

## TWENTY-EIGHT YEARS IN THE WILDERNESS

Merchants from Canada. May God Almighty prosper me." He left Bedford House, on Reindeer Lake, north of the Churchill, and travelled down to Cumberland House, meeting on the way Simon Fraser and Roderick McKenzie, of the North-West Company. With them he continued down to Grand Portage, then the headquarters of the Canadian company.

Under the Treaty of 1792, the forty-ninth parallel had become the dividing line between Canada and the United States, west of the Lake of the Woods, and Thompson's first service to his new employers was to survey the boundary and ascertain the position of the company's posts with respect thereto. He was also instructed to visit the Mandan villages on the Missouri and prepare a report upon this intensely interesting tribe; to inquire for the fossils of prehistoric animals; and to search for any monuments which might throw light on the ancient state of the country through which