

## AMONG THE SOURCES OF THE SASKATCHEWAN AND ATHABASCA RIVERS.

MARY T. S. SCHÄFFER.

The primary reason for writing this paper is, that it may bear its quota of usefulness to any who may be inclined to visit the section described. As to the location of the ground covered, from a glance at Dr. J. Norman Collie's map which accompanies his book—"Climbs and Explorations in the Canadian Rockies," it will be found to be bounded by latitudes 51' 25" to 52' 25", and longitudes 116' to 118'. This is of course a rough outline, but it contains all the tributaries of those two great rivers of the north, which we visited. Our greatest trouble in the spring of 1907, was to obtain information which would be of even the smallest use in pointing out the way over such almost undescribed ground.<sup>1</sup>

Dr. Collie's book has summed up the work of himself and his friends, with that of previous workers in the same field, *i. e.*, the section lying between Laggan and Wilcox Pass; the Fortress Lake region and the Brazeau country belong to Dr. Coleman. As for the Yellow-head Pass, it is a matter of rather ancient history, having been described as far back as the days of Alexander Henry, an employee of the Northwest Fur Trading Co., who has left us an interesting diary, which covers the years between 1799 and 1814. The old history of the pass was of small practical use to us however, as it was the intervening valleys between this pass and the Kicking Horse Pass (that which the Canadian Pacific uses to-day), which we wished to explore.

<sup>1</sup>In spite of a general knowledge of the subject, we were unable to get at the material, and not until after our return to civilization, were we fortunate enough to obtain literature and maps which would have been so valuable to us in the far wilderness. One who goes hence should carry Dr. Collie's map. This is easy to obtain, being published with his "Climbs and Explorations"; Outram's map which accompanies his work—"In the Heart of the Canadian Rockies," may be of equal value; Dr. A. P. Coleman's articles published in the *Royal Geographical Journals*, are of great use; and James McEvoy's report on the Government Geological Survey of that section is a most interesting pamphlet to have. From these few sources is to be culled all the practical information that can be found on the country.