

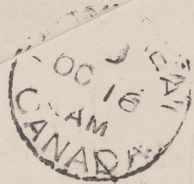
91 - Alentian Is



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9156
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Got 2 boxes
shak to chickens 70 pairs
thus you owe me 3000

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY DEPARTMENT.

Alfred R. C. Selwyn, C. M. S., L. L. D., F. R. S.,

DEPUTY HEAD AND DIRECTOR,

MUSEUM AND OFFICE, SUSSEX STREET, OTTAWA.

Aug. 23 1891

Unalaska Harbour

My dear Anna,

on arrival here day before yesterday I set yours of July 27th from Naito, for which I am much indebted - also other letters of which ones from Foster, dated 28 July is the latest. All the news seems good, so far as it goes. I think Swartz & Foster from the Pribilof Islands, whence we had a pretty direct chance of sending a mail via San Francisco, so that you should have news of our movements by this time. Since leaving the Pribilof Islands we have made a rather extended cruise to the northward, calling at Nunivak Island, St. Matthew Island, St. Lawrence Island & eventually at Olovoy Bay on the Siberian coast. Tomorrow we hope to leave here for a cruise to the westward. We should be back here some time in September - probably about the middle of the month - & hope to reach Victoria again not late in October - perhaps early in the month. Weather so far has been rather fine on the whole, for though often very foggy & occasionally

wet, we then had in heavy gales. All the way
 South from Oliver Bay we had rough sea, swell
 rolling about in all directions, as we afterwards
 found, in consequence of a storm from the Southward
 & Eastward. One day, for about eight hours, we had
 the worst time of rolling I ever saw, everything loose
 or that could break loose tumbling round all over the ship
 & quite impossible to cook in the gally or keep
 anything on a table. The fog causes a good deal of
 loss of time & often necessitates the expenditure of from
 six to 24 hours following about every time we have
 to make the land. Up at St Matthews Island we
 found three men had established themselves for the
 purpose of spending the winter & hunting. The island is,
 however, otherwise uninhabited. Polar bears are supposed
 to abound on it & we saw about a dozen at
 different times, several being killed. We also had
 some shooting at walrus & sea-lions along the shore,
 but without any known result. The enormous numbers
 of sea-birds on some of these isolated islands is not
 remarkable. Another notable thing is the entire absence of
 trees or even bushes of any kind. Even here along the
 Aleutian Islands the steep hills & mountains of

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Which they are compared are not, & given with
 a luxuriant growth of grass & herbage & even it is
 not too rocky, but chiefly trees. There are several
 foliaceous ones the albatrosses supposed to be 'active' but
 two which we have sighted so far on rare occasions of
 partial lucidity have carried only little languishing
 bunches of steam about them.

There is quite a little fleet collected here at the present
 moment, according to arrangements made for comparing
 notes etc. It includes three British war vessels, the
 Nymphe, Porpoise & Phœnix, four U.S. war vessels
 Mohican, Itasca, Alert & Mariner. One U.S. Revenue
 Cutter & several other vessels with coal etc. The Phœnix
 has been cruising most of time in company with the
 Danube, & the Porpoise is to follow us when
 we leave here.

The above may serve as a sort of outline of news
 & though I address it to you, you will doubtless
 communicate it to the rest of the family & do

As if I wrote more I should say for about
the same items to reiterate.

I find that I have used this geol. survey paper
with me, which will account for my using it
instead of more suitable paper.

Yours

George

