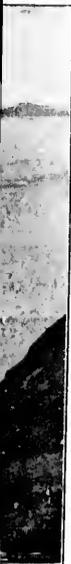


littérateur, he
details which

appearance
tell me that
us G. Wells,
alloon. The
ways. It is
ng fifty men,
his passage.
his time—is
his first news-
Mrs. Caroline
king a small
Oh, yes;

May, 1896,
quite a year.
il, and from
&. The trip
, was made



Wash.

was a two
metropolis of
introduction
Windt, "is
ow you a
h will give
grandeur of
s the sea

with a front a mile wide, and from 200ft. to 300ft. high, probably extending twice as far below the water. From this wonderful wall of blue and white ice, huge masses frequently break off and fall into the bay with a reverberating roar, throwing up clouds of spray, and creating waves that rock big steamers like row-boats. The glacier occupies a vast amphitheatre thirty or forty miles across, and it is two miles wide where it breaks through the mountains to descend to the sea. The seaward end is so corrugated and seamed with crevasses as to be quite inaccessible. On the left side of the glacier rises a stony conical mountain, 3,000ft. high. So the journey to the Yukon gold-fields is a big undertaking. "I've made the trip over 800 miles of snow-fields and glaciers," one of the "failures" wrote home, "and all I'm bringing back is scurvy."

Juneau City is the starting-point for the Yukon miners, and here they provide themselves with all requisites. Here is Mr. De Windt's description of Juneau, taken from his diary:—

"Juneau contains about 3,000 people. It

is rare, and evil-doers are summarily dealt with. Juneau is a blaze of light from dusk till dawn, and there are plenty of sharks of both sexes to fleece the lucky digger on his way back from the diggings. The city lies on a pretty level strip between the sea and a precipitous, snow-seamed mountain, 3,300ft. high."

Mr. De Windt also notes: "Saw no carts. Portage done by the Thlinkit Indians. My hotel not bad; made of wood; kept by a German; food rough, but decent—sixteen shillings a day."

"When you leave Juneau," Mr. De Windt said, "there is no more food for 800 miles, and gold won't buy it. Why, I heard of miners stretched on the ground dying of starvation in the camps, with a sack of gold-dust for their pillow! It is madness to think of starting, say, from England, with less than £300 capital. You've got to get yourself and perhaps half a ton of stores over thousands of miles of awful country—snow mountains, stormy lakes, and raging rapids.

"The route which I chose," pursued the explorer, "has been adopted by fully 90 per



From a Photo. by

JUNEAU CITY, THE STARTING-POINT OF THE YUKON MINERS

[Water Pond.]

consists of wooden houses, laid out with regularity, but the streets are generally knee-deep in mud during the summer, on account of the incessant rainfall. A busy place, with two hotels. Good shops (especially fur shops); a theatre, and electric light everywhere. Miners fit out here for the Yukon region, and houses are springing up everywhere to accommodate them. Crime

cent. of the gold-seekers. I left Juneau in June, the best season for travelling. A filthy steam launch, built to carry twenty-five, but which took fifty-seven passengers, landed me at Dyea, 100 miles distant. Dyea consists of a rude log store and a movable town of tents, occupied by diggers bound for the gold-fields. A del of several days occurs here, while Indi: are procured to carry tents and