

object; and with the women, needles and scissors; but with both, blue beads were articles highly esteemed. We observed, that they put some of these to the test, by biting them to ascertain whether they were glass; having, perhaps, been served with wax ones by some of their former visitors.

Their implements were so similar to those of the Esquimaux as to need no description; except that their bows partook of the Tschutschi form. They had a great many small birds of the *alca crestatella*, strung upon thongs of hide, which were highly acceptable to us, as they were very palatable in a pie. These birds are, I believe, peculiar to St. Lawrence Island, and in proceeding up the strait their presence is a tolerably certain indication of the vicinity of the island. They are very numerous, and must be easily taken by the natives, as they sold seven dozen for a single necklace of blue glass beads.

About seven o'clock in the evening, the natives quitted us rather abruptly, and hastened toward the shore, in consequence of an approaching fog which their experience enabled them to foresee sooner than us, who, having a compass to rely upon, were less anxious about the matter. We soon lost sight of every distant object, and directed our course along the land, trying the depth of water occasionally. The bottom was tolerably even; but we decreased the soundings to nine fathoms, about four miles off the western point, and changed the ground from fine sand, to stones and shingle. When we had passed the wedge-shaped cliff at the north-western point of the island, the soundings again deepened, and changed to sand as at first.

At night the fog cleared away for a short time,

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X.

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