

he identifies the eastern limit of Siberian goods with the eastern limits of Siberian tobacco and Chinese pipes. These had not reached Cape Bathurst when Richardson passed; thus far our own inquiries confirm his opinion, but the very fact that Siberian tobacco had almost reached Cape Bathurst might seem proof of itself that Siberian knives had reached and passed it, just as there are to-day knives from Hudson bay used in Banks island, while the tobacco habit has not passed Back river, if it has penetrated that far west. True, we have not found Siberian goods as yet in any old remains explored east of Cape Bathurst, but we have found fragments of pottery kettles¹ of the sort known to have been made by the Eskimo of western Alaska and supposed generally to have been made by them only. If they

¹ The pottery fragments referred to have been found at Langton bay and near the mouth of a small, unnamed river in the bay behind Point Stevens on the Parry peninsula. To date (July 12, 1911) several dozen pieces have been dug up. They are all small, and in no case did their position make it certain that any two belonged to the same pot. Only three small fragments of stone pots have been found in the course of the same excavations. Two of my Eskimo companions are from western Alaska—Kotzebue sound and Port Clarence. Both of them have watched the making of pottery by their own mothers and by other women of their tribes. They say that the pieces we have found are of the thickness and general appearance of western pottery, that the corners of the pots are similar and the perforations in the brim for swinging the pots are similarly placed. They differ, however, from the pottery they have seen made in the following two particulars: ptarmigan feathers were always mixed with the clay by their people while we have here found no signs of feathers of any sort; a little fine sand was used in the west mixed with the clay, while here fine gravel seems to have been used in some cases and in others cracked rock fragments probably made by pounding a friable stone with a hammer.

Our diggings near Point Stevens are in a river-cut bank. In the course of the work at a depth of four feet (sand), we found a layer of clay of unknown depth. This clay is said by my companions to be similar in appearance and consistency to that used by their parents for pottery in Alaska. In hunting, we have seen outcrops of similar clay along the river in several places.

At the present rate of accumulation we shall probably find half a bushel of pottery fragments in a hundred cubic metres of excavation. This large quantity, together with the presence of clay out of which the pots may have been made, might incline one to the view that the manufacture of pottery may have been carried on here, though that would be pushing east by a good thousand miles the known limits of the art of pottery making among the Eskimo.

In the same diggings we have found (besides a quantity of horn, bone, and stone objects of doubtless purely local origin) a lance fore-shaft of ivory (imported?), a fish hook with copper point (the hook of the western style, but the copper doubtless from the east), and several knife handles which show by the smallness of the socket that they must have held blades thinner than any stone blades I have ever seen—probably iron blades.