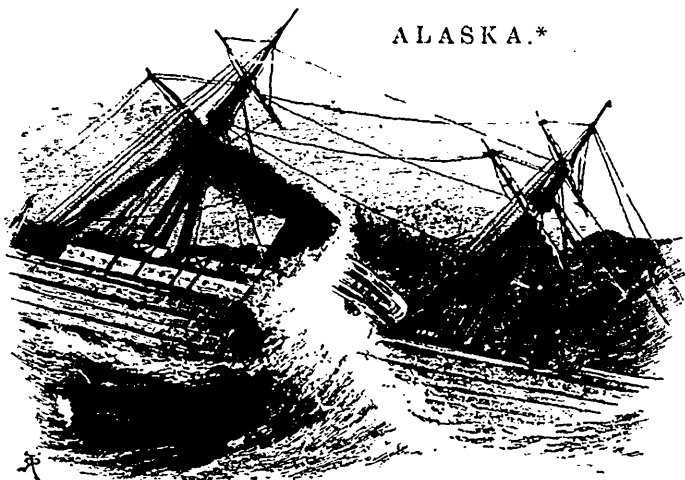


THE METHODIST MAGAZINE.

OCTOBER, 1895.



ALASKA.*

A HEAVY SEA ON NORTH PACIFIC.

LEAVING Victoria, B.C., we pass through a congeries of islands, like the Thousand Islands of the St. Lawrence on a greatly magnified scale, when we enter the Gulf of Georgia, one of the widest portions of the Inland Passage. Some forty or fifty miles farther on, and we reach the first typical waters of the Inland Passage—Discovery Passage—a narrow waterway between high, mountainous banks; an extended salt-water, river-like channel, about a mile in breadth. At Seymour Narrows the channel is not much over half a mile wide, where the tides rush through with the velocity of the swiftest rivers (said to be nine knots at spring tides). The shores now become truly mountainous in charac-

ter, ridges and peaks on the south side bearing snow throughout the summer on their summits, four thousand to five thousand feet high. Queen Charlotte Sound is one of the few openings to the Pacific Ocean. Where Magellan sailed over the Pacific Ocean it well deserved the name; but along the rough northern coast the amount of stormy weather increases, and a voyage on this part of the Pacific is not always calculated to impress one with the appropriateness of the great ocean's name. The full sweep of the Pacific is encountered and the steamer is often exposed to a very heavy sea. It is very impressive to look from some rocky headland over the vast Pacific, and to realize that for four thousand

* Abridged from Lieut. Schwatka's volume on Alaska, and other trustworthy authorities, by the Editor.