

## A SUMMER HOLIDAY IN BERING SEA

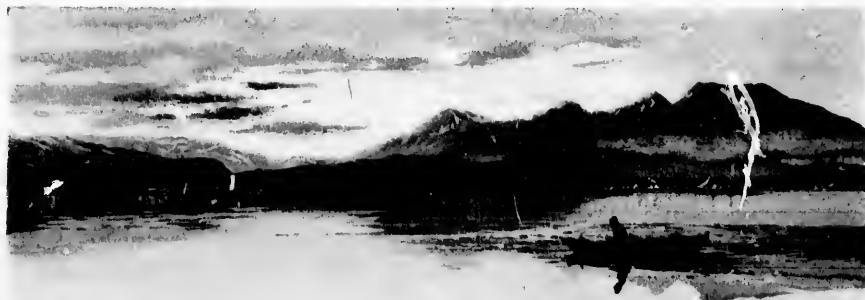
BY JOHN BURROUGHS

### THE SEAL ISLANDS.

IT was the 8th of July, 1899, when the *George W. Elder*, bearing the Harriman expedition,<sup>1</sup> steamed out of Dutch Harbor. The first hour or two we sailed past high, rolling green hills, cut squarely off by the sea, presenting cliffs seven or eight hundred feet high, of soft, reddish, crumbling rock, a kind of clay porphyry of volcanic origin, touched here and there on the face with the tenderest green. It was as if some green fluid had been poured upon the tops of the hills, and had run down and dripped off the rock eaves and been caught upon every shelf and projection. The color was deepest in all the wrinkles and folds of the slopes and in the valley bottoms. At one point we looked into a deep, smooth valley, or trough, opening upon the sea, its shore-line a complete half-circle. Its bottom was nearly at the water-level, and was as fresh and vivid as the

<sup>1</sup> For a narrative by the same writer of the preceding portion of the cruise, with map, see the August CENTURY.

greenest lawn. Some one suggested that it looked like a huge dry-dock, if dry-docks were ever carpeted with grass. The effect was extremely strange and beautiful. The clouds rested low across the hills and formed a dense canopy over the vast, verdant cradle. Under this canopy we looked along a soft green vista for miles back into the hills, where patches of snow were visible. At another point a similar trough had been carved down to within a hundred or more feet of the sea, and upon its rocky face hung a beautiful waterfall. Then followed other lesser valleys that did not show the same glacial erosion; they were V-shaped instead of U-shaped, each with a waterfall tumbling into the sea. There were three of these in succession, cutting the rocky sea-front into pyramidal forms. Often the talus at the foot of the cliffs was touched by the same magic green. Then opened up larger valleys, into which we looked under a rolled-up drop-curtain of cloud. One of them was lighted up by the sun, and we saw an irregularly shaped



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THE WATERS OF DUTCH HARBOR, WITH KULAK VILLAGE TO THE LEFT.

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