
CHAPTER VIII

SCOTTISH FOUNDERS OF THE HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY

THE chief promoters of the Hudson's Bay Company were Englishmen of London. The Hudson's Bay Company was founded in 1669, and resulted from the application of two Huguenots, Raddison and Groseilliers, who had been thrown off by the French and who applied to the London merchants for capital and support. These merchants first sent out an American—Captain Gillam—who sailed in the ship *Nonsuch Ketch*, and on his return gave assurance that a profitable trade could be carried on in Hudson Bay. That no Scotsmen were in the Company in which they became a prominent factor a hundred years afterward is not difficult to explain. The field for Scottish enterprise was fully occupied, as John Hill Burton shows, in other parts of Europe. The account of the part which Scotsmen took in the seventeenth-century wars on the Continent reads like a fairy-tale. Sir Walter Scott's wonderfully correct character Dugald Dalgetty, in his "Legend of Montrose," was based on a real person, Robert Munro, a Scotsman, and his remarkable adventures with "McKay's" Scots Regiment in Den-

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mark. Scotland was a poor country with an ambitious and self-reliant nobility. They did not fight as mere mercenaries, but they fought chiefly on the side with which they sympathised. The great Protestant leader in Switzerland, Gustavus Adolphus, in the Thirty Years' War drew out their admiration and support. There were thirteen regiments of Scotsmen, besides many other regiments, in his army where the officers were Scotsmen. Such honoured Scottish names as Hepburn, Hamilton, Turner, Lumsden, Forbes, Ruthven, Grant, the Leslies, the Lindsays, and many other Scottish leaders of the army of the great Swedish Lion of the North, gained imperishable fame. But they had no one to spare for the help of the English traders of the Hudson's Bay Company.

Similarly afterward in the beginning of the eighteenth century, when the Jacobite rebellion of 1715 broke out, there were still none to seek the Arctic for a sphere of action; but Scotsmen followed the fortunes of the rightful King of Scotland whom we call the Pretender, and found opportunities of service on Continental battlefields, choosing usually the side towards which their sympathies went out. No Scottish heart can fail to beat with pride at the military success of the Earl Marischal Keith, who, though a Protestant, entered the service of Spain, but after remarkable achievements of diplomacy made peace with the House of Brunswick, received back his forfeited estates at Kintore, and purchased other estates, but

