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Driftwood, all spruce, of which a considerable quantity had been seen at Port Burwell and in McLellan Strait, was entirely absent at Ashe's Inlet, and Nottingham Island, and was scarce at Digges Island and Cape Prince of Wales.

We left Ashe's Inlet on the evening of the 16th August, and arrived at Cape Prince of Wales, on the opposite side of the Strait, on the morning of the 17th, the distance being about 60 geographical miles, and the course about S. S. W. (true). Prince of Wales Sound lies to the south-eastward of the cape, and appeared to be about 15 miles broad. We selected a place on the inner side of the cape for building the observatory station, and named it Stupart's Bay, after Mr. R. F. Stupart of Toronto, who was to have charge of it. The highest hill on the west side of the bay was ascertained to have a height, according to the barometer, of 340 feet, and the highest to the south of it to have a height of 180 feet. The rocks in the vicinity of the bay were found to consist entirely of Laurentian gneiss. In the hills on the west side of Stupart's Bay, the strike is from S. to S. 40° E. (mag.), or nearly east and west (true). The gneiss in the hills, both to the south and west, is cut by numerous veins and bunches of milk-white quartz, which in various parts are so conspicuous on the bare surface as to be seen from considerable distances. In one place on the eastward slope of the hill to the west a group of parallel veins of this mineral, varying from a foot to two feet in width, is traceable for some distance. Their course is slightly sinuous, but the average run is N. 55° W. (mag.). Red felspar occurs in some of these, and occasionally a little black mica. The top of this hill is rounded and striated. The glacial grooves are quite distinct. On the highest point their direction is S. 60° E. (mag.). A little below the summit, on the south side, they run S. 50° E., while at the observatory station, near the sea shore, their course is S. 40° E. (mag.).

Viewed from the top of the hill just referred to, the slopes and valleys to the north-eastward are full of ponds resting in basins of solid rock. Boulders are perched on the summits and slopes of all the hills around. Beaches of shingle, as fresh looking as those on the present sea shore, except that the stones are covered with lichens, may be seen at all levels, up to the tops of the highest hills in this vicinity. The long sloping hillside to the south of the observatory station is covered with fields of shingle and small round boulders, all blackened by the lichens. At the northern base of the ridge, to the north-west of the station, is a large dry basin-like depression, with a notch on the outer side, through which it has formerly communicated with the sea. From the notch, the shingle and mud are spread over the floor of the basin in a fan-like fashion, as if the tides had rushed violently in through this opening. The materials of the raised beaches above referred to consist principally of gneiss with milk quartz from the veins of the neighbourhood, together with a few fragments of yellowish grey dolomite, with obscure fossils, a hard and nearly black variety of silicious clay-slate, with an occasional boulder of dark, hard crystalline diorite.

Prince of Wales Sound has a breadth of, apparently, about fifteen miles, in a due S. E. bearing from Stupart's Station, on the inner side of Cape Prince of Wales, and of probably eight or ten miles in a southerly direction. A long arm, the north shore of which I reached at two and a-half miles due S. W. from the station, runs due west from the western side of the sound. This appeared to be the favourite resort of the Eskimo, and I propose to name it, for convenience, Eskimo Inlet. A small rapid river was crossed between the station and the inlet. The Eskimo informed me that another river enters the head of this inlet, and that it passes through two good sized lakes not far from the sea. Some large trout, which they had brought to the ship, were stated to have been caught in this river. Salmon were said to be found in another river entering the sound at a point about south of Stupart's Bay.

The hills of gneiss between Stupart's Station and Eskimo Inlet are pretty thoroughly glaciated. The ridges and hummocks, as a rule, present smooth gradual slopes to the west and abrupt craggy faces to the east, showing that the movement of the ancient ice was from the west. The striae are well seen in many places on the hills, the average direction being S. 40° E., (mag.) or about due east, astronomically. On the shore of the inlet they run a little north of true east or parallel with the course.