

## AN OTTAWA NATURALIST'S JOURNEY WESTWARD.

### III.—THE ALEUTIAN ISLANDS AND BEHRING SEA.

BY ANDREW HALKETT,

Marine and Fisheries Department.

The Aleutian Islands present unusual physical features. Some are craggy and barren, but many, although wholly devoid of trees, are densely covered with a low growth vegetation ; such floral forms as irises, blue-bells, anemones, daisies, &c., growing in rich profusion, and lending a charm to the islands. I arose between three and four o'clock one morning to see the Entrance to Captain's Bay. That was a dreary dismal morning in a wild place. A very heavy mist hovered over the precipitous rocks, between which appeared intervening spaces of verdure. A few hours later the vessel anchored at Dutch Harbour, near the village of Unalaska.

This village is an interesting and picturesque place. It is situated in the midst of mountains in a beautiful bay. An ornament to the village is a neat little Russo-Greek church. It is a wooden structure, built in a somewhat oriental style, having, instead of spires domes with crosses on their tops. The Russo-Greek ritual, a very ancient form of nominal Christianity, and a most imposing ceremonial, is the recognized religion of the Aleuts.

I was delighted to see in this far-off village, a domesticated flock of Canadian Geese (*Bernicla canadensis*) comprising fourteen fine birds, but they were by no means so handsome as the specimens of this goose at the Central Experimental Farm. Apparently they were of the variety known as the Smaller White Cheeked Goose (*B. c. leucoparia*).

At the village, and around the island of Unalaska were numbers of Ravens (*Corvus corax*, L.), and as I found the broken tests of sea-urchins at considerable distances from the sea, it is