

**OUR NORTHERN DOMAIN:
ALASKA,
PICTURESQUE, HISTORIC
AND COMMERCIAL**

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Our northern domain: Alaska, picturesque, historic and commercial by Various

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NATIVE ALASKAN NEEDLEWOMAN.

34944



U. S.
Alaska

Our Northern Domain

ALASKA

PICTURESQUE, HISTORIC
AND COMMERCIAL

FULLY ILLUSTRATED



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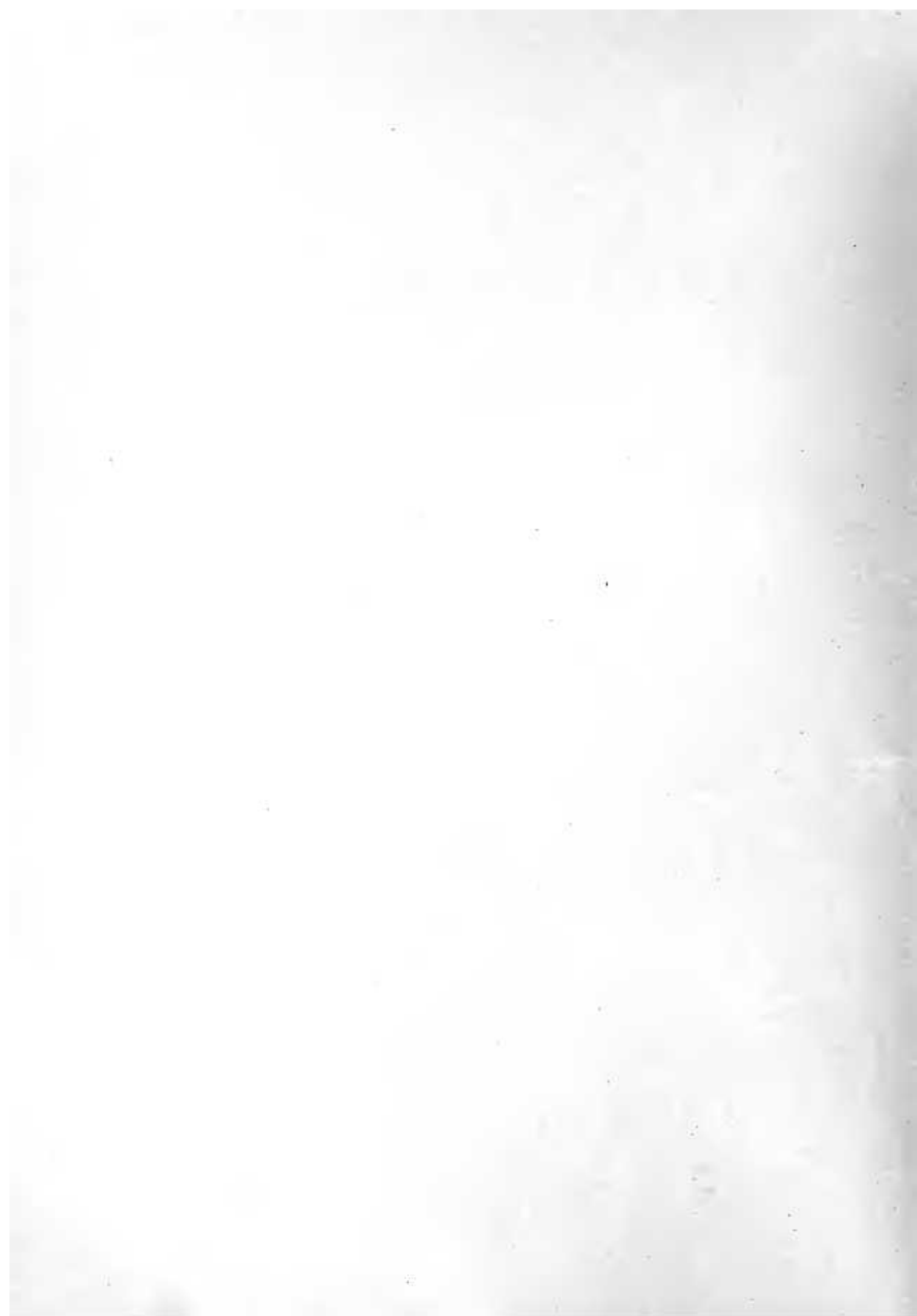
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OUR NORTHERN DOMAIN.

ALASKA.

CHAPTER I.

A FLOUTED GIFT.

THE fairy-godmother, in the old folk-story, brings the new-born infant a crooked coin, even more than insignificant in appearance; but it has miraculous powers, and when put to the test, multiplies into a fortune. Aladdin's lamp had nothing in its external aspect to indicate that when rubbed it would summon the aid of the all-powerful Djinn to reveal unmeasured riches. Such a gift, at first despised and ridiculed, seemed to be the great land of Alaska, which, instead of consisting wholly of glaciers and icebergs, as was at first generally supposed from its situation in the far north, has proved to be an El Dorado of fabulous value.

It is rather amusing and instructive, in view of the stream of gold and other precious products, pouring in an ever-increasing volume from Alaska's horn of plenty, to recall some of the predictions and comments that were made, in the newspapers and in Congress, when the proposed purchase of this imperial domain from Russia was under discussion.

In the debate of July, 1868, the Hon. Hiram Price of Iowa, in the House of Representatives, after animadverting on the Hon. N. P. Banks's eloquent plea in favor of Alaska, said:—