

"sound steamer," with such Alaskan pilots as are usually available in Victoria or Port Townsend, in two days. The value of such a steamer, in case this portion of Alaska is reoccupied by the military as an auxiliary to their usefulness, cannot be overestimated. Experts place its cost at about \$35,000. The distance, in hours, for such a steamer, estimating at 12 miles per hour, and in miles, is given from Dixon Entrance to the principal villages of each tribe described under the separate subtitle of that tribe.

The Thlinkits or Koloshians have been variously estimated at from 5,000 to 20,000, although the latter is probably the nearer correct, and besides occupying the country noted, extend along the coast to the region of the mouth of the Atna or Copper River. But little can be said in a military sense regarding them as a whole, so much do they vary in the different subtribes, which variations are there noted. They are nearly all a strictly sea-coast abiding people, the ease with which the waters furnish them with subsistence, and the great labor necessary for the same in the rough mountainous interior determining this mode of life. Their villages are mostly of a permanent or semi-permanent character, situated on the narrow beaches that occasionally occur at the foot of the mountains. They are of all quality, from fairly constructed log cabins to the most miserable shanties of rough inclined boards. The Indian village at Sitka can be taken as a typical one of the best con-



FIG. 1.

struction, and I append herewith an illustration of a limited portion of t. Villages of such substantial structures would require the lighter forms of artillery, as Hotchkiss, mountain howitzers, &c., should the resistance be stubborn, and in case of an attack upon them.