

ON THE
COMMERCIAL IMPORTANCE OF HUDSON'S BAY,
WITH
REMARKS ON RECENT SURVEYS AND
INVESTIGATIONS.

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Map, p. 640.

I BEG leave to offer to the Royal Geographical Society a few remarks on the great Mediterranean sea of North America, in regard to which there appears to be a general want of correct information. Before proceeding to do so, it may be proper for me to state that I have a considerable personal knowledge of Hudson's Bay and the surrounding regions. As an officer of the Geological Survey of Canada, I have spent six seasons since 1869 in explorations around the bay itself or in its vicinity, while the remaining summers of this interval have been devoted mostly to surveying and exploring portions of the Hudson's Bay territory at greater or less distances inland. In the course of my geological investigations, I have made surveys of most of the principal rivers, together with their larger branches, which flow from the west and south into Hudson's Bay, including the Great and Little Churchill, the Nelson, Hayes, Hill, Severn, Albany, Kenogami, Moose, Missinabe, Mattagami, and Abittibi. On account of its great geological interest, I made a topographical survey in 1877 of about 300 miles of the Eastmain Coast, from Cape Jones northward. Some of the maps showing these surveys have been already published with the annual reports of the Geological Department, and those representing the remainder will soon be forthcoming.

During the past autumn, in coming to England in one of the ships from the bay, I happened to enjoy unusually good opportunities of seeing both sides of Hudson's Strait, and of acquiring much valuable information in reference to its navigation.

In the popular mind, Hudson's Bay is apt to be associated with the polar regions, yet no part of it comes within the Arctic circle, and the