



ONE OF THE EVILS OF SNOW-SHOE WALKING.

SNOW FLAKES



AND

SUNBEAMS



from the



FAR NORTH

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SNOWFLAKES AND SUNBEAMS;

OR,

THE YOUNG FUR TRADERS.

A TALE OF THE FAR NORTH.

BY

ROBERT MICHAEL BALLANTYNE, Esq.,

AUTHOR OF "HUDSON'S BAY; OR, EVERYDAY LIFE IN THE WILDS OF NORTH AMERICA."

With Illustrations by the Author.



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PREFACE.



IN writing this book my desire has been to draw an exact copy of the picture which is indelibly stamped on my own memory. I have carefully avoided exaggeration in everything of importance. All the chief, and most of the minor incidents are facts. In regard to unimportant matters I have taken the liberty of a novelist,—not to colour too highly, or to invent improbabilities, but,—to transpose time, place, and circumstance at pleasure; while, at the same time, I have endeavoured to convey to the reader's mind a truthful impression of the *general effect*,—to use a painter's language,—of the life and country of the Fur Trader.

EDINBURGH, 1856.

By Same Author,

HUDSON'S BAY;

OR,

EVERYDAY LIFE IN THE WILDS OF NORTH AMERICA.

"The name of the author of this book, presuming him to be a connexion of Sir Walter Scott's printer and partner, is a passport through the world of literature, and he travels pleasantly with it. Mr. Ballantyne's book is pleasant to read and pleasant to reflect on."—*Economist*.

"Mr. Ballantyne has a claim on attention from the vivacity of his style, and the length of his experience in the service of the Hudson's Bay Company. He has an eye for minute points of character, and a talent for throwing out a vivid portrait with a few pencil strokes. The occasional brief stories thrown in to illustrate the general narrative are told with skill and spirit."—*Athenæum*.

"Mr. Ballantyne writes in a very lively style, and there is some quiet humour in his first impressions of the new scenes and associates into which he suddenly found himself thrust. We commend his book which does him great credit—it is unaffected and to the purpose, written in an honest straightforward style, and is full of real interest and amusement."—*Blackwood's Magazine*.