

**THE LOVERS
OF THE WOODS**

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The lovers of the woods by William H. Boardman

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WILLIAM H. BOARDMAN

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OF THE WOODS**





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By

WILLIAM H. BOARDMAN

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INTRODUCTION

WOODCRAFT is a like art in all the forests from Canada to either coast.

The only important differences are in the ways of transportation. We go to the woods to do with our own hands those things which we have been accustomed to have done for us, and to wait upon ourselves, sometimes, just enough to see how it seems. It is an essential part of the pleasure of catching trout to feel that we are by our own labor earning food. We sleep without complaining on the beds that we have made, and sometimes try to eat the food that we have cooked. We taste, somewhat daintily, the ameliorated hardships of primitive living and, knowing our own shortcomings, we learn forbearance.

The sportsman who takes seriously his vacation in the woods has satisfaction in learning how

INTRODUCTION

to live properly and hunt and fish successfully. It adds to his self-respect and self-reliance to know how to cook and camp and pack ; to use his legs and boats and horses ; to get out of trouble and to keep out of trouble. While acquiring these accomplishments he has, if he is a good man, become sated with killing. He has had abundant proof of his skill in approaching game and in shooting straight, of knowledge of fish habits and handiness in taking them, and he does not want to kill anything any more unless he needs it in his business. If he is unworthy he keeps on killing ; if he is a limited person his activities end and he sets up for a sage ; but if he is wise his accomplishment of being able to use his eyes is set to nobler purposes, and he learns that it is a never-ending joy to win acquaintance with the timber trees and forest shrubs and plants ; to learn how the animals live and think ; to know well and understand the splendid simple men whom a lifetime in the woods sometimes produces ; and, per-