

**LIVES OF
THE FUR FOLK**

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Lives of the fur folk by M. D. Haviland

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M. D. HAVILAND

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BY
M. D. HAVILAND
illustrated by
E. CALDWELL



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PREFACE

THE following, to a certain extent, are composite histories—at present our knowledge of the life of the individual wild animal is too limited to admit of anything else ; but the incidents related are all founded on fact, and Redpad, Grimalkin, and the rest actually lived, although here they are sometimes credited with adventures which in reality befell others of their race.

It may be thought that I have gone too far in endowing wild animals with the primitive elements of superstition, self-sacrifice, &c. ; but although the majority are certainly guided to a very great extent by pure instinct, here and there we find one whose actions cannot be altogether explained thus ; and it must not be forgotten that it is from similar exceptions, who lived and died in long past ages, that our own powers of reason and reflection, our morality, sense of religion, our artists, heroes and saints have evolved.

For deciding some knotty points in the natural history of the badger, I am indebted to an excellent article on the animal by Mr. Douglas English. The rest of my information is entirely derived from personal observation, or from that of gamekeepers, 'earthstoppers,' huntsmen and others, whose calling has brought them into close contact with wild animals. To all these my thanks are due.

M. D. HAVILAND.

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