

pursuit ; but fortunately they were not able to shed human blood. In the Summer of 1851 a sadder tragedy was enacted by the same Indians : a British Lieutenant Barnard arrived at Nulato, in search of Sir John Franklin ; just at the time that the Kyoukouks were plotting the killing of the Nulato Indians, and the plundering of the fort. A general slaughter took place, the unfortunate Lieutenant was mortally wounded by arrows, and died a few hours after in excruciating torments. His mortal remains repose behind the fort, where a few melancholy-looking crosses record his fatal end and that of the other victims of Indian cruelty. The British Government has so far done nothing to reward the devotedness of that brave soldier ; it does not look honorable, does it ? The Kyoukouk Indians spared the lives of a few women and children, so that the Tikaitski tribe is not extinct and is again on the increase. Dall, in his book on Alaska, has a few romantic particulars which his prolific imagination produced in addition to the facts ; these facts are still living in the minds of all those that dwell around Nulato. He also appears to lay the blame on Lieutenant Barnard, as if the latter had been the cause of the massacre. The cause of such a strange and false accusation cannot be explained except by some anti-British feeling lurking in the corner of his heart ; there is no telling through what labyrinths of nonsense people will wander, when patriotism takes the lead. I might adduce some ridiculous assertions of his, against the Hudson Bay Company, but such matters are too remote from my subject, and I return to my mission on the Kyoukouk River.

The mercury on the day we left Nulato marked 10° (22° freezing). It was cold. The ice of the Youcon was solid, and a foot of snow covered the whole country, as