

Evening Mercury August 12, 1886 p. 4, c. 2

Lady tourists in Labrador

The Plover brought letters from Miss Ward and Miss Hayden—the American ladies who left in the Hercules on a trip to Labrador. They express themselves as charmed with the grandeur of the scenery and delighted with their whole experiences during the trip. They also speak of the kindness and attention they have every where met; and were much pleased with the arrangements on board the Hercules for their comfort. Of Captain Cross they speak in high terms and declare that his name ought to be Captain Goodnature,—from his kindness and attention to them.

They took the whole round as far as Nain and returned to Hopedale where they had arranged to remain at the Moravian Mission station till the return of the Hercules; so that they will thus be able to obtain a glimpse of Esquimaux life, and of missionary operations among this once savage tribe. They have been very fortunate in obtaining some excellent sketches and photographs of the scenery. For three days they had fog and rain with a heavy sea, and after leaving Rigoulette encountered a heavy gale. This caused some detention; but the Hercules did her work well. It does not appear that they heard anything of those Labrador horrors over which America and Europe have been shuddering. Nain and Hopedale are as peaceful and comfortable as usual, and well supplied with provisions. Had there been any cannibals or troops of Arctic bears on the coast they would hardly have ventured to remain ten days at Hopedale. They are expected by the Plover on her return trip.

August 23, 1886 p. 4, c. 2

American lady tourists on Labrador

Among the passengers who arrived by the Plover, on Saturday night, were Miss Ward and Miss Hayden, who left by the Hercules, five weeks ago, on a trip to Labrador. They enjoy the distinction of being the first American ladies who have ever visited that wild and desolate region. Their account of their pleasurable excursion, the grandeur of the scenery, the novel sights they witnessed, and their interesting experiences among the people they met will, no doubt, induce many of their country-women to follow their courageous example in making a tour of “this great and terrible wilderness.” They describe the kindness and hospitality of the people as unbounded. The good Moravian missionaries at Hopedale opened their hospitable doors to them, and with them they spent a very pleasant fortnight. They had a full opportunity of studying the mission work here which has produced such a transformation in the character and habits of the once degraded heathen Esquimaux. They express themselves as charmed with the simplicity of character zeal and devotedness of these estimable men who carry on the good work in this dreary region.

As to hardships, privations or inconveniences, they appear to make light of any they had to encounter. Captain Cross of the Hercules (henceforth to be known as “Captain Goodnature”) took excellent care of them, and did all in his power to make their trip agreeable and to facilitate the objects they had in view. Captain Manuel of the Plover was equally kind and attentive. They have a lively sense of his unwearied kindness on their return trip from Battle Harbour to St. John’s.

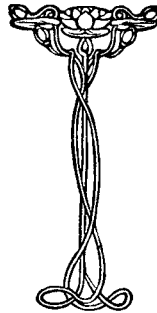
Of course their experience furnishes a complete contradiction of those fabulous reports of cold, hunger and deaths by starvation which have been circulated in the press.

The weather was unusually fine; the ice disappeared at an early date in June; everywhere the people were busy in their fishing operations and they heard of no cases of death by famine or even of any destitution. The missionary ships, the Gleaner and Harmony, had arrived at the various Moravian mission stations, bringing ample stocks of provisions for the next twelve months. The ladies were quite anxious to see a polar bear or wolf, but of the many hundreds reported in the newspapers as ravaging the country, they failed to see or ever hear of a single one. They consider the fishery on Labrador as being on the whole "fair," but along the whole coast of Northern and Eastern Newfoundland accounts are very unfavourable.

It is the intention of these ladies to spend a few more weeks in Newfoundland, making excursions in various directions, before returning to their native land. It is pleasant to know that they will carry back with them favourable impressions and pleasant memories of Terra Nova.

An excerpt from A tribute dedicated to Anna Lydia Ward : in affectionate remembrance by her friend Florentine H. Hayden. Published 1934.

A Tribute Dedicated
to
Anna Lydia Ward



In Affectionate Remembrance
By Her Friend

Florentine H. Hayden

ANNA LYDIA WARD

FOR nearly half a century the name of Anna Lydia Ward has been intimately connected, through her literary activities, with the City of Waterbury and the State of Connecticut. Her name is to be found on the title pages of more volumes probably than that of any other resident of Waterbury, where her unselfish and devoted work in the interests of the community and literature, made her one of the outstanding women of her day. She was ever untiring in her efforts to be of service to others and always took a sincere interest in the civic affairs of her adopted city. Endowed by nature with a beautiful character, and extraordinary faculties developed through an excellent education, her works were such that it is truly worth while to preserve a record of them.

ANNA LYDIA WARD, daughter of Israel Currie and Almeda (Hanks) Ward, was born in Bloomfield, New Jersey, August 10, 1845, and died February 2, 1933, in Waverley, Massachusetts, where

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she had lived in seclusion since 1930 on account of ill health. Her father was a leading business man of New York City, who after his retirement devoted his interests to Bloomfield, his native town, where his home, built about 1840, was a center of social life, gracious in its hospitality. Brought up in an atmosphere of culture and refinement, Miss Ward was educated at Ripley Female College, Poultney, Vermont, and travelled extensively in this country, and abroad. She visited Labrador in 1886 accompanied by her friend, Miss Florentine H. Hayden, of Waterbury, Connecticut, and spent several weeks at points farther north than had been reached by an American woman. Miss Ward made an ethnological study of the Eskimo and his mode of life, and the results were later embodied in an illustrated lecture that attracted much attention and favorable comment from the press. The eighty lantern slides used in the lecture were made from photographs by Miss Ward and from sketches by Miss Hayden.

The following excerpts are indicative of the favor with which the lecture was received:

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From the "American," Waterbury, Connecticut:

"Your lecture had for me a great deal of interest and information. I did not know whether to admire most the novel audacity which inspired two women to take such an excursion into untravelled lands, or the descriptive faculty which gave to the account of the journey, such charm.

"At any rate, the originality of your and Miss Hayden's experiences furnishes the material for a narration which, as you told it, gave us all an evening of intellectual delight, which I shall take the first opportunity to enjoy again, and shall look forward to with pleasant anticipation.

"The excellent illustrations, from photographs and drawings, add greatly to the value of the lecture as a popular entertainment, and give life and color to it as a study in geography, history and ethnology."

CHARLES F. CHAPIN, *Editor.*

From the "Daily American," Waterbury, Connecticut, April 1, 1892:

"A large audience, complimentary to both the lecturer and the cause, filled Leavenworth hall last evening to pass a very interesting hour and a half with Miss Anna L. Ward in 'Untravelled Labrador.' The series of exceedingly novel pictures thrown onto the screen by the stereopticon were photographs by Miss Ward, and sketches by her friend Miss Hayden. Miss Ward's lecture was itself a series of

MISS ANNA L. WARD'S

LECTURE.

Untravelled Labrador and The Eskimo,

UNDER THE DIRECTION OF MAJOR J. B. POND,

EVERETT HOUSE, NEW YORK.

SUPERBLY ILLUSTRATED with eighty lantern slide pictures made from sketches by her friend and travelling companion, Miss Florentine H. Hayden, and photographs by Miss Ward. These include views of



KATRINA AND TITUS.

**The East Coast of Newfoundland,
Icebergs off the Atlantic coast of Labrador,
Labrador Settlements and People,
Eskimo and their Homes,
Moravians and their Community Houses,
ESKIMO DOGS, SLEDGES, BOATS, CARVINGS, IMPLEMENTS AND DRESS.**

The story of a strange land is always interesting and, when told by a lady of culture and intellectual ability, who has herself visited an out of the way part of the world, it is sure to charm.

Miss Ward, well known as a woman of letters, offers a lecture that, together with its illustrations, is a narrative of a people and country regarding which knowledge is limited. Her subject is replete with accurate information obtained by residence among the Eskimo of Labrador, the attentive observation of an investigator and traveller, and by patient ethnological study of the race. She speaks with complete command of her theme; and its treatment is well balanced and effective, and possessed of a breadth of view and thoroughness which affords an intellectual treat of never flagging interest. Her diction is polished and easy, as would be expected from a literary worker.

The field of which Miss Ward lectures, is fully as interesting as those which have made famous Stanley, Kennan, and Peary.

She tells the story of the voyage: describes the coast scenery of Newfoundland; touches the interior of Labrador as well as sails along its shores. Climate, geography, geology, flora and fauna are not overlooked. The aurora borealis and icebergs are graphically described. The Indians of the interior are introduced to the audience, and mention made of their characteristics.

An ethnological study of the Eskimo, past and present, includes the distribution of the tribes, the name, physical characteristics, habitations, style of dress and personal adornments; inventive skill, language, literature and fine arts; division of labor, law and political organization; superstitions, traditions, religious feasts and ethical traits.

She describes the Moravians and their work among the Eskimo, the lecture being interspersed with pleasing anecdote and vivid narration of experiences by sea and land.



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word-pictures touching now on this incident, and now on that phase of life in that remote region, and holding the interested attention of her audience to the end. . . .

“Miss Ward’s story of the trip started with the embarkation at St. John’s, Newfoundland, of Miss Hayden and herself on the steamer ‘Hercules,’ chartered by the government for the one summer trip up the coast of Labrador, to carry the mails and convey a doctor — the one opportunity in the year when the isolated inhabitants can communicate by letter with their friends in the world, and receive medical treatment and medical stores. The two ladies had the honor of being the only two members of their sex on the ‘Hercules.’ The other passengers they found agreeable, and Capt. Cross — who belied his name, and whom they nicknamed Capt. ‘Goodnature’ — and the ship’s doctor, were exceedingly kind and polite. Icebergs were an ordinary incident of the trip, and were often brilliant with all the colors of the rainbow. The scenery was of course wild and picturesque in the extreme, as the audience were able to realize from the striking pictures. One beautiful afternoon as they lay at anchor in the harbor, a fisherman’s boat bore down upon them. Making fast alongside, a woman was helped up the companion ladder by her husband, a man of rough appearance, but evidently of tender heart. Her limbs were twisted out of all shape, and she had been waiting through that long twelve months for the doctor who was to come on the ‘Hercules,’ to see if he could not straighten them. In the boat, the one home of the family except a ‘tilt,’ or hut,

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on shore, the children were left to tumble around at their own sweet will, a pathetic picture of what child-life may be.

“Unfortunately, the doctor had gone ashore, and so hour after hour the woman waited for his return. But he did not come. Then the sky became overcast. The signs of a storm were near at hand. With a deep sigh the woman said it would be safe to wait no longer. Again she went down the companion ladder with her husband, and the boat cast off, to begin again another terrible year of waiting until the doctor should once more be sent to Labrador, and there would be another chance of obtaining aid. This is what the visit of the ‘Hercules’ meant to so many in that far-off corner of the world. It was the one terrible note of human misery and hopelessness that throbbed all through that perfect summer afternoon.

“The ‘Hercules’ left Miss Ward and Miss Hayden at Hopedale, a settlement about half way up the Labrador Coast. Capt. Cross would not leave them any farther north, because if he should land them, and the ice should close in, he might not be able to reach them and take them on board again. In that case, they would have to spend a year in Labrador. Miss Ward described graphically the charming community life of the Moravian missionary settlement in which Miss Hayden and herself were guests. They were the only women guests the missionaries had ever entertained, except two wives of sea-captains who had come that way with their husbands. By dint of the use

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of a little German and French on their side, and a little English on the other, they managed to make themselves understood. Miss Ward mentioned one pathetic incident, the landing of a rude box containing the body of a fisherman, which was floated ashore from his schooner lashed to a log. It was preserved in salt, and left in a hut, to be called for when the fishing season was over, and carried back to the friends in Newfoundland. Miss Ward entered an earnest protest against the sending of women and young girls on these fishing expeditions. The hardness of the life, and the indiscriminate mingling of the sexes, ends, as it only could, in wrecking them morally and physically. There is a law against it in Newfoundland, but it is almost a dead letter.

“Miss Ward’s lecture closed with an ethnological study of the Eskimo. . . .”

From the “Free Press,” Detroit, Michigan, November 6, 1887:

“Miss Anna L. Ward and her friend, Miss Florentine Hayden, are travellers of no little distinction. They recently returned from the northern coast of Labrador, and have travelled farther north than any other women. These ladies take little baggage, and being possessed of a determination to see the world, they experience no unsurmountable difficulties. During the months of July and August, 1886, they spent some weeks among the Eskimos,

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and took excellent photographs of these people and their habitations, etc., as well as of the ice-bound regions in general. . . .

“The account given by these ladies of sights and sounds in these regions, and of the grandeur of the Aurora Borealis, surpassed that of printed pages. . . .

“Our travelers found the missionaries contented and happy in their out-of-the-world sort of life. They brought with them an Eskimo costume made by the natives, among whom are most expert workers with the needle. The long, oddly shaped sort of swallow-tail garment falls nearly to the ground, and when the wearer sits it is folded up and used as a cushion. Among many curiosities these ladies brought with them are several dolls made by the natives. These have wooden heads and curiously cut faces. Their clothes were made of seal skin with exquisite silver-gray shining fur.

“These people have no life outside of their occupation and their own huts. After the fishing season closes, and working hours are over, a husband and wife are sometimes seen sitting together, she playing a guitar and he a clarionet. They seem as happy, thus amusing themselves, as do their civilized brothers and sisters.

“The photographs which the ladies took and have brought with them number many.

“The sea has no terrors for these sailor-women, and they may yet go on another exploring expedition where no foot

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has yet left its imprint. They were right royally entertained at St. John's, Newfoundland, and they give the most glowing accounts of social life there."

From the "Daily Gleaner," Kingston, Jamaica, British West Indies, April 12, 1894:

"On Tuesday evening, in the Conversorium, Miss Anna L. Ward, the American authoress, at present sojourning in Jamaica with her friend and sister-traveller, Miss Florentine Hayden, delivered a lecture on 'Untravelled Labrador and the Eskimo,' for the benefit of Saint Andrew's Presbyterian Church. There was a large and keenly appreciative audience, including His Excellency the Governor and Lord George Fitzgerald, and many of the elite of Kingston.

"The lecturer appeared, accompanied by His Excellency and Reverend James Cochrane. Lady Blake wrote stating that she would have been present had her sudden departure for England not rendered it impossible.

"The Governor said, 'I had no idea when I came in this evening that I was expected to preside and to have the privilege, as I esteem it to be, and pleasure of introducing Miss Ward to the audience assembled to listen to her. Miss Ward has come to Jamaica, bringing with her an introduction from a very great friend of mine in Newfoundland, Dr. Moses Harvey, who has written a history of that country, and accomplished a great deal of other

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literary work. She is going to speak on a subject which has a great interest for myself, and one also, curiously enough, which has peculiar interest for people in the West Indies. The country of Labrador forms a portion of the colony, the government of which I administered before I came to Jamaica. . . . I have great pleasure in introducing you to the lecturer.'

"Miss Ward then proceeded with her address. She is a good speaker and thoroughly self-possessed, and her lecture was marked by qualities of an exceptional kind; the style was clear and strong, and the descriptions were vivid in their truthfulness. In her introductory remarks she referred to Jamaica. The country, she said, to which the audience were invited to journey with her that evening was in strong contrast to the beautiful island, for truly Jamaica was a charming picture from sea to mountain. As the perfection of Nature's art and the home of courteous and large hospitality, its memory would ever be cherished by her friend and herself. She went on to recount the circumstances which led them, in 1886, to proceed to Labrador, 'the land that was allotted to Cain,' as Cartier said — a lack of information principally concerning its character and inhabitants. The voyage was graphically described, and the aspects of Nature finely portrayed. They were much struck by the sunsets; none other, she imagined, could surpass them in brilliancy of colors or in perfection of blending; but, admitted the lecturer, and amid the applause of the audience, she had not then seen a Jamaica sunset. . . .

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“ ‘Welcome to Labrador, ladies, where you’ll get wholesome air,’ was the greeting they received from a kindly fisherwoman when they stepped ashore on the bleak and iron-bound coast. Miss Ward then told how they tried to enter into the lives of the Eskimo, to understand them, to learn their customs and their ideas, and rapidly detailed their interesting experiences in that wild land where American ladies had never been seen before. Much of the information she gathered is valuable from an ethnological point of view. One piece of intelligence greatly amused the audience. She said that the Eskimo, or ‘Innuít’ as they call themselves, have little idea of a Supreme Being. Their heaven is a region of sunshine and warmth and cheerfulness and rest and song and pleasure; their hell is a realm of darkness and storm and cold and snow and ice. The first missionaries represented hell as a place of fire, but such an idea was so agreeable to the untutored mind that they had to change their symbolism and make it intensely cold. A humorous smile played about the lips of the lecturer at this point, and she looked up, but the thought was unspoken — ‘I’d better not say what I think,’ she said with a twinkle. In describing the annual practice of thousands of young women proceeding to the Labrador fisheries from Newfoundland, she said the press had vigorously and fearlessly attacked the system, the clergy had denounced it, and private influence had been exerted on behalf of reform. She was pleased to say that His Excellency Sir Henry Blake had been one of its strongest opponents, and his influence was telling and would con-

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tinue to tell for the repression of the practice. The statement was received with cheers.

“The lecture was illustrated by stereopticon views. These were from original photographs, and a large number were from sketches by Miss Hayden. The latter were particularly good, and showed Miss Hayden to be an artist of ability, quick to see and reproduce the essential features in a landscape or type of character. The views followed one another rapidly during the lecture; no explanation was given, but each illustrated the remarks, and so well did they tell their own story that one could even forget the lecture and watch the varied scenes silently appearing and disappearing on the screen.”

From “The Colonial Standard and Jamaica Dispatch,” Kingston, Jamaica, British West Indies, April 12, 1894:

“Miss Anna L. Ward delivered her lecture at the Conventorium, Kingston, on Tuesday evening, to a large and highly appreciative audience. His Excellency the Governor introduced the lecturer.

“Miss Ward gave a graphic description of the hyperborean climate, the dreary, desolate scenery not devoid of certain elements of awe-inspiring grandeur, and the dress, habits and character of the people. As she told the story of the simple ways and gentle manners of the Eskimo, with the dull routine of their hard, monotonous existence,

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relieved by the warmth of tender human affection, one could not but think of the one touch of nature which makes the whole world kin, of the community of human experience and the identity of the human race. Wide is the gulf of climatic, racial and other distinctive conditions by which the inhabitants of this fair tropic island are separated from the denizens of the bleak, rugged peninsula which forms the extreme eastern part of British territory in North America, but the experiences and lectures of travellers like Miss Ward serve to span the gulf and to excite the sympathy to which the Latin poet gives expression in the words: 'Homo sum: humani nihil a me alienum puto.'

"The Rev. Mr. Cochrane, in thanking Miss Ward, very properly described the lecture as being interesting, instructive and eloquent."

From "The Evening Leader," New Haven, Connecticut, November 25, 1892:

"Travels in Europe are so familiar as to have lost their charm. Travels in Mexico and South America are hackneyed subjects. Even explorations in 'Darkest Africa' have reached the ultimate limit of popular interest. It remained for two plucky American women, with originality and courage, to penetrate a new field, from which to bring forth treasures. Miss Ward, with her artist friend, Miss Florentine Hayden, not many years ago entered upon the

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exploration of a comparatively unknown region — that great stretch of Labrador coast, extending northwardly a thousand miles from the narrow strait which separates it from Newfoundland. With all the tastes and equipments of artists they went, making their way among the primitive inhabitants; and with the characteristics of genuine explorers, they gathered such a harvest of novel and interesting features as to make an illustrated lecture both unique and fascinating.”

From the “Telegraph-Courier,” Kenosha, Wisconsin:

“Whosoever was responsible for the timely thought of securing Miss Ward to talk of Labrador deserves commendation. . . .”

From “The New Cycle,” New York City:

“Miss Ward’s pictured lecture has all the genuineness and reality of ‘being on the spot.’ It is an impressive panoramic view of Labrador and its people. The lecture is skillfully put together and the numerous stereopticon views are exceptionally good.”

From the “Christian Union,” New York City:

“There are many features of the trip on which one would like to linger — the wildness of the scenery on that

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rugged desolate coast, the beauty of the many shaped icebergs they were constantly passing, as the sun painted them in rainbow hues, the devoted and picturesque life of the Moravian missionaries in that remote corner of the world, the habits of the Eskimo.”

From the Hon. Frederick J. Kingsbury, LL. D.,
President American Social Science Association:

“Congratulations on the success of your Labrador paper. I found it very interesting, and every person speaks in high praise of it. The lecture and the accompanying illustrations brought before us in a clear and vivid way portions of the world seldom visited and little known to most of us, though so full of a sort of weird interest.”

In March, 1887, Miss Ward removed to Waterbury and made her home with Miss Hayden, thus beginning an inseparable friendship covering a long period of happy years. Her devotion to her friend, and to her adopted city, Waterbury, is interesting to recall. At that time the Reverend Dr. Joseph Anderson was engaged in the writing of the now famous three volume history, “Town and City of Waterbury, Connecticut,” and as an associate editor Miss Ward is deserving of the highest praise. This



Anna L. Ward.