

**MATTABESETT, OR, THE  
COMING  
OF THE PALEFACE  
AND OTHER POEMS**

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Mattabesett, or, The Coming of the Paleface and Other Poems by S. Ward Loper

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**S. WARD LOPER**

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*S. Ward Loper.*

# MATTABESSETT

OR

## THE COMING OF THE PALEFACE

AND OTHER POEMS

BY

S. WARD LOPER

*Author of "Echoes From The Home of Halleck," etc.*



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## DEDICATION

To my daughters, and to my granddaughters,  
I dedicate this volume.

They have strewn roses along my  
pathway to the Great Unknown,  
and, as I draw near my journey's end,  
their sweet love and reverence  
becomes more and more precious.



## SAMUEL WARD LOPER

**S**AMUEL WARD LOPER was born in Guilford, Connecticut, July 3, 1834, and died in Middletown, Connecticut, March 31, 1910.

In his youth he had an eager aspiration for a liberal education, but the financial condition of the family seemed to make that impracticable. He deemed it his duty to remain at home and work on the farm. During his youth and early manhood he resided in Guilford; later he removed to the adjacent town, Durham, where he spent the last twenty years before his removal to Middletown. The conditions which deprived him of the privileges of school and college could not quench his love of science. He made extensive collections of fossil fishes and plants from localities in Guilford and Durham. In exchanging these fossils for other specimens, geological and mineralogical, he made himself the possessor of a valuable collection, and became acquainted with many scientific men. In this period he formed a life-long friendship with Professor John S. Newberry, to whom he furnished much of the material upon which Newberry's Monograph of the Triassic Plants and Fishes was based. In recognition of his attainments as a self-taught scientist, Trinity College gave him the honorary degree of Master of Arts in 1882.

In 1888 he entered Wesleyan University, and was enrolled for three years as a graduate student. He was fifty-four years old when he became a member of the college—probably the oldest student ever on the roll of Wesleyan. Those three years were

devoted to the study of geology and biology. They enabled him to systematize and co-ordinate the necessarily desultory knowledge which he had gathered in the studies of the preceding years.

He served as Instructor in Geology in Trinity College in the year 1890-1891. It was not, however, in class instruction, but in other forms of scientific work that he was to find his career.

At the time when Mr. Loper was studying in Wesleyan, Professor William M. Davis of Harvard, whose investigations in previous years had given the key to the interpretation of the relations of the Triassic sandstone and trap of the Connecticut Valley, was commissioned by the United States Geological Survey to make a detailed study of the whole Triassic area of Connecticut, and was authorized to employ a corps of assistants. Mr. Loper was one of the geologists employed in this work. The special duty assigned to him was the study of the black bituminous shales in which occur the fossil fishes and plants to which his earliest studies had been devoted. He visited the various outcrops of these black shales up and down the valley, and made very extensive collections. He also determined the stratigraphic relations of the black shales, showing that most of the localities belong to two definite horizons, one below and the other above the great lava sheet which forms the conspicuous trap hills of the Connecticut valley. His name appears with that of Professor Davis as joint author of a paper in which these conclusions in regard to the stratigraphy of the two horizons of black shale were announced. Mr. Loper's work on the Triassic made him known to the officers of the United States Geological Survey, by whom he was employed in subsequent years in geological expeditions in various localities. In the

employ of the United States Geological Survey, he worked at Canyon City, Colorado, El Paso, Texas, and in various other parts of the Cordilleran region, on Valcour Island, Lake Champlain, and in New Brunswick, Cape Breton, and Newfoundland. Some of these geological explorations were not destitute of experiences of hardship and peril.

In 1893 Mr. Loper became Assistant in the Museum of Wesleyan University. A year later his title was changed to Curator, and he retained that position until his death. His time, however, during those years was divided between the service of the University and that of the United States Geological Survey, as it was understood when he began his work in the Museum that he could have leave of absence from time to time for the expeditions on which he was sent by the United States Geological Survey.

As Curator of the Museum, he showed unique and extraordinary adaptation for the position, in that he was able to do every kind of work which is required in a Museum. He was a prince of collectors; and his collecting trips to western Maryland, to Chattanooga, Tennessee, to Valcour Island, to Fossil, Wyoming, and Florissant, Colorado, to Herkimer County, New York, and to Nova Scotia, yielded rich treasures for the Geological Department of the Museum. In recent years he also gave a good deal of attention to the localities of minerals and fossils in the vicinity of Middletown, greatly enriching the exhibit of local Geology and Mineralogy in the Museum. He was not only an enterprising and diligent collector himself, but he had a great power of interesting other people in the Museum, so as to secure gifts of specimens and money and co-operation in other ways. He knew how to use the literature necessary for the