

shall be very much disappointed if I don't do that much for you, at any rate.'

The following morning, bright and early, the expedition set forth from the fort, Mrs. M'Kenzie and Rose-Marie accompanying it to the gate, and then climbing up into one of the towers and watching its progress until it was lost in the distance.

There were twenty-five men all told, and nearly twice as many horses, for they hoped to bring back with them a good quantity of meat. Besides Mr. M'Kenzie, there were Ferdinand Wentzel, his right-hand man, a Norwegian, and a most trustworthy, excellent clerk, who had been in the employ of the Company almost as long as his chief; Colin Robertson, a junior clerk, a red-haired, freckle-faced, hot-tempered, but brave and energetic young Scotchman; and Alec MacGillivray, another Scotchman, though of a quite different nature, being quiet, reserved, and cool.

These men, with John Stewart, a Canadian, composed the factor's staff of assistants at Fort Chipewyan, and the latter had been left in command of the little garrison which would hold the fort until the return of the expedition.

The remainder of the party consisted of Canadians and Indians in about equal numbers, accompanied by a wonderful collection of dogs of all sorts and sizes, that ran about among the horses, barking noisily, by way of expressing their interest in the