

ALASKA.

THE RICH FRUITS OF THE HARRIMAN EXPEDITION.

ALASKA. (Harriman Alaska Expedition, with Co-operation of Washington Academy of Sciences.) In Two Volumes. Volume I, Narrative, Glaciers, Natives, by John Burroughs, John Muir and George Bird Grinnell. Volume II, History, Geography, Resources, by William H. Dall, Charles Keeler, Henry Gannett, William H. Brewer, C. Hart Merriam, George Bird Grinnell and M. L. Washburn. Octavo, pp. xxxvii, 182, 353. Doubleday, Page & Co.

Mr. Harriman's expedition to Alaska, undertaken in the summer of 1900, was originally planned as a recreation; but by the inclusion of a large number of guests of different scientific training, it became a scientific mission that left a creditable record of achievement. That record is contained—though only in part, we are given to understand from Dr. Merriam's introduction—in these two sumptuous volumes. They make a solid contribution to our stock of knowledge concerning Alaska, and offer at the same time a charming account of the doings of a party of cultivated men and women. Mr. Harriman, when he found that his steamer would be much larger than was needed to accommodate his own family, selected his guests with special reference to the kind of investigation that the little known coast of Alaska offered a field for—geology, ethnology, natural history, forestry, fisheries

of the deep, lifting themselves up to a height of fifty or a hundred feet, the water pouring off them in white sheets. . . . Nothing we had read or heard had prepared us for the color of the ice, especially of the newly exposed parts and of the bergs that rose up from beneath the water—its deep, almost indigo, blue. Huge bergs were floating about that suggested masses of blue vitriol.

From the monograph of Mr. Muir, it appears that Alaska is a peculiarly interesting spot in which to study glacial action, for the work of glacial sculpture is going on before the visitor's eyes; the network of canals, passages, straits, channels, sounds, fiords and so on shows the action of the continuous ice sheet in which the present separate glaciers were not long ago united. The action, indeed, is still going on; new islands and new channels are continually being added, and the steamer trip to Glacier Bay is from two to eight or ten miles longer now than it was twenty years ago.

One of the most important episodes of the voyage was the visit to Prince William Sound, where the party discovered a fiord that had hitherto escaped the geographers' notice. That sound is "shaped like a great spider," an open, irregular body of water, with numerous arms or inlets. In one of these arms a prodigious glacier seemed to block the way, and the Coast Survey charts indicated an end of navigation; but on going close to the glacier the way seemed to open, the mountains fell apart, and a passage was disclosed around the corner. The new inlet, where ship had never

came and changed all their life they lived well. Their curious ideas of the uses of wealth are amusingly described by Mr. Grinnell. They are great respecters of wealth—but solely for the purpose of giving it away! Wealth so evidenced forms among them a standard of rank; he who gives away most at the "potlatches," or festivals, is the greatest chief. The giver of a potlatch provides great quantities of goods—food, calico and blankets—gives a feast of boiled deer meat and salmon, with unlimited crackers, tea, sugar and molasses, and parts with all his

FICTION.

THE HEROINE OF "EVELYN INNES" ONCE MORE.

SISTER TERESA. By George Moore. 12mo, pp. 378. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Company.

The three years which have elapsed since the publication of Mr. Moore's "Evelyn Innes" cannot have effaced the impression left by that



A FOOTPATH ALONG INDIAN RIVER, SITKA. (From a photograph.)

property, emerging from the occasion a poor man. The Aleuts are a semi-civilized branch of the Esquimaux, who have long been under the influence of the Russian Church—a hard working people who find increasing difficulty in gaining a livelihood under the changed conditions that surround them. For the Esquimaux further north the outlook is even more gloomy; that "wholesome, hearty, merry people," as Mr. Grinnell calls them, are being speedily ruined by the heartless selfishness of the white men and their "civilization," brought north by the rush to the gold fields.

Professor Fernow's accounts of the Alaskan forests by no means bear out the various glowing reports that have been given of them as a reserve for the people of the country to fall back upon when our own supplies of wood are exhausted. The Alaskan forest growth is of a character which makes the prospect of reliance upon its stores by no means cheerful; most of the material is not of a superior quality, and a larger portion of the area does not contain trees fit for lumber. Mr. Gannett tells of some of the other natural resources, the harvesting of which will bring much wealth to the people of the country. Yet some of these resources are already suffering from the drain upon them. The fur trade is almost a thing of the past; the seals are vanishing, even the brown bear is scarce and shy; sea birds are driven to inaccessible spots, and the ruthless methods of the salmon cannery are rapidly making this fish to disappear. These methods are the subject of a special paper by Mr. Grinnell, that almost makes the reader shudder to contemplate the frightful waste they involve. Professor Brewer's discussion of the atmospheric conditions of Alaska, Dr. Merriam's of Bogoslof, the newly formed volcano, and Mr. Washburn's of "Fox Farming in Alaska," all contribute to the completeness and interest of the book. It is intimate that technical papers in the fields of geology, paleontology, zoology and botany will follow these two volumes; twenty-two special papers based on the work of the expedition have already been published by the Washington Academy, and these, with others to follow, will be incorporated in the forthcoming volumes. Truly, Mr. Harriman's summer pleasure trip of 1900 has borne fruit of uncommon value.

book upon the minds of appreciative readers. Yet it is worth while for them to reread it before taking up "Sister Teresa," which is not so much its sequel as it is its second half. The two should be read, as they were written, as one work. Ultimately they are certain to be printed in a single volume, and it will not be too thick. No novel is too long when it has the qualities possessed by this one; when it is filled with the knowledge of life, and is, to boot, intensely interesting. In relating the incidents of his heroine's career, first as a famous public singer and then as a nun, Mr. Moore has illustrated with equal power and tenderness the passage of a human soul through such experiences as belong exclusively to neither the sinner nor the saint, but are common to all mankind. This gives a deep and lasting value to the story, fortifies it in moral worth, and wonderfully heightens its artistic beauty.

The problem confronting Evelyn Innes is the ancient problem of good and evil, and it is complicated for her, as for us all, by temperament, by circumstance, by the myriad forces which enter into the nominally simple issue between the spirit and the flesh, increasing the perils of the conflict and making it seem sometimes a burden too intolerable to be borne. It is in her groanings beneath the burden that Evelyn is typical and interesting; it is in her weakness that her humanity as a figure in fiction resides. We left her, in the book to which she gave a name, at the parting of the ways. She had abandoned the stage. Presumably she would enter a convent. But these were only external facts. What of her inner life? Would it flow with ease through new channels? Or would the old struggle go on? It goes on. With a nature like hers it could not help but go on. To change the dress of Isolde for the conventual habit is not to transform the soul as if by magic. Over and over again Mr. Moore emphasizes the infinite difference between renunciation and refusal, the gulf that divides the girlish novice, turning her back on the world without having tasted its delights, from the penitent woman leaving a life that has long satisfied many of the sorest needs of her nature. Evelyn's growth in spirituality is necessarily arduous and slow—so slow that we can imagine the recital of her struggles wearing on the patience of an unsympathetic reader. But no one who can discern the naturalness in her varying moods can fail to feel their pathos, and to let impatience melt into



ESQUIMAU BOY AND GIRL, PORT CLARENCE, ALASKA. (From a photograph.)

and geography. There were artists and photographers, too, and their work adorns the book profusely in beautiful reproductions of many kinds. It may be true, as Dr. Dall remarks in his historical essay, that the literature of Alaska includes more than four thousand titles, but there is a dearth of satisfactory books on the subject, and this one is abundantly welcome.

The narrative of the journey is told, with the enthusiasm of a nature lover and the charm of a practised writer, by John Burroughs. It was a long journey, extending from Seattle, behind the chain of coast islands, to Sitka, Prince William Sound, Cook Inlet, Kadiak Island, Unalaska Island, through Behring Sea to the Pribylof Islands, up to Plover Bay, on the Siberian coast; across to Cape Nome, not yet known for its gold deposits, and then back over the same route. The region of glaciers is a most interesting stretch of Alaska territory. Mr. Burroughs describes the scene in Glacier Bay thus:

What is that roar or explosion that salutes our ears before our anchor has found bottom? It is the downpour of an enormous mass of ice from the glacier's front, making it for the moment as active as Niagara. Other and still other downpours follow at intervals of a few minutes with deep explosive sounds and the rising up of great clouds of spray, and we quickly realize that here is indeed a new kind of Niagara, a cataract the like of which we had not seen before. . . . The mass of ice below the water-line is vastly greater than that above, and when the upper portions fall away enormous bergs are liberated and rise up from the bottom. They rise slowly and majestically, like huge monsters

before penetrated, was named Harriman Fiord. At Kadiak Island, some hundreds of miles to the west, the warm Pacific currents make a pastoral paradise, and here Mr. Burroughs babbles of green fields. The smooth, rounded hills of this far northern island were as green and tender as well kept lawns—an unbroken carpet of verdure bordered by blue sea. There were cattle, too, grazing, and the long, smooth vistas between the trees were like those of a great park. The town of Kadiak is a peaceful, quaint old village with grassy lanes and a Greek church—and, alas, a "Chicago store!" A special permit authorized a landing on St. Paul Island, one of the famous fur seal Pribylofs, where those of the party who had been there before were astonished at the diminished number of seals—"hardly a tenth of the earlier myriads"—a diminution that has been the cause of anxious international discussion.

Of the special monographs all are of value and interest, and all are written for the intelligent appreciation of the layman. John Muir, godfather of the great Muir Glacier, describes the Pacific Coast glaciers. George Bird Grinnell writes of the natives with authority, and with the insight of a trained observer in close communion with the aborigines of America. The Alaska Indians, unlike those of the States, have no dependence upon the government, but support themselves, chiefly by fishing. It is the same wretched story with them as with their more southerly brethren; until the white men

The Dutch are ardent readers of Dickens's novels, and one Dutchman has lately written a conclusion of the English author's unfinished story, "Edwin Drood."



SEA LIONS, PRIBYLOF ISLANDS, BEHRING SEA. (From a painting by C. E. Hudson.)