

when they steer by it for *Se-su-a-ling*, at the mouth of the Nu-na-tak. At this place, towards the latter end of July, people from all the coasts and rivers, to a great distance, meet, and an extensive barter takes place amidst feasting, dancing, and other enjoyments.

From *Se-su-a-ling* the Nu-na-tak people now carry the goods into the interior, and finally descend the Colville, where the tribes from Point Barrow on the west, and others from the east, meet for a fresh scene of barter and amusement. Thus the Nu-na-tak people become the principal carriers, and import from Kokh'-lit Nuna, as they call Asia, the Russian goods most in demand.

These natives are mixed Tchoutki and Esquimaux, and exclusively dwell along the coast and within a district included by a line drawn from the mouth of the Colville to the deepest angle of Norton Sound. Their number does not exceed 2,500 souls, all of whom are akin in form, features, language, dress, habits and pursuits. For their support, they have several varieties of the whale, the narwahl,

walrus, four different sorts of seal, the bear, and some small fish from the sea; while the inlets and rivers yield them the salmon, the herring, and the smelt, besides other fish; and, on the land, besides abundance of berries and a few edible roots, are obtained the reindeer, the imna (an animal which nearly answers the description of the argali, or Siberian sheep), the hare, the brown or black bear, wolverines and martens, the wolf, the lynx, blue and black foxes, the beaver, muskrats, and lemmings. In summer, birds are very numerous, particularly geese in the interior, and ducks on the coast. Black-lead, and several varieties of stones for making whetstones, arrow-heads, labrets, and for striking fire, are produce of the land and articles of barter.

In the summer months the available resources of game, salmon, whales, seal, etc., as well as fruit, are enormous. Voyagers have occasionally obtained large quantities for the merest trifle in comparison, and Sir Edward Belcher states that, on two visits, the results of bartering were as follows:

For 1 cutter load of salmon—about one ton—	was given	$\frac{1}{4}$ lb tobacco.
1 " " eider duck— $\frac{1}{3}$ ton—	"	$\frac{1}{4}$ lb "
610 lbs. solid venison	"	1 knife = 4 pence.
7 haunches venison	"	1 string beads = 1 cent.
1 sealskin full of reindeer fat = to 60 lbs. }	"	1 lb tobacco.
2 very large swans }	"	

The same officer remarks: "All their clothes, finery—indeed, I may add, very delicate embroidery—are executed by the women, and our museum attest the beauty of their designs, as well as the extreme delicacy of their manufacture. Can we then allow for a moment, that males as well as females, possessing such taste and aptitude for invention, are not in a condition for improvement as well as civilization? *Indeed, if they are not tampered with by the introduction of ardent spirits, who shall assert that at no very remote period those people may not be furnishing for our Pacific commerce, in Japan and Northern China, products of considerable value, as regards mercantile transactions, for exchange of goods.* Salmon may be

VOL. V.—17

cured, furs obtained, and minerals of value to the Japanese, taken to their southern markets. We have not as yet ascertained from what source plumbago and other minerals found among them are procured, simply because we have not exhibited to them the objects in their crude state."

Their ingenuity and skill are indeed very remarkable, and vie with civilized life. The chert, or flinty weapons, are in general use, and the material is obtained in many parts along the coast. At Cape Lisburne, chert has been taken from the vein, and manufactured by the natives under the inspection of Sir E. Belcher. This cape is about sixty feet high, composed of a grayish dolomite, in which many