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of a northerly branch from the main body is wanting; but currents exist along the Alaskan coast the relations of which are perplexing, and would be explained best by the existence of such a northerly branch, with such eddies as must result from the configuration of the coast. It is said that a Japanese junk was blown into Sitka harbour about seventy-five years ago, and there wrecked. Certainly the conditions at Sitka suggest the presence of a warm current not very far off to the west, for the average rainfall during fourteen years was 83.39 inches, the rainy days being 245 per annum. The temperature of the surface water at Sitka during August 1867, was 50.5° F., the temperature of the air averaging 53.4° F.; but in October, when cold water from the snows was coming down, the surface temperature had fallen to 41° F., while that of the air was 44° F.¹ One would hardly expect to find corals here, where the water in October is 27° colder than the water at the Bermudas in April, yet a large *Gorgonia*, fully four feet long, was shown to me by Mr. Koosher of Sitka, who is treasuring it up carefully for the Columbian exhibition; the Indians also offer small fragments for sale. Large starfishes and *trepangs* were lying on the pier when the steamer arrived, while in the water floated great ribbon-like seaweeds, seven or eight feet long and as many inches broad. Here also are *Echini*, five inches in diameter, which occur in such numbers as to be an important article of food for the Indians.

In spite of the superfluity of rainy and cloudy weather, South-eastern Alaska is said to be by no means an uninviting place. In summer the twilight almost meets the dawn, but winter restores the daylight to the general average, for at Sitka lamps are extinguished at nine in the morning, to be relighted at three in the afternoon. The white population, allured by trade or mining, shows great fluctuation, as mining operations, except on a large scale, cannot be carried on during the winter. The number of Whites and "Creoles," or half-breeds, is, as a rule, not more than 2000, though at times it may be exceeded.

Dall² recognises four families of native tribes in Alaska:—the Eskimo or Innuited, the Aleuts or Unungen, the Athabascans or Tinnel, and the Thlinkets, the Koloshes of many English and French writers. The Eskimo and Aleuts, occupying the coast region, are termed Orarians by Mr. Dall, and number about 14,000; the Eskimo, for the most part, are found in the north of the Alaskan peninsula, but the Aleuts extend along the southern shore almost to Bering or Yakutat Bay, directly south of Mount St. Elias. The Athabascans, or Chippewayans, or, as Mr. Dall prefers to call them, the Tinnel, are closely related to the North American Indians of the Rocky Mountains and the plains. They occupy the interior of Northern Alaska along the Yukon river, as well as much of the North-western Territory of Canada, where they approach closely to South-eastern Alaska. But the Eskimo, Aleuts, and Athabascans rarely visit South-eastern Alaska. It is possible that some of the "blanket" Indians seen at Juneau may be of Athabascans, for certainly not a few of them had features unlike those of the Thlinkets working on the wharf at that place.

¹ Davidson, *loc. cit.*

² W. H. Dall. *Contributions to North American Ethnology*, vol. i. Memoir.