

**LABRADOR: A SKETCH OF
ITS PEOPLES, ITS
INDUSTRIES AND ITS
NATURAL HISTORY. [1884]**

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Labrador: A Sketch of Its Peoples, Its Industries and Its Natural History. [1884] by Winfrid Alden Stearns

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WINFRID ALDEN STEARNS

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BY

WINFRID ALDEN STEARNS.

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PREFACE.

IN presenting to the public the following journal sketches of the country of which they treat, the thought that I am writing of a region so new and so little known, though so near to us, together with the pleasure which I have experienced both in my travels and in the preparation of this account of them, will furnish a sufficient excuse for the undertaking. Although so little has been known or written about Labrador, yet it is a region not a thousand miles away from us, and one which bears a most important relation to the fishing interests of this continent.

The knowledge of this region, which is within reach of the public, is to be found only in the pages of an old-fashioned document, of two volumes, now out of print, and almost unknown save to large libraries, entitled "Cartwright's Journal;" in Hind's "Labrador Peninsula," 2 vols., and in occasional articles in some magazine or newspaper. If I have added some new and interesting matter to our present knowledge of this subject, my labors will not have been in vain.

My first trip to Labrador was during the summer of 1875, when I collected largely in all the branches of Natural History, and especially in Botany, finding, with the assistance of the Rev. Mr. Butler, the then missionary to this region, many new and rare plants. This number has since been enlarged and a catalogue of them, as of collections in several other branches of Natural History, published in the sixth volume of the Report of the National Museum, at Washington. In September, 1880, I again visited the

coast and remained studying the region and collecting until September, 1881. During this time I had abundant opportunity for investigation. In the summer of 1882 I made my third trip, starting from Boston with a company of about a dozen fellow-voyagers, and proceeded nearly to Harrison Inlet.

I would tender most cordial thanks to several of the officers in charge of various posts of the Hudson's Bay Company where I visited, who gave me much help in my investigations: as also the courteous Magistrate at Bonne Esperance, Mr. Wm. H. Whiteley, with whom I spent a great part of my time while on the coast.

Hoping that there may be found enough of value and interest to counterbalance the many too obvious defects, I submit these pages to those who may be interested in such researches.

Respectfully,

WINFRID A. STEARNS.

Amherst, July 14, 1884.

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