

It is hardly fair to the scholarly and very accurate historian of New Caledonia to treat in a sketchy interview a theme which Father Morice has truly rendered into an epic of the red men and the sturdy white traders who made up this curious commonwealth of pre-Confederation days. In the work that stands as the monument of his career, the history referred to above, Father Morice paints with a master-stroke a series of pictures of this country made wondrous by nature and rendered fascinating by the picturesque life that abounds therein. Following along its pages we hear with pulsing emotions the epic-story of the great chief 'Kwah, the internecine strife, bloody retaliation, raids and massacres; we travel across the Rockies with Alexander Mackenzie and Simon Fraser, paddle along the rivers, whose banks are lined with threatening warriors, and behold, amid exciting episodes, the first foundations of the white man. With a wealth of incident, always authentic, we follow the rise of the Hudson's Bay company in New Caledonia, its conflict with the opposition traders, through all of which runs the thread of the epic of the red men as typified in 'Kwah and other great chiefs. We learn the fascinating story of the first missions, of the superstitious red man won over by the innate benevolence and astuteness of the Black-robe. The rush into the gold-fields is traced with lively detail, and the seamy side is shown with its tales of shipwreck and gruesome cannibalism. We come upon building parties engaged in laying telegraph wires which would connect the two hemispheres by means of a line traversing British Columbia and the Russian possessions—now Alaska—whence the wire would be laid down Behring straits across to north-eastern Asia; only to be rendered useless by the unexpected success of Cyrus Field's then novel plan of a trans-Atlantic cable. With these any many kindred subjects the priest-scientist is as familiar as his rosary, but the limits of this sketch forbids even passing consideration of such; they are accessible in his work to every reader who delights in acquiring under most entertaining auspices the romantic history of a country that will be rendered prosaic in large part upon the opening up of the Grand Trunk Pacific system.