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Some Alaska Notes. Dull Times at Sitka and Fort Wrangel-Indians Turned Smugglers. (From Our Special Correspondent.) Fort Wrangel, August 14, 1880.

John Muir

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SOME ALASKA NOTES.

Fort Wrangell, Alaska, August 14, 1880.

I am back in my old quarters here, that I left last December, and kindly and familiar everything hereabout seems. The glassy water; the lovely evergreen islands; the Indians with their canoes and baskets and blankets, the jet ravens, prying and flying about the streets and spruce trees, and the bland, hushed atmosphere breathing tenderly over all.

We arrived here early on the morning of the 8th of this month by the steamer California, which comes from Sitka. The passage, which had been so much talked of as being insufficiently warm, was much more so than in Wrangell. The stoppage of the quartz mill belonging to the Alaska Gold and Silver Mining Company, workng the lower grade of the Stewart mine at a fair profit. Prospecting is still going on with all available resources. Large quantities of valuable quartzite have been brought to the surface. The Fort at Sitka, and the trading station on the Yokon, are being rapidly built up, and will set out in the near future to look after the needs of the United States.

The party of whites have allowed to pass through this portion of the Territory, and carrying on business in the midst of a charming scenery. The government has for both whites and Indians, the interests of the Territory in consideration, and has been acting with a careful, kind, and liberal hand. The party was accompanied by a number of nuns from the Catholic mission, and by the friendly Indian, Mr. Ramsey, in charge, with his assistent, Mr. Lewis, and a number of other white traders of the station.

On our return from Sitka the California called at Kluseeck, a fishing and trading station on Prince of Wales Island, the home of the Hoonah Indians, a charming place, thickly covered with green spruces, yellow-green sedges and bushes, then and every where, till one is suffocated by the beauty of it all. The party was accompanied by a number of Indians, who were being engaged in hunting and fishing, and who seemed to enjoy the scenery as much as the whites.

The California is about to leave, and this short letter must thus abruptly close. I have brought a crew of Indian Indians, and will sail the following day in the canoe to study the glaciers and forests.}

JOHN MUIR.