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## THE KLONDIKE GOLD REGION.

ACCOUNT OF A SIX MONTHS' TRIP THROUGH THE YUKON GOLD FIELDS.

BY ROBERT OGLESBY.

IN 1887 a miner named Williams, accompanied by a young Indian guide, reached the summit of the Chilkoot pass. Here he was overwhelmed by a snow-storm, and after several days spent in a snow hut, without a fire, and with only a little flour for food, he died from hunger

and exposure. He had traveled six hundred mile through a wilderness, in an arctic winter, to carry letters to friends in the United States and inform the outside world of the discovery of coarse gold on Forty Mile Creek. The Indian succeeded in making his way to the trading post, only fourteen miles away. For ten years previous to this it was known to the men of the far northwest that fire gold had been found along the upper Yukon and the Hootlinqua Rivers, and each

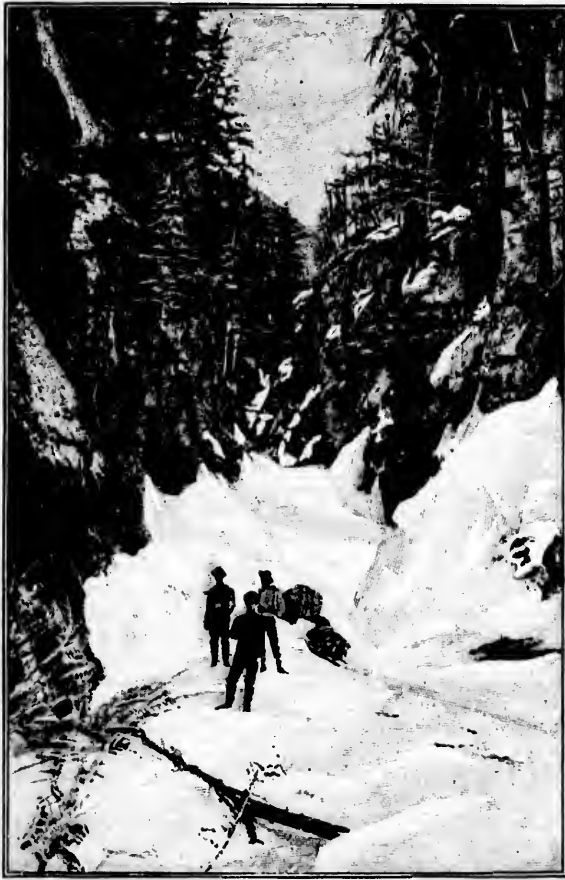
summer small parties of miners and whiskey smugglers crossed the coast range by the Chilkoot pass, and followed the river for some distance. The dangers and hardships that were encountered, the shortness of the summer season, the excessive cost of provisions, and the re-

currence each winter of famine and scurvy, had prevented the prospecting and development of the country.

In making the journey to the Yukon gold fields it is best to leave Juneau, Alaska, either in March or May. The miners who start in March generally

carry their own supplies over the pass by using sleds and packing. The lakes are frozen over and can be crossed until the river is reached, which is open for the boats several weeks before the lakes are free from ice. The lakes are generally open about the first of June, and from that time the entire journey can be made by boat.

The steamer "City of Topeka," which sailed from Seattle in the latter part of May, carried thirteen men bound for the interior of Alaska. I



From a photograph. ENTRANCE TO CHILKOOT PASS.

cast my fortune with a party of four young men from Montana, whom I met on board, and we afterwards added to our number a hardy young Swedish miner who owned a tent. Five days later we landed at Juneau, which is the outfitting point for that country; here we bought our grub stakes

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