

Slowly he read it. It told of Allan's intention of leaving the grant the day following for Montreal where he had hopes of interesting some Montreal capitalists in the purchase of the Laird's rights in the grant, and concluded with these words:

Only an hour ago I learned of the firing of your home, and I have decided that I can remain no longer under the same roof with the Chancellor, for he, and not my father, is the one to blame. It has come to this, that on my return from Montreal the McNab must choose between me and MacTavish. Either he or I will leave Kennell Lodge forever.

Do not think, Miss McIntyre, that in doing this I have now any hope of reward from you. You have always in your kind and considerate way made me understand that my hopes can never be realized.

I can only bow my head to fate and pray that time will bring surcease of my heartache. If I succeed in my enterprise it will be joy to me to know that I have brought happiness to you. If I fail you will know that I have done my utmost. We may never meet again, but I want you to know that I owe you much that I cannot find words to express. I shall always remember you with gratitude.

Lost in amazement, Craig stood with the letter in his hand staring out over the darkening river, the miles of log-filled booms, and the dim outline of the Pontiac shore. The rhythm of the pipes melting away in the distance told that the merry-makers had left the scene of the celebration.

He stood grappling with the amazing revelation. The man who on that winter night, six months ago, had threatened him with a horrible death—that man had written these words. Slowly the truth dawned upon him—Allan Dhu McNab, the best that was in him stirred to life and being by his love for a girl of a higher and better type than he had ever known before—and she, knowing with a woman's intuition of the transformation, sympathetically and pityingly aiding and encouraging him.

And he had proven the sincerity of his promise by effecting the release of her father, and his determination to risk