

PREFACE.

In this booklet we have the work not only of a student and lover of Nature, but of one who has seen and felt the beauty and grandeur he describes. Mr. John P. Clum, of Washington, D. C., the author of this booklet, had the good fortune to be delegated by the Postal authorities as representative of the United States to establish the government postal system in Alaska.

In the Spring of 1898, with an assistant, Mr. Clum joined the eager throng that moved toward Alaska and the Klondike. He spent over six months in Alaska, traveled more than seven thousand miles, and made a careful study of the country, its resources, topography and scenery. With the quick perception of a close observer, he gathered the interesting and novel sights and experiences to be seen and heard along the route, and with care and literary skill he has here described our Alaskan series of Stereo-photographs, and has vividly told the story of the trail and camp.

It so happened that our photographer and Mr. Clum visited Alaska at the same time. They journeyed to the West and together took passage on the good steamer "Queen" for the "New El Dorado." On this trip our photographer, with an artist's skill, caught with his camera the scenic life and struggle of the Klondiker, as well as the beauty and scenery of that new land. Thus we have preserved the pictured story of a movement such as had never been witnessed before, and one which will never be seen again, for there will not be another throng that will move in lock-step over the famous Chilkoot Pass to the Klondike. Thus while our photographer caught the scenic story of this rush to the land of gold, Mr. Clum, an actor and participant in the drama, caught and preserved the story of the life and struggle and trials of this courageous band, and here in the story and views we have the two brought together for the edification and benefit of those who would enjoy a trip to the Klondike without its hardships and trials.

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