

trodden by hundreds of predecessors have formed the subject of long disquisitions, and rivers to be found on every respectable map of the last thirty years have been reported as new discoveries and furnished with a whole set of new names. These, however, are the faults of youthful inexperience and enthusiasm, and few, even of these publications, but have contained some new and welcome facts. They would hardly be worth the notice of the speaker were it not for the fact that they form pitfalls for the inexperienced student who should not, because it is new to him, suppose that the anthropology of Alaska is still a virgin field. Its literature in fact is enormous and rapidly increasing.

The era which, with the just organized government of the region, is now fairly begun, differs in several particulars from the one just described. Tourists have found that the magnificent scenery, and cool even summer weather of the southeast Alaskan region, may be reached and enjoyed with little trouble and expense.

The lavish purchases of foreign collectors have exhausted, in many localities, the whole supply of genuine old carvings and stone implements. It was announced, not long since, that a dealer at Juneau was intending to import a good stone-cutter for the winter, to supply his shop with stone implements for the summer trade of 1885. Wooden carvings and similar "curios" are now regularly made for sale to tourists, and often show singular modifications from the aboriginal types.

The first "inscribed tablet" was forged at Sitka in 1868. It was a Phœnician one. We may look for a large crop of them in the future should the market prove satisfactory.

Nearly every traveller, in little known parts of the world, brings home some one story with which, half in jest, he gratifies the natural demand for the marvellous, on the part of his acquaintances. These stories may be found in the usual proportion in most accounts of Alaskan travel, and have occasionally been transplanted to scientific works of great respectability.

To the young anthropologist we would say therefore, that when a particularly astonishing "fact" is presented for his consideration, it is an excellent occasion to fall back on the reserve of scepticism which every scientific man is supposed to carry in a small bag somewhere near his heart.

The missionary who has begun his benevolent, and we hope, ul-