

PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION.

THE first edition of the Trapper's Guide, issued two years ago, was received with general favor, especially by the practical trappers and hunters for whom it was written. The two thousand copies then issued were all disposed of several months ago.

In preparing a second edition we have availed ourselves of the suggestions, new facts, and criticisms, that have been offered in the meantime, by those who have read and tested the book, and by others. Many of these have been pertinent and valuable. The scope of the work has been somewhat enlarged, by adapting it as far as possible to all parts of the world where the trapping of fur-bearing animals is carried on. The portion which treats of the Trapper's Art now includes all the animals which are of any considerable value in the fur trade, on both Continents. The rules for trapping animals have been carefully revised, and such additions made as seemed valuable. This is a department in which a great variety of practice and opinion exists among trappers. To describe all these variations would swell the book to very large dimensions without really adding to its value. The conclusions arrived at by trappers of large experience, who have been most accurate in observation and successful in practice, have been mainly followed; and we have found that all such trappers substantially agree.

In describing animals and birds, their habits and characteristics, we have availed ourselves of many facts reported by naturalists, such as Audubon, J. G. Bell and D. G. Elliott of New York, and Bernard Rogan Ross, agent of the Hudson's Bay Company, at Fort Resolution, Mackenzie River