

The mountains of these dreary climes being unprotected by any covering of vegetation, soon decompose. The frost bursts the rocks, every summer's gentle warmth causing fresh ruins, and so destruction hastens towards its completion. Wherever the abundance of *Sphagnum* has not produced a boggy turf in the deeply watered places, the ground presents only heaps of broken rocks.

The aspect of Nature at the Cove of St. Lawrence is most wintry; the scanty herbage barely covering the black soil, while the dwarfish *Willows* do not reach to one's knee. The *Andromeda polifolia* which we found there, did not exceed two or three inches in height, and was one-flowered. Among the vegetables of this Cove, we found a *Delphinium*, a *Dodecatheon*, an *Aretia*, and we saw there also the greatest number of species belonging to those truly arctic genera, *Gentiana*, *Saxifraga*, *Astragalus*, *Artemisia*, *Draba*, *Ranunculus*, and *Claytonia*, many of these being undescribed.

The Island of St. Lawrence, situated two degrees more to the south, does not differ in vegetation from the Cove of the same name. The *Andromeda tetragona*, *Dryas octopetala*, *Diapensia lapponica*, with some alpine kinds of *Myosotis*, and a *Gymnandra*, clearly indicate the prevailing character of its flowers. We observed, when first arriving on this island, where the vegetation is purely arctic, that we gathered in a few minutes more plants in bloom than we had observed during many weeks on that range of islands comprising Radack, &c. and situated between the tropics.

Farther northwards, on the rocky island in the interior of Kotzebue's Sound, grew the *Azalea procumbens*, as at Unalashka and the Cove and Isle of St. Lawrence; with the alpine *Willows*, *Cornus succica*, *Linnaea borealis*, some arctic species of *Rubus*, &c. The *Empetrum nigrum* and *Ledum palustre* cover the moorland, with the *Sphagnum*, but the *Ledum* does not here form the tall shrub which decorates the turfy bogs of the north of Germany.

The vegetation at the interior of Kotzebue's Sound is much more luxuriant than within St. Lawrence's Cove. The *Willows* are taller, the *grasses* grow stronger, all the plants

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