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RETURN TO ST. MICHAELS.

Preparing for Another Cruise-The Next Season at St. Michael's-San Francisco Prospects Heard From-Passus and Flower-Telecanthus Cereus.


The Corwin arrived here on the 4th, and made some noise with her maman to look out the day is to come with those belonging to the fort, to the steamer St. Paul and the Western Fur and Trading Company across the bay. We have taken on a supply of coal and provisions for nine months in case we should by any accident be caught in the ice north of Wrangell Strait before calling again here in the fall.

RETURN TO ST. MICHAELS.

We hope to go away from here this evening for the Arctic, intending to cruise along the Alaskan coast beyond Point Barrow, spending some time about Kotzebue Sound, looking after reverse interests, and perhaps making some explorations on the lower courses of the Inland and Buckland Rivers, and on the Corwin, of which, nearly nothing is yet known to geographers. The coast will also be carefully searched for traces of the Abitians and missing whalers in case any portion of their cases have come over the ice last winter. Perhaps a month will be spent there, when an attempt will be made to reach Wrangell Land, where the Jeannette probably spent her first winter. And since the Corwin has already passed Cape Douglas twice this season, we have no acte line hopes of success under so favorable a condition of the ice.

凝视着这寂寥的北极。

Arctic explorations are exciting much interest among the natives here. Last evening the Shaman called up the spirits supposed to be familiar with polar matters, who informed them that not only was the Jeannette forever lost in the far North ice with all her crew, but also that the Corwin would never more be seen after leaving St. Michael this time. Information which causes our interpreters to leave us, nor have we yet seen any to procure another in his place. The Jeannette took two men from hero.

A PARTY OF PROSPECTORS HEARD FROM.

The party of prospectors who left San Francisco this spring in a schooner to seek a mountain of solid silver reported to have been seen some distance up a river that flows into Grotius Bay, on the north side of Norton Sound, about 250 miles from here, have arrived, and are now up the river prospecting. From what I can learn they will not find the mountain to be solid silver, but some far commoner mineral. The weather is delightful, temperature about 65° in the shade, and the vegetation is growing with marvelous rapidity. The grass is already about two feet high about the shores of the bay, making a bright green surface, not at all broken as far as can be seen from the schooner. Almost any number of cattle would find excellent pasturage here for three or four months in the year.

Volcanic cone.

During our last visit Dr. Rossie and I crossed the tennis to a prominent hill about seven miles to the southward from the redoubt. We found the hill to be a well-formed volcanic cone with a crater a hundred yards in diameter and about twenty feet deep from the rim of which commenced upwards of forty pikes within a distance of thirty or forty miles. This old volcano is said by the mission men to be the entrance to the spirit world for their town, and the ruffled sounds heard occasionally are supposed to be caused by the spirits when they are conducting to a dead Indian. The last eruption was of ashes and pumice embers, which are green plentifully around the rim of the crater and down the sides of the cone.

Our visit was very favorable, as we sank deep into the sedge musk at every step, and staggered awkwardly on the roots of tomacook grass and sedge, which were so mixed up with the soil that we were unable to walk, and warmly feathered down to the end of our journey.

BETTA OF ST. MICHAELS.

We saw a great number of birds, most of which were baya about their nests; there were phain-phantas, carmelers, sandpipers, song-spawners, cinnamos, many species of ducks, and the Emperor goose. The praireman is a magnificent bird, about the size of the duney grum of the Sierra. They are quite abundant here, lying up with a vigorous white of wings and legs, hourly cackling every few yards all the way across the tundra, the cack frequenting taking up a position on some slight eminence to observe us. They seemed busy in place on the wide moss, with abundance of berries to eat through the summer and spring and fall, and withers and alder made the winter. They have short bills, and warmly feathered down to the end of their quills.

BETTA OF ST. MICHAELS.

The plants in bloom were, prinfuls, heimans, dicots, merrieri, hesperis, radish, mustard, mustard, euphorbius, crabeweed, oxtongue, draca of several species, lupen, terrors, wight, maids, buckwheat, lychee, thorn, several seque, a luscious plant new to me, five species of willow, dwarf shrub, ailer, and a purple pharekin, the showout of them all.

The linden is composed of a close species of mosses about a foot deep, with tissues growing on top of the mosses, and a thin growth of grassy and sedges and most of the tundra that mentioned above, with calcarious stones in it. The ground rests upon a soil of solid ice, and the soil on black vegetable, lava, ridges of which rive and there above the spongy moss mantle and afford ground for plants that live dry and. There are shallow lakes beneath the general level along which grew tall sedges, grass, elaters, and many species of plants from five or six inches in distance and from eight to ten feet high, the largest timber I have seen since leaving California.

Jaws More.