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THE CELT IN THE NORTH-WEST.

BY

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It lacks but a year of a century since the daring and successful combination of the fur traders, known as the "North-West Company of Montreal," was formed to secure the trade of the Indian Territories. It was twenty years before this that, in 1766, the first British trader—a Scotchman, named Thomas Curry.—followed the route of the French voyageurs, which had been deserted since the capture of Canada in 1759 by the English. Curry penetrated to Cedar Lake on the Saskatchewan, and was so well recompensed by his one season's trade that he never needed to venture on the "watery ways" again. The next season another Celt, James Finlay, persevered even farther up the Saskatchewan, and returned to Montreal with a rich cargo of furs. The enterprise of the Montreal merchants began to tell upon the supply of furs which had for a century been carried down by the Cree and Chippewyan Indians to the shores of Hudson Bay. In 1774 the Hudson's Bay Company had abandoned its policy of timidly clinging to the sea-coast along the Bay, and had thrown down the gauntlet of opposition by building the Cumberland House on the Saskatche-