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steamer was turned at right angles within her own length in order to pass between the buoys. The passage is made at slack-water and with extreme caution, which does not always prevent an annoying graze upon the rocks.¹

Sitka, the capital of Alaska, is on the western side of Baranoff Island, in N. lat. $57^{\circ} 02'$; its population is much less than that of Juneau, but it is the older town, is the capital of the territory, and enjoys much more clear weather, whereas Juneau is only a mining town, and receives a fourth more rain. Sitka occupies a picturesque position on the incurving shore, behind which the surface rises slowly to form a beautiful recess in the mountains. The harbour, though doubtless attractive to an artist, has few advantages for the sailor; for it is contracted, ingress and egress being alike difficult. The main street of the town passes from the wharf by the old Greek church out to the Presbyterian Mission school. The houses are insignificant, except the Government building and the old Russian castle. The Indian quarter fringes the shore northward from the main street, and compares more than favourably with the other part. In some respects it is more modern, as several of the houses have been built after the most approved methods, while many of the best houses in the other portion are built of huge logs, which have withstood the damp climate for almost a century. Directly opposite Sitka is Mt. Edgecumbe, whose truncated summit tells at once the story of its origin. The mountain is fifteen miles away, but stands out sharply against the western sky as though the interval were but five miles. Its height above the sea-level is about 3000 feet, and, according to Mr. Koosher of Sitka, its crater is not far from 2000 feet in diameter with a maximum depth of, say, 200 feet. The rock is basalt, and perhaps the last eruption took place not very long ago.

The old Greek church in Sitka, which is the most noteworthy relic of Russian occupation, is still maintained by Russian funds; whereby are also supported the missions at St. Michael's, St. Paul's, and other localities in Northern Alaska. The Presbyterian Mission has a large training school, attended by Indians from all parts of South-eastern Alaska, in which are taught trades which can be profitably carried on in this country. The Mission has also a hospital beside its church. It is a liberal institution, for under its shelter and on its grounds has grown up the Alaska Scientific Society, whose museum of Alaskan ethnology is more than interesting; there one finds characteristic work of Eskimo, Aleuts, Athabascans, Thlinkets and the rest, consisting of carving, apparel, and implements of daily life. Geology has not been overlooked, for one finds here tusks and teeth of *Elephas*, as well as specimens of the various ores and minerals. A great part of the collections were made by Rev. Sheldon Jackson, who is now the Government Superintendent of Instruction for the territory. This museum is by far the most interesting institution in Sitka, illustrating, as it does, the differences between the Indians of South-eastern Alaska and those of regions beyond the moun-

¹ It should be called Destruction Strait, for, according to Petroff, it was so designated by the natives, because a large number of Aleutian Indians were lost there many years ago.