

the two capes is ten miles; but Saritcheff Island lies immediately before the opening, and we are informed by Kotzebue, that the channel, which is on the northern side of it, is extremely intricate and narrow, and that the space is strewn with shoals. The island is low and sandy, and is apparently joined under water, to the southward, to the strip of sand before mentioned as extending along the coast: we noticed upon it a considerable village of yourts, the largest of any that had as yet been seen. The natives appear to prefer having their dwellings upon this sandy foundation to the main land, probably on account of the latter being swampy, which is the case every where in the vicinity of this inlet and Kotzebue Sound. Several of them taking advantage of the calm came off in baidars, similar to those used by the St. Lawrence Islanders, though of inferior workmanship. The people, however, differed from them in many respects; their complexion was darker, their features were more harsh and angular, they were deficient in the tattooing of the face; and what constituted a wider distinction between them was, a custom, which we afterwards found general on the American coast, of wearing ornaments in their under lips. Our visitors were noisy and energetic, but good-natured, laughed much, and humorously apprized us when we were making a good bargain.

They willingly sold every thing they had, except their bows and arrows, which they implied were required for the chase on shore; but they could not resist "tawac" (tobacco) and iron knives, and ultimately parted with them. These instruments differed from those of the islanders to the southward,

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