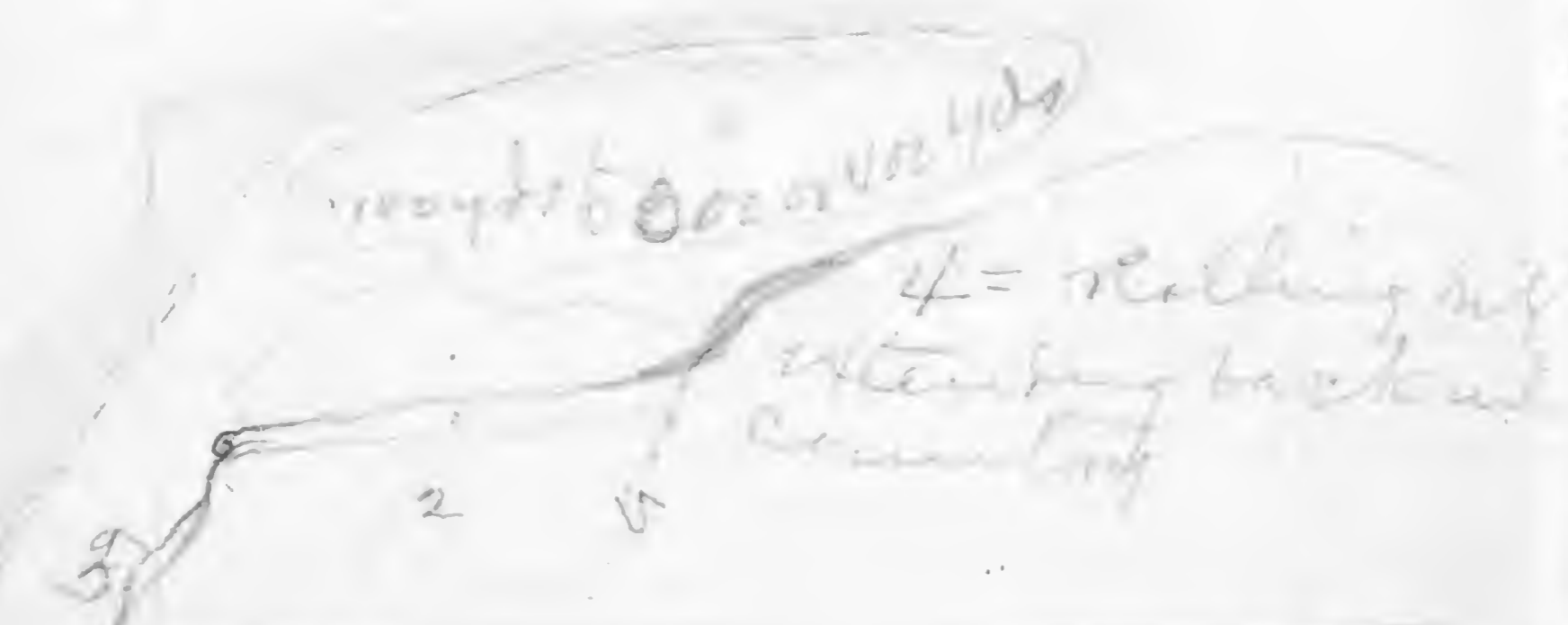


the base of the rocks  
in ground was colored  
with the gray & yellow lichens  
dotted with strong many  
scarlet cranberries -  
After photographing the post  
and taking a few berries  
we made our way slowly  
back to the boat and went  
on toward the Cove.  
Then we came to anchor  
we steamed up opposite  
the bluffs on Elephant Point  
when the water shoaled so we  
were forced to anchor in  
2  $\frac{3}{4}$  fathoms. We went ashore  
to the bluffs containing the  
ice about which so much  
has been said and after  
a look along it we the  
shore we returned to  
the vessel. We found the  
entire bluff to be 140  
feet high (see vid. box) and

to be made up mainly of  
ice along its face for about  
3 miles run. The ice had  
frequently a projecting  
snout under which the  
water at high tide had  
eaten 10 to 20 ft and the  
sloping snout slopes up &  
had its upper surface  
hidden by an inclined  
bank of sod & soil fallen  
from the brow of the hill  
above. This sloping bank  
is covered with a luxuriant  
mass of vegetation mainly  
grass 2 to 4 ft high with  
~~alder~~ ~~shrubs~~ Alder bushes  
at places and this sloping  
bank ends abruptly against  
a more or less abrupt  
rising wall of ice 5 to 20  
feet high forming the brow  
of the cliff - over this ice  
is a layer of from a foot to

30. Yaff. o. vegetable mould & peat upland which rises a rank growth of grass.

Sloping back up a gradual ascent a few hundred yds to less the surface of the river and round a slope rising at a much steeper angle and curving up to the rounded summit of the rolling hills which extend into the interior from here. The following outline gives an idea of a section of the country.



1 vegetable mould. 2 ice. 3 fallen earth resting on icy slope.  
5 = Probable limit of ice.

And along the shore here a peculiar, small hills in air from the mass of decaying vegetable matter exposed. In some of the sections into the face of the cliff on a slightly projecting point I found an old beaver house embedded in the earth with two feet of vegetable mould on top of it it was exposed in section by the crumbling of the bank and noted as in the following section -



The base of the nest rested upon an alder  
7 inches in diameter at butt and  
the rest of the heap was composed of  
alder sticks from 1/2 inch to 3 or  
4 inches in diameter & from  
6 inches to 5 or 6 ft. long. Nearly  
all the smaller sticks had their  
bark eaten off & many still  
retain the marks of the teeth  
and all show the teeth marks  
at each end. The entire mass  
was below the line of snow &  
frozen ground here and except  
for an inch or two along the  
upper surface <sup>where it</sup> was thawed  
slightly. Upon each side of the  
beaver nest, a few yds away  
rather on the same level  
was the ice apparently sunning  
the ~~ice~~ mass <sup>frozen</sup> of earth which  
the nest rested on the sides  
showing the apparent  
shaded formation of this  
mass of earth - I brought

away some of the sticks  
from the nest. They were all  
alder and waterlogged and  
soft enough to be easily picked  
to pieces with the fingernail  
~~After a short break from~~  
~~the work I~~  
Just beyond here I shot a  
Ptarmigan which dropped  
75 to 100 yds away near a bunch  
of Alders whence a pair of  
Wyfalcon suddenly  
appeared and one of them  
made war with my game  
before I could get within  
range.

Found very few specimens  
washed to - result is  
Cassiope or Andromeda  
4 angled vine ~~with~~ with  
pale pinkish or white flowers

---

