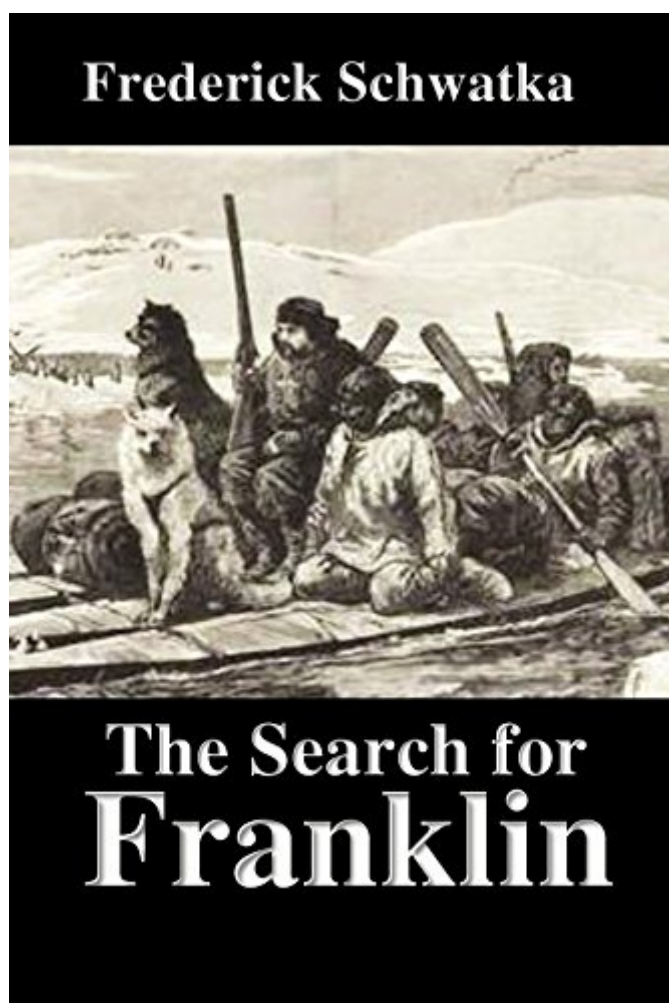


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The Search For Franklin: A Narrative Of The American Expedition Under Lieutenant Schwatka, 1878 To 1880



Synopsis

" Schwatka has achieved a notable success as an author, though he confines his literary labors to his Arctic adventures . . . Nimrod in the North was a great success." -The Literary World

The American Lieutenant, Schwatka, was engaged from 1878 to 1880 in the search for any relics of Sir John Franklin that had escaped the notice of previous explorers. This little volume gives a brief sketch of his labours. It contains some very spirited engravings. We have in this modest little volume a well written and extremely interesting narrative of the American Arctic Expedition of 1878-'80, under Lieutenant Schwatka, to whom, as Dr. Hayes remarked (himself distinguished in the annals of Polar exploration), we owe it that we now know all we shall ever know of the fate of the one hundred and twenty-nine men forming Franklin's party which left England in 1845. Beginning with a record of the various search expeditions, from our own and other countries, that have played their part in the stirring drama of Arctic exploration since the Ross and Richardson parties went forth--as many as eighteen having been organised in England alone ---the book before us proceeds to its account of Lieutenant Schwatka's quest in '78, giving us a chronicle of one of the most daring and successful enterprises ever undertaken. It is specially memorable for having achieved the longest sledge journey yet made, both as regards time and distance. It was absent from its base of operations eleven months and twenty days, traversing 2819 geographical, or 3251 statute miles. It was the first expedition, we are told, which deliberately and systematically placed its reliance for the support of its human members and its draught animals on the game of the country, and spread its experience in this respect continuously over every month of the year. It was the first, moreover, in which the white men lived wholly, and of their own free will, on the same food as their Eskimo allies. So well and thoroughly did it do its work, that, probably, we may venture the assertion that not a single member of Franklin's expedition now lies with bleached bones on the inhospitable snow; for each a decent grave has been dug.

The whole of this story of Lieutenant Schwatka's exploration is replete with interest, to which the capital illustrations--from engravings designed by the artist of the expedition, materially add. This little book gives us, in a neat and compact form, many interesting details of the search for Sir John Franklin. It will be prized by all those who love adventure and maritime enterprise.

Frederick Gustavus Schwatka (1849 - 1892) was a United States Army lieutenant with degrees in medicine and law and a noted explorer of northern Canada and Alaska. Schwatka was the author of 'Nimrod in the North (1885)', 'Along Alaska's Great River' and 'The Children of the Cold', besides being a frequent contributor to the magazines. Schwatka received the Roquette Arctic Medal from the Geographical Society of Paris, and a medal from the Imperial Geographical Society of Russia. He was an honorary member of the Geographical

Societies of Bremen, Geneva, and Rome.

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