

Wrangel Strait has been passed and Frederick Sound reached, into which it descends from the Baird, Le Conte, and Patterson glaciers, and is readily distinguished from the steamer. Thenceforward, glaciers are a common feature in the distance, but none is approached until the steamer comes to the head of Taku inlet to secure a supply of ice. There the Taku and Norris glaciers come down to the water's edge; the latter, known to tourists as the "Mud glacier," is covered with *débris* for a long distance, and its broad, rounded, gently sloping foot spreads out over a mud-flat, which protects it from the waves. Taku glacier, on the contrary, comes down directly into the water and presents a magnificent terminal wall not less than 250 feet in height and more than a mile in width. Many fragments break away from this glacier, but they are only of moderate size and seldom float as far as the mouth of the inlet.

Douglas Island, almost directly opposite this inlet, is now well known because of the Treadwell gold mine, which, despite the poverty of its pyritic ore, pays enormous dividends. The average yield is but four dollars per ton; yet so cheaply is the ore mined, crushed, concentrated, and treated, that the whole cost from the first blow of the hammer to the extraction of the crude bullion is but one dollar and a half per ton. An immense mill, with two hundred and forty stamps, crushes upwards of seven hundred tons of ore daily; the mine itself is merely an enormous quarry, and mining costs comparatively little money or skill. Juneau, on the mainland directly opposite the Treadwell mine, is a mining town of, perhaps, thirteen hundred inhabitants, most of whom are living by discounting the future rather than by utilising the present. The silver mines are still only "prospects," but specimens of great richness are almost as abundant as prophets of the coming magnificence of Juneau. Gold-mining, confined to placers, has proved reasonably remunerative when pursued on a large scale. Such work is carried on to greatest advantage in summer, when twilight continues all night (Juneau being in latitude 58°), whereas during the winter the working day is very short.

Lynn Channel, only a few hours' sail northwards from Juneau, is formed by the union of the Chilcat and Chilcoot inlets at its northern extremity. The Davidson glacier, entering Chilcat inlet from the east, in N. lat. 59°, has its origin very near to one branch of the Muir glacier, and is said to be not much inferior to it in size. All who have seen the scenery along the shores of this channel regard it as grander than that on any other portion of the route, but a dense fog obscured it and the Davidson glacier from our view. Rounding a peninsula in Icy Strait, one comes to Glacier Bay, which ends at the north in two inlets; the one at the east receives Muir glacier; the other at the west receives the Pacific; while further southward, on the west side of the bay, are other glaciers entering by broad passages.

Muir inlet, between four and five miles long, is somewhat more than a mile and a half wide at its head, this being also the width of the ice wall. The moraine, consisting of more or less imperfectly stratified gravels, underlying coarser and angular material, forms the shore. This deposit extends southward fully four miles on the western side, where