

Jakobshavn Glacier in Greenland moves 54 feet daily, but the Mer de Glace only 1½ feet a day. A large number of other glaciers, probably as big, or bigger, discharge their ice into this great bay, which is consequently almost choked by miniature bergs, through which the steamer forced her way. Of the encircling snow-peaks the highest is over fourteen thousand feet.

Sitka is situated on Baranoff Island, half a day's sail to the southwards, in a bay surrounded by high mountains and studded with beautiful islands, but very damp and rainy. The story of the capture of New Archangel, or Sitka, by the Russians from the Indians, is a series of bloody fights between Baranoff and his men and the natives. He came here in the year 1799, after hearing the report of Captain Shields, an Englishman in the Russian service, accompanied by a number of sea-otter hunters in their *bidarkies*, or seal-skin canoes. About six miles from the present Sitka he built a stockade. During the absence of Baranoff with most of the garrison, this stockade was destroyed by the Indians and the defenders killed, with the exception of some who escaped on board an English ship, which conveyed them to Kodiak. In 1804 Baranoff returned to Sitka with forty Russians and three hundred Aleut hunters. He found the natives in possession of a strong stockade, built on the site of the present log castle. In endeavouring to capture it, he was at first severely repulsed, but he finally, after a bombardment, dislodged the Indians, who were estimated at 5000. At the present day their numbers are less than a tenth of that. Upon the site of the Indian town, the Russians erected huge log buildings, some of which stand here to-day, to attest the solidity with which they were constructed.

The extreme healthiness of the country is an advantage, and I may mention that I know no healthier one; but this is more than counterbalanced in the case of the explorer, by its being the most difficult to penetrate of any within the temperate zones. In this I shall be borne out by those who have attempted it. Part of the region is included within the territory of Alaska, part in British Columbia, a colony which is but now emerging from the sway of savagery. Much of it still now has been barred to whites by the red-man. For instance it was only within recent years that the Taiya Pass to the Yukon was opened to miners, while this year the same tribe who had prevented the miners from passing, by their rapacious demands as packers, placed a serious obstacle in the way of travel. As to the Chilcat passes, the twin doorways to the interior, I was uncertain up to the very last moment whether the Chilcat tribe would permit me to go by. I therefore camped first on the seaward side of the straggling aggregation of houses (some forty in number) which forms the winter village, named Klokwan, and after two days shifted my camp to the landward side, nearer to the unknown regions, so that I might test the feeling of these Indians relative to a white man entering their country before I commenced the ascent.

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