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RUSSIAN AMERICA.

ITS PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS AND NATIVE TRIBES.

It is doubtful if there be a spot on the globe that can truly be called useless. An observant mind may always perceive much that is beautiful, as well as much that is useful, and we who have voyaged in many distant regions notice this everywhere. Neither arctic nor antarctic climes are so barren as generally supposed. Mines of wealth—even if not always similar to what exists in civilized life—abound in them, and statistics prove that an abundant return is generally found for liberal enterprise in those quarters. Greenland, under the wise administration of the Danish king, is an instance of what may be done; and Russian America can undoubtedly become the same, if properly ruled. What the prospects are of making it not only a useful, but ultimately a valuable acquisition to the United States, may perhaps be gathered from the following information concerning it.

The boundaries and extent of the new Territory are as follows: Commencing from the southernmost point of the island called Prince of Wales, which point lies in the parallel of 54° 40' north latitude, and between the 131st and 133d of west longitude, meridian of Greenwich, the said line shall ascend to the north along the channel called Portland Channel, so far as the point of the continent where it strikes the fifty-sixth degree of north latitude. From this last-mentioned point the line of demarcation shall follow the summit of the mountains situated parallel to the coast as far as the point of intersection of the one hundred and forty-first degree of west longitude of the same meridian, and finally from the point of intersecting the said meridian line of the one hundred and forty-first degree in its prolongation as far as the Frozen Ocean. With reference to the line of demarcation laid down in the preceding article, it is understood—first, that the island called Prince of Wales Island shall belong wholly to Russia, and now, by this cession, wholly to the United States; second,

that whenever the summit of the mountains which extend in a direction parallel to the coast from the fifty-sixth degree of north latitude to the point of intersection of the one hundred and forty-first degree of west longitude shall prove to be at the distance of more than ten marine leagues from the ocean, the limit between the British possessions and the line of coast which is to belong to Russia, as above mentioned—that is to say, the limit to the possessions ceded by this Convention—shall be formed by a line parallel to the winding of the coast, and which shall never exceed the distance of ten marine leagues therefrom. The western limit, within which the territories and dominions conveyed are contained, passes through a point in Behring's Straits on the parallel of sixty-five degrees thirty minutes north latitude, at its intersection by the meridian which passes midway between the islands of Krusenstern, or Ignaalook and the island of Ratmanoff, or Noonarbook, and proceeds due north without limitation into the same Frozen Ocean. The same western limit, beginning at the same initial point, proceeds thence in a course nearly southwest through Behring's Straits and Behring's Sea, so as to pass midway between the northwest point of the island St. Lawrence and the southeast point of Cape Choukottki to the meridian of 172° west longitude. Thence, from the intersection of that meridian in a southwesterly direction, so as to pass midway between the Island of Attou and the Copper Island of the Kormanddorski couplet or group in the North Pacific Ocean, to the meridian of 193 degrees west longitude, so as to include in the territory conveyed the whole of the Aleutian Islands east of that meridian.

Taking the coast-line to begin with, there are numerous islands fringing the mainland, with several excellent harbors and places of shelter. Inside of these islands, vessels can navigate with perfect safety to the Aleutian Archipelago, and