THE SCRANTON TRIBUNE-SATURDAY MORNING, MAY 16, 1896.



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Picturesque Views Among the Glaciers of Far Alaska.

BEWILDERING ICE EFFECTS

MASSES OF LUSTROUS CRYSTAL

Spirited Description of Davidson Glacier, One of the Two Incomparable Wonders of Our Northern Possession. Other Interesting Features.

Written for The Tribune.

We parted with our readers on proaching the famous icclieid, Davidson glacier, near the head of Castineau Channel. It was the sunset hour—8.55 p. m.—that our noble Queen with her gallant commander, and as bright a company of passengers as ever graced a ship satled swiftly and silently up this long, glassy, blue arm of the Paeffic. Everybody was on deck and everybody was spell-bound with the im-pressive grandeur and stillness of this hushed and deserted flord running be-tween perpendicular and precipitous mountain walls thousands of feet high on cither side.

Presently through a gap in the western wall we eagerly caught a glimpse of Davidson glacier. The sunset was just beginning to turn the whole sky to gold while the western wall of the ford lay in a deep shadow, which reflected across to the eastern wall, on which fell the full splendor of the eve-ning sun, closely followed with shadows

ful of the Pallisades and the Hudson river near West Point, although few of the peaks are less than three-fourths of a mile high vertically. Here is a mountain of glittering ice which seems to project in air and overhang its base. Here is a cannery and trading station, established in 1882. Adjoining the can-ment is a large again of Chilest Indians away and vegetation ceases and we sail through innumerable icebergs to the end of the bay (Muir Inlet) which is so blocked that the prows of the steamers are protected with heavy timbers to save the strain and shock caused by the crashing of the vessel into the bergs and floating "mush ice." Canoes rarely enter here. It is difficult to convey by words aby any accessible or intelligent

cler, roll Reid.

established in 1882. Adjoining the can-nery is a large camp of Chileat Indians noted for their skill in weaving dancing blankets, engraving spoons and furn-ishing native curios for tourists. Right here wild roses, and iris, and all Al-pine flowers attain wonderful size and brilliancy of color. Wild strawberries, salmon berries and thimble berries are found on the flats in superabundance. found on the flats in superabundance. Off Pyramid Harbor is "Observatory Island," the United States astronomic-al station. Its position is 59 degrees, 10 minutes and 36 seconds north, and 136 degrees, 26 minutes west, and is to the tourist the furthermost northern point where he exposes "Lundelin's" photo-graphic plates and reads fine print at midnight in July, as was our experience on this, the 15th day of August, 1895. We write on deck with ease at 10.45 p. We write on deck with ease at 10.5 p. m. and from that time until daybreak, at 2.30 a. m., the night, if it may be so called, is a shadowy twilight. The summer days in these latitudes are notably long, there being only two or three hous of appreciable darkness.

CHILCAT.

Just on the opposite side of the inbor. let is Chilcat. The inlets of both Chil-cat and Chilkoot are barren and grim with the wind blowing cold from fields We are now at the mouth of "Muir of ice and nineteen cataracts from among the icy fastenesses. This is called the "Greenland Icy Mountain latitude." Chilcat is an Indian village Inlet" and the great glacler, the "World's Wonder" spreads out before us. Here is a sight so grandly impressive that the human voice is awed to and trading station, the tribe number-ing about 800. Here is one of the larg-est canneries in Alaska. Here is where

sengers owing to the United States cus-toms regulations. Everybody who can endure the strain and fatigue should climb up on the profound crevasses and view also this magnificent panorama of Arctic scen-ery. Breakfast dispatched, photo-traphs of the ice wall from the steam-er's deck taken, alpen stocks and cam-er's deck taken, alpen stocks and cam-er's deck taken, alpen stocks and cam-er's deck taken. It is an easy walk up the beach to the base of the ice clifts. A well-built trail and board walk lead over the bluff and the quick-sands of glacial mud in the moraine to the summit of the ice glacter which is rouse, 11,300 feet; Lituya, 10,000 feet; D'Agelet, 3,000 feet high above the noble Pacific. These form the southern extremity of the 'Mount St. Elias Alps." note rating. They form the souther is extremity of the Mount St. Elias Alps." All these noble summits are seen from the deck of our steamer on our left as we ascend Glacker Bay, together with picturesque "White Mountains," which line the east side between Glacker Bay and Lynn canal; but Mr. St. Elias it-self, though it rises to over 19,000 feet, is too far north to be visible from this inland passage. Oh, such mountains! reaching to the very battlements of heaven. The horizon seems so full of them that, there is no counting them any more than counting the leebergs in the bay. This is a sight too grand to seem a reality; it's enough to take one's breath away as the view widens. It only lasts for a glorious half hour, and then by a turn and the jutting out of a great promontory they are mainly lost to view. the summit of the ice glacier which is an immense rolling white prairie over which a regiment of cavalry might deploy, and where future tourists will travel on sleds, or even horses. There is really no danger to require the ice-

A WALL OF ICE.

and comments of the passengers. But the most remarkable was the coloring.

that exquisite blue of which the turquoise is the nearest specimen, spotted here and there and sometimes covered

with crystals of snow. An occasional

squadron of these "fleating pyramids," with their white sides and uniform

shape bring vividly to mind the regatta scenes of New London and Newport, even one white squadron of war-vessels

as they lay at anchor in Newport har-

THE MUIR GLACIER.

ax, rope, creepers, or extraordinary cos-tumes, unless the tourist goes out of his way and seeks them in the crevassed regions. Rubber shoes and mackin-Up to 1869 no civilized person knew anything of this Glacier Bay, though Vancouver found a wall of ice extend-ing across its mouth 100 years ago. It was not till 1877 that Lieutenant C. E. S. Wood entered the bay in his canoe, but the glaciers ware not made known regions. Rubber shoes and machi-toshes are a necessity, though quickly cut by the sharp ice-crystals. Leading out from the moraine is what is called the "Dirt Glacier" which is a treacher-ous place, full of sink-holes and quick-sands of glacier mud, where boulders reel and sink beneath. This fine "minbut the glaciers were not made known to the world until Professor John Muir and Rev. S. Hall Young, the Presbyterand Rev. S. Hall folding, the Pressyler-ian missionary at Fort Wrangel, ex-plored it in 1879. Captain Beardslee, United States navy, accompanied by Cozian, the famous Russian pllot-though he had never heard of the bay before—made an exploration in 1880 and traced a chart that he gave to our Captain Carroll of the Oneen who eral paste and mountain meal" make a sticky, slippery compound that hardens like cement; the incautious, like the writer, got caught and drenched knee deep twice in our days roaming, should say the walk to the top of "Muir" is three miles from where the row-boats land, this is over rocks, gravel and sand of the lateral moraine. At and traced a chart that he gave to our Captain Carroll, of the Queen, who took the mail steamer Idaho up the bay in July, 1883, found the great glacier described by Profesor John Muir, and named for him both the glacier and the inlet. In August, 1882, Captain Carroll himself took the Queen and entered this bay again and made important dis-coveries, among them the Pacific gla-cier, the John Hopkins, Rendu and Car-roll glaciers, as named by Professor Reid. one place an ice bridge is crossed that spans the river beneath, the roar of whose waters among the ice masses be-low is distinctly heard. The summit of the glacier is furrowed with crevices. Some have perpendicular walls of pure ice many hundreds of feet deep. INTO CAVES OF ICE.

We entered some of these mysterious ce caves piloted by the first officer of Near the mouth of the bay is a group of eight low islands named for Com-mander Beardslee, a mass of loose maour steamer, first through a sandy mor-aine, then into a crevasse of solid ice, which led into yawning chasms of in-terminable depths. We gazed into the very heart and recess of the canyons, terial, evidently glacial debris. Near the middle of the bay is a bare rock, the initiale of the bay is a bare rock, a mass of limestone, about three miles long and 1,500 feet high and a half-mile wide, showing glacial furrows and polished from the bottom to the top. As we proceed the dense forests which look down upon us from both sides, backed by the Majestic mountains, fade way and variation command to said saw new depths, and shades, and tones of blue, and learned of colors, the ex-istence of which the imagination could not before have dreamed. We saw the great subterranean rivers and heard such rumblings, such peals, snaps and crashes within this ice realm, as to impress and overawe us. Words can scarcely describe the awful grandeur of this great glacier-whether viewed from the deck of our steamer, or close to the front-which extends for twa miles across and towers from 250 to 200 feet high, or while walking on its very summit among thousands of seams and crevasses which descend into these un-known depths. No camera, no pencil, words any appreciable or intelligent idea of the scene through which we are passing. Nor can I do so fully by the no vocabulary can do more than produce passing. Nor can I do so fully by the ald of my right hand friend, the "Lun-delius Camera." I can only say that the bay was full of ice floss of all im-aginable shapes and sizes; some con-tained deep caverns with statacille roofs, many honey-combed through and through like white corni; some assume a desire to see for one's self. The Taka. Norris and Davidson glaciers are each wonderful, but Muir is the grandest of all these great ice rivers that move with so majestic a step, sweeping down relentlessly all obstacles in their broad paths. through like white coral: some assume the form of ships, churches, castles, In-dian tents, not fantastic creations, but so marked as to attract the attention

The disintegration of these immense masses, some of them weighing thou-sands of tons, suggests the question, How fast does the glacier move for-ward? Accurate measurement shows that the glacier, like the river, is always in motion. By photographic evi-dence the glacier recorded one thousand yards in four years. Prof. Wright, of Oberlin, who encamped here, fixed its advance at seventy feet in the center and ten feet at the sides, an average of forty feet perday. Prof. Reid, who took daily observations for a long time, places the number at seven, eight and ten feet per day. Prof. Muir recognizes a retreat of a mile between his visits of 1889 and 1890. Prof. Wright estimates

"that a stream of ice presenting a cross section of about five million square feet —that is 5,000 feet wide by 1,000 feet deep-is entering or falling into Glacier Bay at an average rate of forty feet per day. This would give about 200,000,000 feet of ice per day failing off during the the s



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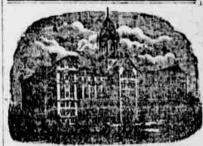
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the intensest violet hue, Such shadowsi imagine the scene, if you

As we drew nearer, the mountains As we drew nearer, the mountains meemed to take on greater grandeur and still whiter robes. Far, far away, so lofty and surpassingly grand is the Fairweather range, with, its majestic snow-robed peaks, Mount Fairweather and Mount Crillon—lifting, their surface heavenward over three spires heavenward over three above sea level. We try to take miles in their stupendous height by com-parison with the lower ranges which surround their base. It is a glorious vision to paint on the mind, but which no words of mine can well portray. Oh! such vastness—such majesty—such si-lence! We look; we wonder; and are speechless. One says: "From the summit of those towering mountains we felt that it was not far to the throne of God.'

THE FINEST GLACIER.

Our steamer stops a while in front of this magnificent glacier. It is revealed this magningent glacter. It is revealed to us as a body of ice as graceful in form as the famous "Muir Glacter" is colossal in stature. We pass it and re-pass it, but the linest view of the glacter is from the steamer directly abreast it. It looks like 'a mighty winding river sweeping down from the White Moun-tains and pouring its mighty torrent tains and pouring its mighty torrent into the sea, where it is suddenly con-gealed and becomes a large field of ice. It is a spur of the great series of glaciers that form the "frigid bulwark of ice" that surrounds Glacier Bay. It is named for Professor George Davidson, the astronomer, who explored its lower slopes in 1867. It was further explored by Captain Carroll in 1869.

As we sall in front, a moraine is dis-tiactly seen, which runs far out into the channel (Lynn). Here is a forest of low willow and alder trees, which have sprung up on this terminal mo-raine, a half mile wide. This moraine is distinctly seen, chanciled with streams. and is swampy throughout. At the base is a chaotic mass of grimy blocks of ice. Between the crevacess to the line of the mountain gateway the ice level is found by Professor Davidson and other explorers, to be 645 feet above the channel. It is more difficult of as-cent than the "Muir," but tourists who walt over a steamer can be taken by walt over a steamer can be taken by launches from the canneries to where a tolerably dry path leading to the ice formation has been found. The lower slopes of the glacier is screened by the dense growth of trees. Above these trees this sea of ice spreads out through a rocky gorge thousands of feet high, expanding like a fan to the breadth of three miles. In fact, in almost avors three miles. In fact, in almost every ravine there is a glacier and the Artic appearance becomes very marked, al-though the thermometor only stands at 48 degrees, and we are within forty miles or six degrees of the Arctic circle. The veteran traveler, Rev. Dr. H. M. Field, of the New York Evangelist, who made the trip in 1894, writes: "The day made the trip in 1894, writes: "The day after we left Juneau, we steamed into the Bay of Chilcat, where two inlets lead up into the main land around which circle the mountains and the forests in whose dark bosoms are counted no less than nineteen glaciers. But I had eyes only for one, the Davidson, which if I were to distinguish it from other glaciers, I, should say was more beautiful than terrible, as it descends by a gentle slope from the mountain height, spreading out its fan-like bord-

ers till it is three miles wide at the shore, where it dips its cold feet in the sea." ANOTHER SETTLEMENT.

A few miles beyond this glacier the reat flord becomes too narrow and soal for steamers, and with a tantalizing peep of lofty mountains, gaps and over-lapping spurs, we sweep in shore under the shadow of Mount Labouch-ere, which overhangs the Indian village and cannery of Pyramid Harbor, which is found an interesting piece of moun-tain scenery. It takes its name from asymmetrical rock which rise in soll-ary assolateness in the pidst of the transferring tides. It is quits semind-

the King salmon, the red salmon, are caught in great quantities by both Indians, Chinese and whites, Large stories are told of the immense fish caught here and on the Yukon. Official reports state that King salmon are found five and six feet long and weigh-

ing as much as 120 pounds. A trail a mile and a half through miry woods extends to another Presby-terian mission called "Haines" on the terian mission called "Haines" on the Chilkoot inlet, under the supervision of Rev. W. W. Warne and assistants, Misses Fannie H. Willard and Annie M. Sheets. From Chilcat the Yukon gold seekers find an easy route to the Yukon mines, viz. They canoe twen-ty-six miles in "Haleys" to the end of the "Taiya Inlet." ascend the summit of the pass to 4,100 feet above the sea over the continental range and drop down to Lake Lindermann, in all, twen-three miles, where there is a continu-

three miles, where there is a continu-ous channel of lakes and rivers for 623 miles to the "Forty-mile" trading sta-tion on the famous Yukon river,

ALASKA'S CROWNING GLORY. within the glacier. Presently another huge pinnacle topples over with a roar We have now reached the northern point of our voyage at Chilcat, and must retrace our course some sixty miles to "Icy Strait," and thence northand glantic splash that is heard and felt for miles with a tremendous up-heaving of the water and is lost for a westward fifty-five miles to Cross Sound and Into Glacier Bay to reach the crowning glory of this veritable wonderland—"Muir Glacier"—which we have traveled over 5 000 relles across minute in the sea, rises again and bobs about in dangerous fashion, throwing aloft clouds of spray, turning somer-saults, swaying to and fro until it finds nave traveled over 5,000 miles across

its equilibrium and floats with the cur-rent to the sea. There is scarcely an interval of ten minutes in the day or night without some exhibition of this kind. In order to get something of an the American continent to see. On all this trip we have seen won-ders and masterpieces of navigation. afforded us by the huge Queen, which seems to be managed as easily as a steam launch. When viewed from the hurricane deck she seems to be hung on a pivot and responds to the touch of the wheel as a viewed as the touch of idea of the collossal proportions of the scene 1 am endeavoring to describe, let the wheel as a spirited horse does to the rein. Of all marine manouvres the neatest was the great sweep around the head of Lyon canal and remains among the most vivid pictures in mem-

Circling around, the snow peaks of this great Chilcat country seem to watch us down the flord, even the great bavidson Glaefer is grim, ghostiy and mysterious in the heavier twilight sha-dows as we repassed it softly and slow-ly on our all-night voyage. This day has been one of marvelous beauty and wonderment, the sun has shone nine-teen hours and so perfect is the night. teen hours and so perfect is the night— the twilight with pale stars—that we cannot persuade ourselves to retire, but linger on deck until 1 o'clock and wit-ness the red streak of dawn appear in the eastern sky, while it is still light in the west. Think of it? the west. Think of it! At 11 p. m. it is twilight and at 1 a. m. it is daybreak in this latitude.

At noon the following bulletin was posted:

DAILY BULLETIN.

DAILY BULLETIN. Alaska Excursion, Season of 1895. S. S. Queen Daily Time Table, Aug. 16, 1895. Lat. at Noon, 18 Degrees, 47 Minutes, N. Long, at Noon, 135 Degrees, 67 Minutes, W. Distance run, 210 Miles. We will sail through the following chan-nels during the next twenty-four hours if not detained by thick weather: Glacker Bay, Icy Straits, Chatham Straits, Peril Straits, Salisbury Sound, Nova Straits, Olga Straits, Stika Sound, Ne arrive at the Kootsnahoo Fishing Bariks about 7.30 p. m., and remain there about two hours ishing. Arrive at Sitka about 8 a. m. to-morrow and remain until 8 a. m. on Sun-day morning. (Signed) James Carroll, Commander,

silence, but we can imagine we hear inaudible tones, the voice of the great Creator, saying: "All the kingdoms of the earth are mine," "Be still and know WHAT VISITORS SAY. that I am God," "I, the Lord, formed all these things."

The above three men, together with Prof. Davidson, are credited with the This is the great "Muir Glacier." great bulk of recent reliable informa-tion we have of this region. One says wall of ice a mile wide, 300 feet high and five times that beneath the water. Millions of spires crown its height, all "The Mer de Glace in Switzerland which washes the feet of Mont Blanc, is but a tinted from snowy white to the deepest dwarf in size, compared with the Muir." indigo. As we peer with strained eyes into these caverns of deepest sap-Dr. J. M. Buckkley says: "As the Muir Glacier is the grandest that the phire, surmounted by glistening pin-nacles of transparent blue, some huge mass, may be an acre in size, topples tourist sees, far surpassing anythink which the Alps, the mountains of Nor-way, or the Himalayas can exhibit, it and falls into the bay with a deep thundering noise, like cracking of armay interest the reader to know some thing more of the number and size of tillery or the boom of cannon. A cloud of foam arises, and the sea is stirred to a fury, the great waves dashing far those contained in our Alaska territory. The entire front of the coast chain of mountains that forms our eastern Alas-kan boundary, from Mount Saint Elias to the mouth of the Portland Canal, contains over five thousand living glaup on to the beach, even rocking our steamer as though it were a sail boat, which is anchored a half mile from it. Soon we hear another almost deafening contains over five thousand fiving gia-clers of greater or less degree, which are forever traveling to the sea. Muir and Davidson are but parts of one great ice field 'which, set down in Europe, would cover the whole Swiss Republic,' " Kate Field says of the Muir glacler: "Imagine Niagara Falls frozen a solid wall of ice, 300 feet high moving toreport, then a succession of them that resemble the discharge of heavy guns or the reverbrations of thunder, but no outward effect is seen. This is the breaking apart of great masses of ice

wall of ice, 300 feet high, moving to-ward the ocean, and a similar wall six or seven hundred feet under water, and the whole mass cracking and giving forth peals of thunder that rival the heavenly artillery, and every few mo-ments thousands of tons of lovely blue ice crashing into the sea and starting on a voyage as icebergs-a peril to the Arctic voyager-and you will have some slight conception of this imposing spectacle."

Dr. H. M. Field says: "To see the Muir Glacier is an event in one's life, like seeing Saint Peter's at Rome, or the Taj in India. It is a sight which does, not fade in the distance. Go where be may, still is he

'By the vision splendid

the units open on the purce light of heaven." Here ends the six days' experience of the writer's Alaskan itinerary—a red-letter day—a veritable epoch in his life. J. E. RICHMOND.



sotice, at The Tribune Office.

square miles. THE MOUNTAIN CATEWAY. The mountain gateway, through which it pours into the sea, is two and one-half miles wide, formed by spurs of Mt. Case on the right, 5.510 feet high, and Mt. Weight on the left, 4.944 high, besides Pyramid peak. The glacier is surrounded by huge mountains, broad at the base and broken at their sum-mits, varying from 4.000 to 6.000 feet in

morrow and remain there about two hours ishing. Arrive at Sitka about 8 a.m. to-morrow and remain until 8 a.m. on Sumarder.
Barnes Carroll, Commander.
After a four hours' rest we are again on deck at 5.0 ciock. This is a brilliant morning, the air keen and sharp, the thermometer at 30 degrees as our steamer sails up "Icy Straits" into Glacier Bay.
This bay is an indentation which extends thirty miles northward with a breadth of from eight to twelve miles at Point Carolus, its entrance, narrowing descend to its waters.
The peninsula inclosed by Glacier Bay, Cross Sound and the Pacific ocean is from thirty to forty miles wide and sonitains numerous lofty mountains, is mong them Mounts Crillion, 15,000 teet; La Pe-

the reader imagine the capitol at washington, the city hall in Philadelphia, the Cathedral, Equitable, Mills and the sky-plercing newspaper buildings around City Hall square, New York, floating in front of Muir glacter, and still its emerald walls and pinnacles would overtop and engulf them all. it is impossible to conceive the effect of such a stunendous mass without be such a stupendous mass without be holding it. The actual ice surface is over 350 square miles, the mass of it 35 miles long and 10 to 15 miles wide, lying

but a few hundred feet above sea level. It is fed by tweny-six tributary ice It is fed by tweny-six tributary ice streams, seven of which are a mile in width, these being fed by smaller streams. This vast ice plain slopes back at a grade of 100 feet to the mile to the mountains, thirteen miles dis-tant from the inlet. The Muir inlet is five miles iong and from one mile and three-quarters to three miles wide and stretches due north and south. The latitude of the glacier is 58 degrees and 50 minutes north, and 136 degrees and 50 minutes west, and drains an area of 800 minutes west, and drains an area of \$00

mits, varying from 4,000 to 6,000 feet in height. The main stream rises forty miles back and comes through her great