

represent an approximate terrace-level, having relation to a former depression of the land of about the amount stated.

In Plover bay, on August 16, large masses of snow occupied many of the hollows, sometimes quite down to the edge of the sea. Portions of these accumulations undoubtedly last throughout the summer. No glaciated rock surfaces were actually observed, but this negative evidence is here of small value, as it depends upon observations made in a very short time and over a very small area. Mr Muir speaks of having found glaciated rock surfaces in Plover bay, and pictures it as having been at one time filled by a glacier thirty miles in length and from 2,000 to 3,000 feet in thickness.*

GENERAL REMARKS.

Bering sea is a dependency of the north Pacific, marked off from it by a bordering chain of islands like those which outline Okhotsk sea and the sea of Japan. It differs from these two seas by reason of its connection to the north with the Arctic ocean, and in the fact that while the whole eastern part of its extent is comparatively shallow, the profounder depths of the north Pacific (in continuation of the Tuscarora deep) are continued into its western part. The Aleutian islands, regarded as a line of demarkation between the main ocean and Bering sea, are analogous to the Kurile islands with Kamchatka, and to the islands of Japan. As to the Commander islands, though these appear to lie in the continuation of the arc formed by the Aleutians, they are separated by a wide and, so far as known, very deep stretch of ocean from the last of these islands, and it is wholly probable that they may represent an altogether independent local elevation analogous to that to which Saint Matthew and its adjacent islands are due.

The western part of Bering sea has as yet been very imperfectly explored with the deep-sea lead, but the following general facts may be gathered from the existing charts: The entire chain of the Aleutian islands is bordered at no great distance to the south by abyssal depths of the Pacific. The whole western portion of the chain likewise slopes rapidly down on the northern side into very deep water, exceeding 1,000 fathoms as far to the eastward as Unimak island; but from the vicinity of Unimak pass (longitude 165° west) the depths to the north of the islands are consistently less than 100 fathoms. Beginning near the Unimak pass, the edge of the hundred-fathom bank runs northwestward, passing to the west of the Pribilofs and Saint Matthew island and meeting the Asiatic coast in the vicinity of cape Navarin, in about north latitude 60°. Thus all parts of Bering sea to the north and east of this line, together

* Report of the Cruise of the Corwin, 1881, p. 143.