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Ten Thousand Miles with a Dog Sled: A Narrative of Winter Travel in Interior Alaska

Hudson Stuck

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“There can be no possible question that cold is felt much more keenly in the thin air of nineteen thousand feet than it is below.”

Although born and raised in England, expeditionist Hudson Stuck (1865-1920) exemplified the intrepid New World spirit of the American West at its peak. Lured by the wide-open spaces, Stuck, an Episcopal priest and champion of "muscular Christianity," volunteered in 1904 to serve as the archdeacon of the Yukon; his spiritual domain encompassed 250,000 square miles of interior Alaska. In this breathtaking 1914 work, Stuck draws upon his eight years of ceaseless travels in this "great, wild country" to paint an exhilarating portrait of a rugged land and the people who lived there. This is no mild tale of priestly ministering or zealous missionary work – Stuck all but eschews discussion of his spiritual calling to engross us with tales of the "gentle aboriginal population" and "some of the hardiest and most adventurous white men in the world," and warns against "low-down whites" with no respect for native culture or the sanctity of the land. With this beautiful and untamed land again threatened by encroaching development, this century-old book remains a revelatory and vital read.

"Few climbers have had such good fortune on a supreme occasion, but few have better deserved it." -London Spectator

Between 1905 and 1910 Stuck made winter journeys to visit the missions and parishes in his district. He describes that immense circuit—from Canada to Nome and from the Arctic Circle to the Kuskokwim—and the natural phenomena and inhabitants he found there.

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