

ACROSS THE SUB-ARCTICS OF CANADA.*



MR. J. W. TYRRELL.

Concerning the region known as the Barren Lands of sub-Arctic Canada, which Mr. Tyrrell explored in 1893, he says that less was known than of the remotest districts of "Darkest Africa." With but few exceptions, its dreary plains had never been trodden by the foot of man, save that of the dusky savage.

It was left to the Tyrrell brothers to inaugurate a purely Canadian expedition for the exploration of

* "Across the Sub-Arctics of Canada. A Journey of 3,200 miles by Canoe and Snowshoe through the Barren Lands. By J. W. Tyrrell, C.E., D.L.S. With Illustrations from photographs taken on the journey, and from drawings by Arthur Heming. Methodist Book-Rooms, Toronto, Montreal and Halifax. Octavo, pp. 280. Price, \$1.50.

The first edition of this book, one of the handsomest printed by our connexional press, was exhausted within a month, and another edition called for. The illustrations which accompany this article are used by the courtesy of the publisher.

this region, and to bring it to a most satisfactory close. They are young men of honoured Methodist parentage, born in the vicinity of Toronto and educated in Toronto University.

Although still a young man, Joseph Tyrrell has seen eleven years of this sort of service, having covered the country from Lake Winnipeg to the Columbia River, across the Rockies, and from the boundary line as far north as the top of Hudson's Bay; while his brother is known to be no novice, from his having acted as surveyor for Lieutenant Gordon on his recent Hudson's Bay expedition.

In 1892, when he was exploring on Lake Athabasca, he sought to obtain from the Indians some idea of the country to the northward, and they told him of two or three routes that they took to their hunting grounds, skirting the Barren Lands. The Barren Lands had long been a district of mystery to the Government, known only to Indians themselves in a sort of legendary way.

The following year, Mr. J. W. Tyrrell and his brother, J. Burr Tyrrell, of the Canadian Geological Survey, were instructed by the Government to explore this unknown region. The first requisite was to procure suitable canoes and expert canoe-men. For the former they chose two eighteen-foot Peterboro' cedar canoes, capable of carrying a ton each, yet weighing only 120 pounds, and a nineteen-foot basswood canoe. For the latter they chose three Prince Albert Indians and three Caughnawaga Iroquois. A complete set of portable mathematical instruments was procured in Toronto, and, leaving his wife and baby boy, five months old, Mr. J. W. Tyrrell