

a certain young lady from being carried off against her will. Now she's being carried off with her own consent."

Thompson's eyes opened wide, his face creased in a grin of remembrance and comprehension, and he suddenly extended his hand to the girl.

"Ha! Is that, then? Wilt congratulate you, Miss Wayne. Yon dirty courier is lucky man. Art most beautiful woman hast ever seen. Come in. Wilt give 'ee my own house for tuh purpose, you and tuh priest."

He led Joan and Andrews inside, while Carlisle and Wayne passed on to the beach where the first packers were letting down the canoes and fur bales, and more and more were arriving every minute in the gathering dusk and slipping their tump-lines to the ground.

Carlisle knew such a freight of fur throughout the whole history of the fur trade had never come over the Grande Portage in a single season. Not only the vast catch of the Hudson's Bay Company was in transit but also the large take of the Northwest Company which he had captured from Richelieu, the McKenzies, Todd, McLeod, McDougall, McGillivray, and Sager in the Devil's Elbow.

Their yearly turnover, greater than any other turnover known in America, had turned to his hands, and it would continue so to turn. Vast as had been the institution of the Northwesters, it was, like the trust of the Free-Traders, shaken to its foundations by a combination of organized warfare and Divine visitation.