

native dug-out canoe; but now the *Glad Tidings*, mission steam yacht, furnishes a readier means of access to the scattered mission stations. In this heroic work he is nobly seconded by the Rev. Messrs. Green, Jennings, Bryant and others, and by several native assistants. The history of Christian missions on this coast is a chapter of strangest romance and heroism.

Alaska is sharply divided from the Dominion of Canada by the 141st degree of west longitude, from the Arctic Ocean to Mount St. Elias,

whole territory to the Russo-American Fur Company, who established forty stations, and conducted a flourishing trade for more than sixty years. In 1867 it was purchased by the United States Government for \$7,200,000. The greater part of the country is unknown, but enough of it has been explored by traders, scientists and sportsmen to show that one of the world's greatest wonderlands lies within its boundaries.

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ALASKAN CLIFFS.

thence by an irregular line seldom more than thirty miles from the sea to the 55th parallel—a farther distance of six hundred miles. It is eleven hundred miles long and eight hundred miles broad, and has an area of five hundred and twelve thousand square miles. Discovered in 1741 by a Russian expedition under Behring, at the cost of the great navigator's life, it came under the control of the Czar, who encouraged the planting of various independent settlements until the year 1799, when Paul VIII. granted the

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The climate of Alaska is phenomenal. The warm waters of the ocean give off a copious moisture, which is thrown by the winds against the snow-clad mountains and glaciers, and is precipitated in thick mists and torrents of rain. At Sitka the mean temperature is 49°.9, and the average rainfall eighty inches. For about one thousand miles from the southern extremity of Vancouver's Island northwards there stretches a vast archipelago, in the midst of which is the Inland Passage above described. On reaching the Alaskan territory, snowy mountain peaks begin to appear; and higher still, crowns of ice debouch