

APPENDIX.

Although according to my experience I described the acts of our men as they came under my observation, so I write this appendix to exonerate many of them from blame, as it was trying on new men to stand the privation and starvation of a long voyage, and I lay the blame on our leader, who was the cause of all their suffering. The reader may think Lepage a very demon in character, but take him in every day life he was gentle and kind. I admit he had a high, sensitive nature, that was tried to its utmost in the struggle we made to gain the Alaskan gold fields, but when I became sick and helpless, he proved himself a hero, and brought me out safe to St. Michaels, although I was warned, while up in Beaver, that he had designs on my life. I came down the river with him alone, and felt ashamed of those who had reported this falsehood, and to-day I feel under the deepest obligations to him, and he will always be remembered as one of my nearest friends, for such he proved himself.