

## MILITARY RECONNAISSANCE IN ALASKA.

Brig. Gen. NELSON A. MILES,  
*Brevet Major-General United States Army,*  
*Commanding Department of the Columbia,*  
*Vancouver Barracks, Washington Territory:*

SIR: I have the honor to report that, in obedience to letter of instructions from your office dated April 7, 1883 (and herewith appended and marked A), I left Vancouver Barracks, Washington Territory, with a party of seven persons, all told, the following being its organization:

1. Frederick Schwatka, first lieutenant Third Cavalry, aid-de-camp to department commander, commanding.
2. George F. Wilson, assistant surgeon United States Army, surgeon.
3. Charles A. Homan, topographical assistant United States Army, topographer.
4. Sergeant Charles Gloster, Company K, First Cavalry.
5. Corporal William H. Shirecliff, Company G, Second Infantry.
6. Private John Roth, Company I, Twenty-first Infantry.
7. J. B. McIntosh, citizen.

This party, styled the "Alaska Military Reconnaissance of 1883," left Portland, Oregon, May 22, 1883, on the Pacific Coast Steamship Company's collier and freight steamer "Victoria" for Alaska, touching *en route* at Astoria, Oregon; Neah Bay, Washington Territory; Victoria, Vancouver Island, British Columbia, and Port Townsend, Puget Sound, Washington Territory.

The "Victoria" crossed Dixon Entrance, the channel that separates British Columbia from Alaska Territory, early on the morning of the 29th of May, and shortly afterward entered Boca de Quadra Inlet, where freight was left for the Cape Fox Salmon Cannery, an enterprise just started this year. This cannery is in the Indian country of the Tongas and (Cape) Foxes. These bands are described under the title of "Native tribes visited." I have confined my report regarding the Alaskan Indians strictly to those bands or sub-bands that my party has visited in whole or in part, but having once opened the subject of any particular tribe, I have collected and transcribed all the available information regarding them that I considered to be reliable. Further than the "Native tribes visited"—the most important information required of my military reconnaissance—I have made no division of my