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Journal at Sitka

Friday Sept 10th 1854

One pleasant day is the saddest, our hopes of going to Japan, Alaska & the best prospect is of going home for the winter, more than this one but Mr. L. leaves tomorrow. His kindness to us makes me feel that I am losing a friend & more today & it is not half gone.

Saturday Sept 11th

The night past stormy & a clear bright day succeeded it, but it has been a sad one. Mr. L. left some after sunrise. God bless him, he is the best friend we have had here. The governor of the Russian American Company, arrived yesterday, and today takes possession of his house. I know not what will be done with us, this state of suspense is almost unbearable.

Sunday Sept 12th

Continues fine. Our fears yesterday were all a mistake, instead of the Governor who by the way is a gentleman, there came the Company's doctor, who is a social being to say the least of him. He talked politics till 10 o'clock. He doesn't understand a word of English or we of Russian.

Monday Sept 13th

A change in the weather, some rain & the wind N. & E. Awoke this morn. feeling some the effects of late hours & new port wine, as the sun came out. They have given about a suit of fells to me, I would be glad to give some, but I hope I shall see the States before mine are all gone. I know not how it will be, I hope against hope, the governor has given us some English coats, which a soldier

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Tuesday Sept 14th

A cloudy day with the wind from N. W. This morning our housemate wished us to take some letters from him, saying that it was, but a Christian dish to supply us, he is a whole souled man, but we are not in actual want yet. This is a Russian, or Greek Church holy day.

Wednesday Sept 15th

A fine day, news from the Gov. of this place makes it certain that we cannot go to the Russian frigate. A vessel from Shanghai expected, & there we shall winter unless we see a whaler before, or on our passage thence. Another false report of sail added to our disappointment. The Gov. letter was very kind & considering it a peace letter so reassuring.

Thursday Sept 16th

Weather continues fine, a great amount of ships will continue on the sea, if the big only comes soon we may sail home by next spring.

Friday Sept 17th

Clouds windy continues fine weather. One long expected ship has arrived, & given us good news, of ships in Japan, leaving a fair prospect of our getting to India. I visited the big but do not take too much of an opinion of her.

Saturday Sept 18th

We are getting so keeping back long for nothing, but not for nothing. A doctor is now from our boat with two children. This will make the dinner pass very well. One week ago I joined the Russian bath, & tonight I might take the Russian one in it again. I had not so much on and the big boat but shall not go now till she is changed.