

Review of Allagash Book.

Dear Mr. Barnes:

~~I have read the manuscript of~~ The Allagash manuscript is an absorbing account of Maine woods ~~(logging and the exploration of the large area included~~ within the watersheds of the Kennebeck, Penobscot, St Johns and Allagash rivers. ~~(Particularly interesting~~ I found the history of the various attempts ~~for~~ lumbering companies to make the remoter parts of the north woods accessible to exploitation. ~~But~~ the stories of the Indians, trappers, guides and game wardens were no less engrossing. However, I kept looking for more on the Allagash itself and by the time I had finished the book the Allagash had become more of a myth than a reality. More and more I felt that I was being led around through the ~~woods~~ forest searching for something that was never found - the real wild Allagash never quite came to life. It is true that it was mentioned frequently and log drives down it were described but the quality of the river itself remained always elusive. ^{In To} At the end I ~~felt disappointed~~ did not know either the primeval river or its tamer descendant today and I was left with a feeling of disappointment.

Otherwise I like the book. I like the style, and perhaps I should be satisfied with that much. Perhaps the ^{true} Allagash is indeed a myth ~~having been~~ destroyed by the ~~loss~~ felling of its pines, and what flows today a mere ghost of its lost mysteriousness.