
CHAPTER II

THE MEN OF ORKNEY IN RUPERT'S LAND

WE have shown how the Norsemen of the Orkney Isles became Scottish, though the Orkney people in local sentiment have always regarded themselves as a separate people. The writer remembers at a St. Andrew's Society meeting in Winnipeg hearing the members classed as so many of Scottish blood and so many Orkney men. The President, however, who was of Orkney birth, protested against the classification, declaring that he was as good a Scotsman as the best of them. It was early geographic circumstances that led to the great influx of Orkneymen into the Company posts of Hudson Bay. It arose thus. The great Hudson's Bay Company in London was incorporated as a purely English organisation by the "merrie monarch," Charles II., in 1670. His was a royal gift, for he gave away about one-third of a continent, consisting of all the English territory on the streams running into Hudson Bay. This was named after his cousin, Prince Rupert, who became the first Governor of Rupert's Land. The trade was carried on by the yearly trading

