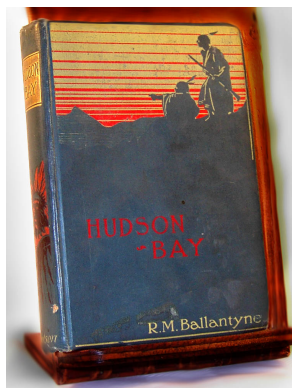


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Hudson Bay

or Everyday Life in the Wilds of North America
by Robert Michael Ballantyne
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"A large wolf bounds towards him, landing almost at his feet."

HUDSON BAY

OR

Everyday Life in the Wilds of North America

*During Six Years' Residence in the Territories of
the Hon. Hudson Bay Company*

BY

Robert Michael Ballantyne

*Author of "The Coral Island," "The Dog Crusoe and His Master,"
"The Young Fur-Traders," "The Gorilla Hunters,"
"Martin Rattler," "Ungava,"
&c., &c.*

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titute of defence of any kind. Some of the chief posts have a complement of about thirty or forty men; but most of them have only ten, five, four, and even *two*, besides the gentleman in charge. As in most instances these posts are planted in a wilderness far from men, and the inhabitants have only the society of each other, some idea may be formed of the solitary life led by many of the Company's servants.

The following is a list of the forts in the four different departments, as correctly given as possible; but, owing to the great number in the country, the constant abandoning of old and establishing of new forts, it is difficult to get at a perfectly correct knowledge of their number and names:—

NORTHERN DEPARTMENT.

York Fort (the depôt).	Fort Pelly.	Fort Dunvegan.
Churchill.	Cumberland House.	Fort Simpson.
Severn.	Carlton House.	Fort Norman.
Oxford House.	Fort Pitt.	Fort Good Hope.
Trout Lake House.	Edmonton.	Fort Halkett.
Norway House.	Rocky Mountain	Fort Resolution.
Nelson River House.	House.	Peel's River.
Berens River House.	Fort Assinaboine.	Fort Alexander.
Red River Colony.	Jasper's House.	Rat Portage House.
Fort Garry.	Henry's House.	Fort Frances.
Stone Fort.	Fort Chipewyan.	Isle à la Crose.
Manitoba House.	Fort Vermilion.	

SOUTHERN DEPARTMENT.

Moose Factory (the de- pôt).	New Brunswick.	Pic House.
Rupert's House.	Abitibi.	Michipicoton.
Fort George.	Temiscamingue.	Bachiwino.
Michiskan.	Grand Lac.	Nepigon.
Albany.	Trout Lake.	Washwonaby.
Lac Seul.	Matarva.	Pike Lake.
Kinogomousse.	Canasicomica.	Temagamy.
Matawagamingue.	Lacloche.	Green Lake.
Kuckatoosh.	Sault de Ste. Maria.	Missisague.
	Fort William.	

MONTREAL DEPARTMENT.

Lachine (the depôt).	Ashabmoushwan.	Natosquena.
Rivière du Moine.	Chicoutimie.	Musquarro.
Lac des Allumettes.	Lake St. John's.	Fort Nascopie.
Fort Coulonge.	Tadousac.	Mainewan Lake.
Rivière Desert.	Isle Jérémie.	Sandy Banks.
Lac des Sables.	Port Neuf.	Gull Islands.
Lake of Two Moun- tains.	Goodbout.	North-west River.
Kikandatch.	Trinity River.	Rigolet.
Weymontachingue.	Seven Islands.	Kiboksk.
Rat River.	Mingan.	Eyelick.
	Nabisippi.	

ourselves agreeably in demolishing a huge ham, several slices of bread, and a cup or two of strong tea.

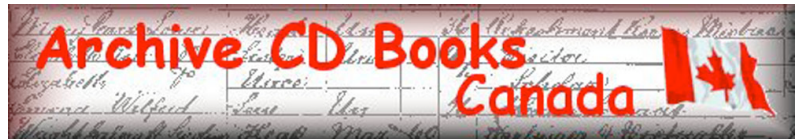
This was the only event worth relating that happened to us during the voyage; and as canoe-travelling is enlarged upon in another chapter, we will jump at once to the termination of our journey.

CHAPTER VIII.

York Factory—Winter amusements—Intense cold—The seasons—"Sky-larking"—Sporting in the woods and marshes—Trading with Indians—Christmas doings—Breaking-up of the ice in spring.

ARE you ambitious, reader, of dwelling in a "pleasant cot in a tranquil spot, with a distant view of the changing sea"? If so, do not go to York Factory. Not that it is such an unpleasant place—for I spent two years very happily there—but simply (to give a poetical reason, and explain its character in one sentence) because it is a monstrous blot on a swampy spot, with a partial view of the frozen sea!

First impressions are generally incorrect; and I have little doubt that *your* first impression is, that a "monstrous blot on a swampy spot" cannot by any possibility be an agreeable place. To dispel this impression, and at the same time to enlighten you with regard to a variety of facts with which you are probably unacquainted, I shall describe York Factory as graphically as may be. An outline of its general appearance has been already given in a former chapter, so I will now proceed to particularize the buildings. The principal edifice is the "general store," where the goods, to the amount of two years' outfit for the whole northern department, are stored. On each side of this is a long, low whitewashed house, with green edgings, in one of which visitors and temporary residents during the summer are quartered. The other is the summer mess-room. Four roomy fur-stores stand at right angles to these houses, thus forming three sides of the front square. Behind these stands a row of smaller buildings for the labourers and tradesmen; and on the right hand is the dwelling-house of the gentleman in charge, and adjoining it the clerks' house; while on the left are the provision-store and Indian trading-shop. A few insignificant buildings, such as the oil-store and lumber-house, intrude themselves here and there; and on the right a tall ungainly outlook rises in the air, affording the inhabitants an extensive view of their wild



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