

**BEYOND THE
PALAEOCRYSTIC
SEA; OR, THE
LEGEND OF HALFJORD**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649125753

Beyond the palaeocrystic sea; or, The legend of Halfjord by A. S. Morton

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

A. S. MORTON

**BEYOND THE
PALAEOCRYSTIC
SEA; OR, THE
LEGEND OF HALFJORD**

Beyond the Palæocrystic
Sea
or
The Legend of Halfjord

By A. S. MORTON



CHICAGO
PRIVATELY PRINTED
MDECCXCV

COPYRIGHT, 1895
BY A. S. MORTON

SRL

URC

DC/6430365

INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION

My own story shall be as brief as possible, but it is necessary, to a complete understanding of how I came into possession of the facts given hereafter, that I should relate the circumstances surrounding my acquisition of the strange manuscript which follows.

In 1885 I was sent to Greenland by a scientific society that I might study and report on its geological structure, flora, fauna and all other matters of keen interest to the scientist, but of little value to the layman. Delighted at having secured the mission, for which I had unceasingly labored ever since the subject was broached, I lost no time in preparing for an absence of some years, and not many months after my appointment found myself located at Upernavik, one of the most northerly settlements of that inhospitable country.

4 Beyond the Palæocrystic Sea

With a species of intoxication I plunged at once into my work, being richly rewarded by the encomiums which reached me from my former fellow scientists in London, who seemed to fully appreciate my efforts and very kindly wrote to tell me so. These letters reached me only twice a year, both times during our brief Arctic summer, and the ships that bore them carried back my reports of months of earnest and untiring work.

Having, during two years of constant exploration and study, exhausted the territory lying about fifty miles north and the same distance south of my location, as well as penetrating the inland glacier itself, tramping many a weary mile over its frozen surface with no reward, since this great traveling ice wall presents on its moraineless face but few crumbs for the hungry scholar, I decided to press farther northward in search of new fields. Taking with me three of the hardy sons of that congealed race, I began my journey in November, 1887, choosing the winter, as it is not always comfortable to travel in

those regions during their apology of a summer owing to the melting of the snow, which is the traveler's best friend. My first excursion was short and unproductive of results, but in February of the next year (1888) we set out again, this time equipped with a boat, as well as our sleds, and Upernavik saw us no more until the following autumn.

Enduring many hardships, we pressed steadily forward, my followers occasionally grumbling when, at times, I insisted upon remaining a day or two at some point where my harvest proved unexpectedly rich. Early in May we drew near Cape Parry and sighted the open water of Smith Sound; here we camped, it being my intention to remain some time. And while I explored the meagre footing of land, plucking here a flower, breaking off there a piece of rock, again studying some fossil generously offering itself to my eager eyes, my men spent most of their time on the water, bringing in an occasional fish or news of a whale, walrus, bear or fox sighted.

One evening (if an hour when the sun