

ROMANCE OF EXPLORATION

River, and the same year the construction of a fur-trading post was begun, and named Fort Pelly Banks. Early in June, 1843, Mr. Campbell started down the stream in the canoe which had been built, accompanied by two French Canadians and an Indian interpreter.

Concerning this exciting journey Mr. Campbell has given us a vivid description which should be of great interest to all.

"As we advanced," he says, "the river increased in size, and the scenery formed a succession of picturesque landscapes. About twenty-five miles from Pelly Banks we encountered a bad rapid—'Hooles'—where we were forced to disembark everything, but elsewhere we had a nice flowing current. Ranges of mountains flanked us on both sides. On the right hand the mountains were generally covered with wood; the left range was more open, with patches of poplar running up the valleys and *barnsides*, reminding one of the green braeface of the Highland glens. We frequently saw moose-deer and bears as we passed along; and at points where the precipice rose abrupt from the water's edge, the wild sheep—'big-horn'—were often seen on the shelving rocks. They were very keen-sighted, and when once alarmed they fled swiftly and gracefully over the mountains. When we chanced to get one we found it splendid eating, delicate enough for an epicure.

"In this manner we travelled on for several days. We saw only one family of Indians—'Knife' Indians—till we reached the junction of the Pelly with a tributary, which I named the 'Lewes.' Here we found a large camp of Indians—the 'Wood' Indians. We took them by no ordinary surprise, as they had never seen a white man before, and they looked upon us with some awe as well as curiosity. Two of their chiefs, father and son, were very tall, stout, handsome men. We smoked the pipe of peace together, and I distributed some presents. They spoke in loud tones, as do all the