
CHAPTER XXI

GREAT SCOTSMEN ON THE PACIFIC COAST

THE men who grew up around Sir James Douglas were sure to be men of resource, and so became men of mark. Though Trader Douglas's superior officer, John McLoughlin, a Scoto-Irishman, was first in the field, yet he was a man who impressed the world much less by his personality than did Douglas. McLoughlin lacked the firmness and decision of character necessary for the protection of the great business interests entrusted to his care upon the coast. Being of an impulsive nature, he readily fell in with the interests of the American settlers who came to the Columbia when the territory was claimed by both the British and Americans. Being in charge of Fort Vancouver, he wavered in his allegiance, and so, it is charged, sacrificed the interests of the Hudson's Bay Company. Miss Agnes Laut, a late writer, has sought to reverse the opinion of British and Canadian historians by making McLoughlin a hero, while they regard him as one who forsook his country and flag and profited by becoming an American citizen.

Like Sir George Simpson, McLoughlin had a

