

The land on either side displayed to us mountains rising abruptly from the sea, and bearing a glacier in their every ravine. Earlier in the season, these glaciers would have been concealed by the snow, but now they showed a surface of green ice."

The district referred to by Simpson, I frequently visited during the past season, and along Simpson's route there is now not a single glacier reaching tide water. Many of the glaciers of which he speaks have entirely disappeared, and others show their terminals 2,000 feet and upwards from the sea. These are vast changes to occur in a lifetime. There are, however, still four living or tide-water glaciers outside of the great Muir glacier, which discharge ice and small bergs into the sea. Glacier ice differs vastly from Arctic sea ice. The colour of the former on a face of fresh cleavage is transparent blue of transcendent beauty, impossible to describe. It is very hard and not brittle, and in the sea slowly wastes away. It is dangerous for a vessel to run into glacier ice. Sea water ice is, on the other hand, brittle, and readily crumbles under compact, and is subject to very rapid decomposition. To illustrate the latter, Prof. Elliott mentions that on the 27th of May, 1873, the ice fields still surrounded the island of St. Paul in an unbroken mass, as they had done for the preceding five months. The following morning nearly the whole mass had disappeared. As he says, "the decomposition of the ice had taken place so secretly that its final relegation to its original form was fairly accomplished almost instantly and simultaneously, and without warning to human eye; the alternate layering of salt, in ocean water ice, accounts for this peculiar vanishing of sea floes."

That the discharge of glaciers must to some extent affect the temperature of the neighbouring sea, is obvious. During the past season I took a series of temperature readings of the sea as well as of the atmosphere. The mean temperature of the sea along the coast was found to be about 49° F., while the coldest part was found in Endicott Arm, into which the Dawe's glacier discharges,—there the water registered 36° F., a temperature of water in which a misfortune with a boat or canoe would be equivalent to certain death. A marked difference is found even at the same place. The difference is produced