

PREFACE

WITH one exception, the trips described in this book were incidental to others in the Yukon Territory and Alaska. From journals, carefully written at the end of each day, I have tried to reproduce an exact picture of the experiences of a hunter in the wilderness of the large islands visited. The narrative, however, is not a copy of my journals, and may be read independently of the marginal dates, which are inserted merely for the convenience of those interested in fixing accurately the dates of recorded events.

This is a tale of hunting, during rain and storm, for special animals; much of the country traversed was unknown in detail to white men, some of it had not even been trodden by natives; it was not possible to obtain guides familiar with the habits and haunts of the animals; and the time which could be spared for each trip was limited. Little attention, therefore, could be given to natural history which, in the regions visited, has fortunately to some extent been investigated. But no literature, giving the detailed experiences of hunting in all of these islands, exists.

My thanks are due to some of my friends for helpful criticism of the Montague Island narrative, and I am very much indebted to Dr. C. Hart Merriam for numerous suggestions in regard to this part of the narrative, all of which have been adopted.