

geese were seen flying to the southward, a notable token of the winter setting in.

Headwinds and strong currents now much impeded our progress, and we only sighted the island of St. Lawrence early in the morning of 13th October: during the night of the 15th, we drifted so far to the north-west, that at three A.M., in the morning, the coast of Asia, near the Tchutskoi Noss, was discovered, with huts and signs of life visible on the shore. Here was a deep indentation, with the appearance of a river, which boats were despatched to examine. Meanwhile, the natives were evidently not unconscious of our presence: much bustle was observable among them, and after considerable running to and fro, they launched four boats, and pulled towards us, with signs of trepidation. Their diffidence being at length overcome, they paddled alongside, and climbed on board.

This was our first interview with the Tchutski, a people of whom less is known than any on the face of the habitable globe (if we except, perhaps, some of the tribes in the interior of Africa); and whose manners and appearance are so singular as to deserve a more particular notice hereafter.