

to be proud of such a boy;" and as he spoke those last words his voice fell away into a sigh, for he had no son to inherit his honored name and abundant wealth, and it was the one cloud upon his career of otherwise unshadowed prosperity. Then, brightening up, he added: "But come along. It's nearly time for the council. I'm going to have the pleasure of introducing you to my partners myself."

Thus it came about that Archie appeared before the awe-imposing council under the wing of its most important member, and was given a reception that bewildered him so that he completely lost the use of his tongue, and could only blush his acknowledgments.

Thenceforth Mr. McTavish took a deep interest in Archie. He had him much in his company, and drew out from him all the dearly-cherished thoughts and plans that he had conceived concerning his own future. Brought up as Archie had been, far away from the conventionalizing influences of city life, and yet not lacking in any of the attributes of sturdy self-reliant manhood, the keen, kindly old magnate found him peculiarly attractive, and resolved to bring about the fulfillment of the boy's fondest desires.

It was in part due to his son, therefore, as well as his own deserts, that Mr. McKenzie found the way open for him to obtain a year's leave of absence, and to proceed to Montreal; and Mr.