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PAMPHLET CASE NO 25.

The Labrador Eclipse Expedition

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OF CANADA.

THAT interest in astronomy is growing in Canada is very evident. One need only point to the magnificent new observatory erected by the Dominion Government on the outskirts of Ottawa, and to the fact that a fully-equipped expedition was despatched to the wilds of Labrador to observe the total eclipse of the sun on August 30th last. The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada had the honor of suggesting that an expedition be sent, and the generous spirit in which the proposal was received and acted upon is worthy of all praise. The society was allowed the privilege of naming six of its members to accompany the expedition.

The first section of the expedition sailed from Quebec on the evening of Friday, August 4th, in the steel steamer *King Edward*, a small vessel about 150 feet long and 22 feet wide. This ship and her mate, the *Aronmore*, about twice as large, carry on a coasting trade on the north shore of the River and Gulf of St. Lawrence.

The manner of conducting this trade was new to most of us. The shore usually is of bleak, bare rock or of sand, occasionally covered with spruce and scrubby birch, and the inhabitants of the little villages along it eke out an existence by hunting and fishing. On approaching a village the ship, with her siren, would shriek out what always sounded to us like a challenge to the people to come out and meet us. Then we would drop anchor and wait. Soon a large fishing boat would put out from shore, sometimes propelled by oars, sometimes under sail. Occasionally the boat would be tardy in coming, and then a volley of forcible remarks would be hurled at it to hasten it along. But on arrival at the ship the strong words were all forgotten, and the visitors and visited communed on the best of terms. Having received their mail-bag, and what freight the purser had for them, they would leave, and we would proceed on our way. Frequently, however, a strong wind blew and the sea was rough, and we had to lie at anchor for hours. At last the boat would come, and we would watch with admiration the sailors as they tacked about, and finally ran close up to our ship to receive the

* Reprint from Christmas ACTA VICTORIANA, 1905.