
CHAPTER VI

BRAVE SCOTTISH EXPLORERS

THE spirit of Alexander Mackenzie set on fire many of the younger men of the Fur Companies to explore the vast regions of the interior of Rupert's Land. It is the great man who points out the way, but facile and patient followers also do noble work for humanity.

Among those who followed closely in the footsteps of the Imperial leader was David Thompson, astronomer and surveyor of the North-West Company. There is some question about his nationality. Rev. Dr. Campbell, historian of St. Gabriel's Church, Montreal, states that a Robert Thompson, who was a subscriber to the Scotch Church, was a Scotsman and was said to be the brother of David Thompson, of whom we are speaking. It is stated by another authority that surveyor Thompson was a native of Wales, while Ex-Governor Masson says that David Thompson was educated at the celebrated Bluecoat School in London. Mr. J. B. Tyrrell, in his brief narrative of Thompson's journeys, states that the explorer was born in Westminster, London, but gives

