

## WINTER ADVENTURES OF THREE BOYS

dians along the route, it was decided that the party should join a large brigade of carts that, loaded principally with buffalo robes and furs, was just starting for St. Paul. These brigades carried the trading flag of the Hudson Bay Company. Its motto was, "Pro pella cutem" ("Skin for skin"). It is a remarkable fact that for generations, even among the most hostile tribes of Indians, this flag was respected, and those carrying it were never robbed or in any way interfered with.

With sincere regret and sorrow the parting between Mr. Ross and the boys took place. However, they were delighted at his promise that, if all went well, he would see them a couple of years hence in their own homes in the old land.

Just as they were leaving in the early morning the bells of St. Boniface rang out their silvery notes. These are the bells, the first out there on the lonely prairies, that Whittier has made famous by his beautiful poem:

"The voyageur smiles as he listens  
To the sound that grows apace;  
Well he knows the vesper ringing  
Of the bells of St. Boniface—

"The bells of the Roman Mission  
That call from their turrets twain  
To the boatmen on the river,  
To the hunter on the plain!

"Even so in our mortal journey  
The bitter north winds blow,  
And thus upon life's Red River  
Our hearts as oarsmen row."