

This list ought to agree with the number of Christians reported by the holy synod, but in the year 1860, for instance, the priests and missionaries reported 547 Christians in excess of the "total counted" of the Russian-American Company. The above table is of importance chiefly as showing the effects of the small-pox epidemic, which appeared in the Russian colonies in 1837. During the first two years the loss was nearly 3,000, and the population gradually decreased from 11,022, in 1837, reaching its lowest point, 7,224, in 1845. During the second year of the epidemic the mortality was greatest, over 2,000; but it must be remembered that these figures relate only to those natives under the immediate control of the company and accessible to medical treatment and vaccination. If the mortality in these favored sections was 20 per cent., it is safe to assume that in the remote regions of the north, in the densely-peopled districts of the Yukon, Kuskokvim, and Bristol bay, it must have been fully 50 per cent., if not more. This assumption is borne out fully by the evidence of native tradition and ruins of depopulated and abandoned villages still in existence. The abandoned village-sites in the Yukon and Kuskokvim valleys far outnumber the settlements now inhabited, and whole populous villages were converted into cemeteries by the burial of the dead in their own dwellings. Such funereal towns are still frequently met with in the whole coast region of Alaska west of Mount Saint Elias. Among the Thlinket tribes, who practice cremation, the losses must have been equally great, but with them no traces of the universal calamity of nearly half a century ago remain, except in the blind and pox-marked persons of the few aged of both sexes.

We have still another count of inhabitants of Russian America, published in 1863 by a special inspector of the imperial government, Kostlivtsof, as follows:

## INHABITANTS OF RUSSIAN AMERICA JANUARY 1, 1863.

Tribes.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Creoles.....	925	971	1,896
Aleut.....	1,286	1,192	2,478
Kenaitze.....	430	507	937
Kadiaks.....	1,115	1,102	2,217
Chugach.....	226	280	456
	3,982	4,002	a 7,984
To this Kostlivtsof added an estimate of Atnahs or Copper River natives.....			2,500
And Kolosh or Thlinket.....			20,000
Making a total of.....			80,484

a This is 2,101 less than the company's total for the same year, but the Russians and northern natives were omitted.

About as good an estimate as Veniaminof made over twenty years previously, if we except the classification. By reducing his estimate of Atnahs to 500, and that of Thlinket to 8,000, and classing 14,000 as northern natives, Kostlivtsof would have been nearer the truth and still within his own estimate of the total population of the present Alaska.

To show the extravagant estimates of the population of Alaska made at the time of its acquisition by the United States, I quote the following tables from the reports of Major-General Halleck, United States army, and of Rev. Vincent Collyer, both made in the year 1868:

## MAJOR-GENERAL HALLECK'S ESTIMATE OF POPULATION OF ALASKA.

Koloshians: Hydas .....	600
[Thlinket]:	
Henegas .....	500
Chatsinas [?] .....	500
Tongass .....	500
Stickeens [Stakhin] .....	1,000
Kakes [Kehk] .....	1,200
Kous [?] .....	800
Koutznous .....	800
Awks .....	800
Samdam Takos .....	500
Chilkahits .....	2,000
Hoodsnahooos .....	1,000
Hunias .....	1,000
Sitkas .....	1,200
Hyaks .....	15,000
Kenaians [Athabaskans] .....	25,000
Aleutian .....	10,000
Eskimo .....	20,000
Total .....	82,400