

PREFACE

Before my first visit to Labrador in the summer of 1906, I came upon the Journal of Captain George Cartwright, published in Newark, England, in 1792, detailing his experiences during a residence of nearly sixteen years on that inhospitable but interesting coast. I found it to be a mine of valuable information and acute observations on many subjects connected with Labrador and Labrador life and adventure, including accounts of the birds and beasts that he hunted and trapped, and of the people, both Eskimo and Indian, all told with a fidelity to truth that cannot be doubted.

Cartwright's tact and judgment in dealing with the Eskimos, who had formerly been negotiated by the Europeans only at the musket's mouth, and his uniform justice in his treatment of them, together with his interesting account of their customs and of their behaviour both in Labrador and at the court of King George the Third, are all admirable.

His account of the habits of polar bears and beavers studied under exceptionally favourable circumstances, his observations on the caribou, on wolves, otters, wolverines and other fur-bearers, and on many species of water-birds, including