

Dawson, 1887, from which I have already quoted more than once.

I only propose to sketch the Stikine life as I saw it. This life begins from April to May, just before the ice breaks up; just after the bears have begun to leave their dens and to come out on the stone slides to crop the grass, and on to the river bottoms to look for young alder buds. At this time of the year a bear coat is prime, and is worth from twenty-five to thirty-five dollars to the Indians, and moreover at this time of the year even a grizzly can be hunted in snow-shoes with dogs without any



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great risk to the hunter. At any other time of the year the few bear-hunting Indians on the Stikine treat the grizzly with marked respect, letting him severely alone in summer, when with worthless, mangy coat he wanders about on the sand-bars, and in autumn depending upon huge snares set something like rabbit snares, rather than upon their rifles, for the few hides they get. Indeed, so shy is the Stikine Indian of the big brown bear that a friend of mine tells a story of two guides of his who used to 'tree' on sight of one.

The summer on the Stikine is the freighting season; a season of hard work, high water, and plenty. The low hoops of willow