

ON AN EXPEDITION DOWN THE BEGH-ULA OR ANDERSON RIVER.

By MR. R. MACFARLANE, Chief Factor, Hudson Bay Company.

INTRODUCTORY.

In 1857, Mr. MacFarlane carried out an exploratory expedition from Fort Good Hope on the Mackenzie River, to the Anderson River, and down that river, returning by a different route to Fort Good Hope. A report on this expedition was made by him to the late Mr. James Anderson, then in charge of Mackenzie River district, for the Hudson Bay Company. This report was not written for publication, but a copy of it was handed to me about a year ago by Mr. J. Anderson, son of the late Chief Factor. As the report contained much information respecting a region of which scarcely anything is known, I applied to Mr. MacFarlane for his permission to have it printed. This permission Mr. MacFarlane kindly accorded, and the narrative is here given as written by him in the year of the exploration, with the omission merely of some portions of the original, bearing upon the fur trade and business of the Company.

Mr. MacFarlane's services to science in the extreme northern portions of the continent are well known, and his report of his journey to the Anderson River, gives further evidences of close and accurate observation, which would be creditable as the result of an expedition undertaken for scientific purposes, instead of primarily in the interests of the fur trade.

The region traversed lies to the east of the Mackenzie and to the north of Great Bear Lake, within the Arctic circle. A short notice of the Anderson or Begh-ula river is to be found in Sir J. Richardson's *Journal of a Boat Voyage* (Vol. I., p. 265), and a brief description of the country in its