

While there are several reliable works on Alaska in which much may be found concerning the lives of the ahorigines, yet even more of interest has been left unsaid. For this reason the author feels his effort justified in order to give fuller and more accurate information to the public concerning these interesting people.

Again, while this work treats almost exclusively of the Thlingets of Alaska, yet what is said of them largely applies to the other classes.

The information imparted to the public in the following pages has been gleaned by the writer almost entirely from the natives themselves, either through their lips or by his own personal observation. Having lived and laboured among them for more than twenty years, he has had exceptional opportunities of studying their customs and characteristics. He has read the books and articles appearing in periodicals relating to the natives. (Few exist that he has not read.) These were consulted not so much for information—he preferred to get that at first hand—as to see what others had to say about the Alaskan and wherein they confirmed his own findings or differed with him.

It has proved to the author a most fascinating study, and while necessarily there has been some drudgery connected with the preparation of the work, on the whole it has been one of extreme pleasure. It is now offered to the public in the full consciousness that long and painstaking care has been given to its preparation, and if while not free from imperfections such errors are not there through slight.

JUNEAU, ALASKA.

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