

Twilight—In Camp at St. Michaels.

A permanent residence at St. Michaels is not a thing to be desired, particularly by persons of a sociable disposition, for the winters are long and dark and cold, for hundreds of miles in every direction the waters are locked in their fetters of ice, and from September until the following June the residents of this little island are almost absolutely cut off from communication with the outside world. There is little opportunity for divertisement beyond reading and an occasional hunt with dog teams along the coast or toward the interior. The summer season, however, is delightful, and the scenes and experiences at St. Michael will afford many fascinating memories to those tourists who are fortunate enough to pass this way during the open season. The nearness of this locality to the Arctic Circle gives a maximum of sunshine and a minimum of twilight during June, July and August. Although the island is entirely devoid of forests, the formation is rugged and broken, giving a mountainous effect to the general outline, and at twilight the sun tints upon the clouds and sea and landscape are often exquisite beyond description, as we can readily imagine while viewing this artistic representation of a twilight scene in the outskirts of the village of St. Michael.

The argonauts to the Yukon have endured and suffered—but it cannot be said that their labors and sacrifices have been in vain. The pioneer seldom realizes the best fruits of his ambitions and efforts. The Pilgrim Fathers ventured and suffered, yet they were not permitted to anticipate, even vaguely, the magnificence of the power and civilization which the nation they had founded would achieve ere the close of the nineteenth century. So will it be with Alaska. Organized capital and effort will develop its vast resources and reap a rich reward. The argonauts have blazed a way to the interior; they have struggled in the midst of privation, disappointment, danger and death. Out of this seething crucible of human toil and woe the coveted gold will come, but only in rare instances will it be the portion of those who bore the heat and burden of the day.