

DESCHNEW, is one which was made by a person named NIKIPHOR MALGIN, who stated that "a merchant named "TARAS STADUCHIN, did many years before relate to him, the "deponent, that he had sailed with ninety men in a Kotsche "from the river Kolyma towards the great cape of the "Tschuktzki: that not being able to double it, they had crossed "over on foot to the other side, where they built other vessels. "The small breadth of 'the isthmus at the part where they "crossed, is noticed as the most remarkable circumstance in "this deposition." They afterwards proceeded along the coast round the Kamtschatka Peninsula, till they came to the Penschinska gulf; and, in the short account which is given of this navigation, is found, expressed in an obscure manner, the *first* notice obtained by the Russians of the Kurilski islands.

This is a clearly described passage. Besides the expedition of DESCHNEW, and this of TARAS STADUCHIN, only one other instance is mentioned of any vessel having gone by sea from the Kolyma round the Tschuktzki coast; and this last mentioned case rests on the authority of an unauthenticated tradition, purporting that some man had gone in a vessel not larger than a skiff, from the Kolyma to Kamtschatka; and no other particular is spoken of in the report.

This was the state of the information obtained concerning the north-eastern extremity of Asia, at the time of Captain BERING's voyage. The Asiatic side only of Bering's Strait was discovered in that voyage, and the coast of Asia being there found to take a western direction, it had the effect of giving an impression, equal to demonstration, of a total separation of Asia and America. And after that time, and not