
CHAPTER XIX

ANOTHER IMPERIAL SCOTSMAN—DOUGLAS

THOUGH the operations of the Hudson's Bay Company were carried on in British Columbia as well as in Rupert's Land, the Rocky Mountains formed such a barrier between the two that British Columbia, Vancouver Island, and the portions of the United States known as Oregon, formed an almost independent suzerainty under the Company. Of necessity the Transmontane region was largely left to a separate management. Thus there developed on the Pacific Coast a man, who in his sphere was as great as was Sir George Simpson—and he, too, was a Scotsman. James Douglas, the son of a scion of the noble House of Angus in Scotland, was born in Demerara on August 14, 1803. On the death of both father and mother the boy returned home to friends in Lanarkshire and was educated in Scotland. When only a boy of twelve years of age he emigrated with his brother to Canada, and, like others of his countrymen, became an apprentice in the North-West Company of Montreal. He grew to great size and strength, and his intellectual qualities entirely kept pace with his physical development.

