

Dixon Entrance off Pt. of Wales Arch.

Friday September 13th 1867.

We got underway this morning about 7 o'clock and left Port Simpson. We are going to Litka direct outside of the Prince of Wales Archipelago & at 10 o'clock tonight we ought to be about 150 miles from there so we may get in tomorrow night. The weather was very disagreeable all the morning, squalls of wind rain & hail. But this afternoon it cleared off and was very pleasant. I went into the cabin last night and read my notes on the passage up, to the Captain. He thinks he may possibly winter at St. Chier (pronounced Stik-wi). The natives at Port Simpson all speak the Chinesain (pronounced Simschian) language but in Litka and all through R.A. they speak the Stichine language.

I am going to try and learn the latter as it will be very useful to me if I stay up here any length of time as I think I shall as I want to do some surveying in this country.

Litka Harbor. R. A.

Monday September 16th 1867.

I have been so busy for the last two days that I have not had time to write at all. Early Saturday morning we sighted Cape Addington and about 7 o'clock we made Cape Cummaway the southern point of Baranoff's the island on which Litka is situated. About 10 o'clock we made Cape Edgecomb the N^o point of Litka sound and about 5 o'clock we got in the sound. From Mt. Edgecomb we could see C. Cummaway although it was nearly 70 miles off, the atmosphere was so clear. The scenery all up the coast was sublime. High peaks all along, generally topped with snow. Some more conical, some round, some flat and some ragged and mist around the base. Some had their peaks just sticking out of a bank of clouds. When we got in among the islands of the sound we fired several guns and hoisted the jacks for the pilot. He came alongside in a seal skin

cause just after dark. but we had a bright moon so it did not make much difference. From outside we could see the Governor's House, a large white building at the base of a very sharp peak. but the rest of the town was behind the islands. The cause the pilot came off in had three holes in it and there was another cause with a hole that had two holes in it. when they heeled over you could see through them.

Litka Harbor is full of little islands and we came in among them and around a long island that lay just in front of the town. We had to let go our anchor and move with haulers to the buoy. stern & stem. as the harbor is so narrow that there is not room for the ships to swing. It was after nine o'clock when we came to and after that we went sails & stem there away any. We found the "James town" safely moored here, she had been in three days and left a few days before we for this place.

Yesterday morning when I got on deck I took a look at the town. Aboard of us is the Indian village consisting of huts just as we saw them all the way up. Back of them are the totems, most of them painted and carried in the most fantastic manner. To the right of the village is the town which consists of the store houses & dwellings of the Russian Fur Co., a church with tall steeple painted green and looking as I should in a jail or a mosque would look, and the Governor's House. On the islands opposite the town there are only one or two houses.

There are six or eight vessels here and several more are expected in. There have been a great many Indians alongside in canoes. The Indians are very much like all that we have seen before but their canoes are somewhat different being alike at both ends. We were busy all day yesterday getting chains & the buoy and carrying out anchors &c. Saturday & Sunday were beautiful days but it has been raining all day today.

Sitka Harbor Ret.

Tuesday September 17th 1864

The Governor came on board this morning and had a chat with the Captain.

We sent ashore for another anchor + 90 fathoms of chain & put ashore to secure us against the S.E. gales. The steward

went ashore and got a mass of magnificent sea bass, much the best kind of fish we have had this cruise. The Indians

do not seem to care much for rum but want whiskey in exchange for everything they have. They have venison, prairie chickens, ducks, salmon, potatoes &c.

I went up on the forecastle and practiced firing at a mark with my revolver I beat Hawk + Mr. Ames. I hit a rock about as large as a saucer 120 yds off. I got a book from the Doctor named "Diarrhea" by Miss Brad-
don. + house is to be built on deck over the stowage hatch + it will take in the ward room doors. It will be a splendid place to smoke in on rainy days. Rainy all day.

Sitka Harbor Ret.

Wednesday September 18th 1864

We must & work morning ship again early this morning and have been hard at it all day. Jeff brought off two more anchors and 90 fms chain.

I hope we shall be able to get through with it this week. Hawk + I woulded 75 balls for my revolver today.

I think I shall go ashore tomorrow or the next day to see what sort of a place it is. I saw a large flock of geese flying southward, this morning.

The Indians at the village seemed to be in a terrible state of excitement this morning, gesticulating + howling at a great rate. One of them had on a pair of red drawers + seemed to be the chief while a great many of them had their legs painted red, as a substitute I suppose. All the Indians in our territory are mean + treacherous + many of them are brave + exceedingly revengeful + cruel towards each other + the whites. Rainy clear at intervals.

144.
Sitka Harbor R.A.

Friday September 20th 1867

To the best of my recollection, 19 years ago I was a pretty small chap

Yesterday I was turned out at our ^{place} in the morning and all hands were on deck. Work at work getting some chains out of the "Jamestown's" launch, for the Captain thought me more going to have a gale of wind. At half past three I must be aboard the "Jamestown" & took her under orders to strike topgallants, down top-sail & lower yards & haul topmasts. Yesterday after dinner we went to work sent down all our yards & hauled our topmasts & finished about six o'clock.

The pilot brought Hawk & I a canoe today, it cost us \$8.50. It is small, but is quite good. I went ashore in it with Sam and we went all over the place but did not see much except the Club Room, the Church & the Company's Store. Mr. Ames came back with us although he was a little afraid of tipping over. It rained last all day yesterday & today it was cloudy with morning raining & afternoon

145.
Sitka Harbor, R.A.

Saturday September 21st 1867

At 5 o'clock this morning I landed the canoe which was hoisted to the strong-backs of the 1st cutter & found that some one had emptied slops of all kinds into her. I got a tin pan and a paint scrub and took her to the beach & cleaned her out. The Revenue Cutter "Lincoln" came in this morning about 10 o'clock. She is a very fine looking vessel. Her Captain carries a Commodore's broad pennant at her mast head. I went ashore with Chip to get a piece of bark for Hawk to make a paddle out of, a Chippewa paddle.

We went up to a shanty called "the market" and saw a great many Esquimaux curiosities. A shirt made of duck skins, one of caribou, a great many harpoons, bow & arrows &c. They had services at the Greek Church ashore today as this is their Sabbath. There is a Lutheran Church ashore but their services are in German & Russian. It has been raining or drizzling all day.

146.
Sitka Harbor Pets

Sunday September 22nd 1867

Lane + I started off at 5 o'clock this morning & take a short paddle in the canoe and I suddenly found out that I had not asked permission to leave the ship. So the long & short of it is that although Mr. Anus tried to get us off we are both quarantined until further orders. Mickey bought a seal skin coat + cap today \$40. for the coat \$2. for the cap. I went ashore to the Island with Mr. Anus + a boat crew of men + put a chain around a large rock + shackled it to the chain from the stb^d quarter. Some men from shore went on board the "Alexander", a Russian steamer near us, + in sending down some of her yards one of the men was badly hurt aloft.

We sent nearly all our sails on board the "Jamestown" this morning for safe keeping, as we have no place to stow them here. There was no rain for a short time this morning but it rained hard all the rest of the day.

147.
Sitka Harbor Pets

Tuesday September 24th 1867

Yesterday morning Mr. Reed sent for me and said that I must send the canoe ashore, but I went to the Captain and I hope to be able to keep it after all. I am still quarantined so I have not yet been out of the ship. Yesterday afternoon the "Lincoln" got under way and steamed out of the harbor in search, I believe, of a deposit of magnetic iron on one of the islands. It is said to have very peculiar effects on the compasses of passing vessels. I have been very much interested in a book by Mrs. Oliphant called "Laidie." It is beautifully written and the characters are strongly drawn. The plot is very good.

We have been sending all our remaining gear ashore to a loft. I sent my wash clothes ashore but how they will be fixed in this out of the way place I cannot say. It has been raining hard yesterday + today + last night it blew a gale of wind for a short time.

Sitka Harbor Ret.

Thursday September 20th 1867

We painted ship outside yesterday and will probably cross ship Saturday.

They have a canoe on board the "Jamestown" and yesterday they had her in the gangway going to a crate of blue paint. We had a fine tender goose for dinner today. I went to the main top this afternoon and saw a large ship coming in in tow of the steamer here and a bark in the offing. The ship got in a little while ago and Hawk was sent out in the dinghy to see what she was.

She is 14 days from San Francisco and Hawk found a friend of his Maj. Geo. Dana on board. She has masts for us which we will get as soon as she is safely moored in her berth between us and the "Alexandra".

The sun was out yesterday morning and staid out until 11 o'clock then it was cloudy until 10 o'clock and has rained steadily last night & all day today.

Sitka Harbor Ret.

Friday September 21st 1867

The mail came over last night and I got several letters from mother and the children. This was indeed a treat.

I went to the mast head this morning and saw the bark outside. The little side wheel steamer went out and took her in about 12 o'clock. She is an American bark 20 days from San Francisco. She brought us no mail.

We got a deer today and had some rice mission for supper. We got 8 tons of coal from the "Jamestown" this afternoon. The Russian ship that came in last night hauled ahead of us this morning. Geo. Dana came up in her as an agent for the American Fur Company. The launch was fitted out today with her spars and Mr. Red went in her to get water. As we had only 500 gals on hand at noon today. He did not get much. It has been raining nearly all day today.

Sitka Harbor Rts

Saturday September 28th 1867

I have not had such good eating for some time as I have had today, Salmon, venison, pheasant, & duck. The Captain told me today that Capt Howard of the Revenue Service is going to Washington and as he knows John I shall go to see him tomorrow if I can get out of limbo. Mr Ames went out hunting early this morning with some of the officers of the "Jameson" in their canoe, but they did not get anything. Poor little "Fanny" the black & tan pup we got in Puanama died today. She was very smart indeed and was the pet of the ship. She could sit up, stand back & dance on her hind legs & perform various other tricks. She was a beautiful dog indeed.

There are two more vessels outside now but it has been blowing a gale of wind from the N.E. all day and they could not get in so there is no steamer in harbor & two more against the wind. It has been raining & blowing hard all day.

Sitka Harbor Rts

Sunday September 29th 1867

We had inspection this morning at quarters and afterwards Mr Reed told Sam & I that we were released from quarantine. So I immediately went out paddling in the canoe. The bark that I saw inside came in today. Her name is the "Mameluke" and she flies the Landmark Id flag. She anchored astern of us and at low tide she got aground. They will probably get her off at high tide. She brings coal &c for the "Lincoln".

I went out in the canoe in the afternoon with Mr Ames and we went about 3 or 4 miles. I kept the canoe ashore in the island at night I think I shall make a sail for her. I am going hunting in the island for geese some time this week. The Captain, Mr Ames & the Paymaster went ashore & call on the Governor today. Mr Ames says his wife is a very handsome lady about 23 years old. The weather has been beautiful today. Clear & cool.

Sitka Harbor Nets

Monday September 30th 1867

I put my shirt on head part before this morning & left it that way for good luck which came & me in a most satisfactory manner. I first overhauled the inkstains & spilt the ink all over my bed & the "log".

Then I was out hunting all day with Mr. Ames & did not kill a single thing.

We first went ashore and passed through the town to the lake behind it.

Then we walked along the lake shore for some distance in a swamp sinking & our knees in mud at nearly every step.

We left the lake & struck out for the beach which we finally gained after a struggle through thick under brush & mud. We walked along the beach until we met the stream where we got our fresh water. We found the Captain & Doctor there & the "Jameson's" launch getting water. We looked at some furs, some, coming back sales met Capt & Mrs McDougal. We took the canoe & spent the rest of the day but got nothing. This has been another fine day clear & pleasant.

Sitka Harbor Nets

Tuesday October 1st 1867

I found the caulk split & leaking badly yesterday afternoon but this morning Hank & I took her ashore and caulked her so that she is perfectly tight again. When I went to the mast head I saw a large steamer coming in which proved to be the Russian Fur Co's vessel the "Constantine". Hank & I went ashore after dinner & took a walk around town, went to the bowling alley & melted a couple of games nine pins. Coming back we met Mickley & the pilot, at the market. Mickley accompanied us on board the "Constantine". The first mate invited us down into the cabin & gave us some champagne & cigarettes. He had no Cognac or curiosities though. He said the cargo of furs &c was valued at over \$1,000,000.00. After we came back Chef & Hank went out in the canoe & saw several ducks. Another beautiful day clear & pleasant.

Sitka Harbor Alaska Terr. U.S.

Friday October 15th 1864

Early this morning I saw a steamer coming in & soon after she made her
 number, proving to be the "Ossipee" when
 she got in the Captain went on board &
 I went to the "John L. Stevens" and took
 Gen. Davis and two of his staff over to
 the "Ossipee." When we got aboard I
 saw McCornick, Cutts, Lotter, Kober &
 Judd, Turnbull, Dayton & Sprague har-
 ing been ordered from her to the "Pensa-
 cola" at Man Island. The "Ossipee"
 brought up Gen. Rousseau, the two
 Russian Commissioners, the Collector
 of the Port some or two others. They
 came up the inside passage all
 the way from Victoria to Cape Cumma-
 rey, making the passage from Lau-
 Francisco in 22 days. Gen. Rousseau
 seemed to be in a pretty big hurry
 & got back so he gave orders to
 have the troops landed and everything
 ready for the ceremony at 3 o'clock.

We sent all the boats we could

space, the "Jaqueston" + "Ossipus" went there and the troops men all landed at the boat house and marched up to the open place in front of the Governor's House where the flag staff is. All the Russian troops were there also. I went over at 3 o'clock in the gig with the Captain + Mr. Ames, we called at the "Sterius" for the ladies but found that they had all gone over some time before we got there.

We went to the Governor's House and went into the parlor where we found the Governor, the two Russian Commissioners Gen. Rousseau, Gen. Denis, Capt. Eumovs of the "Ossipus" and a great many others.

When they all got ready we went out to the flag staff where the troops were drawn out. The troops presented arms we all took off our caps and they started the Russian flag down, but it pulled some way or other and the inside edge tore off, leaving the main part of the flag hanging aloft, and no way to get it down.

Several of the Russian soldiers started up the guy to get it down but they were all tired out before they got up. All this time the "Ossipus" and the battery ashore were banging away at a salute of 21 guns apiece, and the colors were shown from the mast-heads of our ship + the "Ossipus" Russian at the fore, American, at the main + mizzen. After fooling for about 15 minutes they suddenly thought of hoisting a man up with a tackle, of which there were two on the flag staff.

They hoisted him up in a jiffy and he got the flag but instead of bringing it down with him, he dropped it on the heads of the soldiers below.

After some delay on account of the battery, the American flag was hoisted saluted by the battery ashore and the shipping in the harbor. The people around gave three cheers, the highest play-ct, the troops were marched off and embarked and we all returned to the harbor + took a glass of champagne.

page and returned in hand

As the reporter for the "Ostend" was present, that paper will probably contain the pretty sentiment about the "stars & stripes" waving triumphantly to the

At the Indian village the head chief Michael Koukan hauled down the Russian flag from the staff in front of his house and after a moment hoisted it up again & they all came to the conclusion that although they gave the country to the Russians they did not agree to give it to any one that happened to come along, so Uncle Samuel must move off. "Lo! the poor Indian"