

## WHAT WE ARE TO DO AND TO BE.

The Departments briefly suggested on other pages give but a poor idea of the field to occupy our attention.

MAKERS OF CANADA will form an important feature every week.

TOPICS OF THE DAY AT HOME, and its companion TOPICS OF THE DAY ABROAD, will supply articles from the best pens in Canada on the leading questions of the week, discussed from a broad, non-political, and non-sectarian standpoint.

WHERE, HOW, WHEN, AND WHY WE GOT OUR BIBLE, will trace the history of the MSS. and translations, and enter on the practical study of the Sacred Book.

Practical advice on all points affecting the HOME, in food, dress, manners, amusements, economy, education; the HEALTH, in hygiene, gymnastics, home-nursing, and ventilation, by accomplished specialists; and a CORNER for the sweet little TINY TOTS of Canada, always fresh and bright like themselves.

Practical hints from champions in Lacrosse, Cricket, Bicycling, Yachting, Canoeing, Rowing, Swimming, Skating, etc.

Popular Philosophy and Science, to cultivate a love and an appreciation of Nature, in her plants, fruits, insects, fur-animals, fish, poultry, pets, game.

A SECRET OF SUCCESS SERIES for boys and girls, from Young Canadians who have made themselves famous.

A Lesson from History Series, being sketches of our Heroes—French, English, and Indian.

STUDIES FROM THE LIFE SERIES, or practical talks with our lumbermen, miners, fishermen, light-house-keepers, and the great army of brave souls that work while we sleep.

These and kindred Departments will seek to stimulate the patriotism of our young people, and to draw them closer together in the bonds of national life. But a Young Canadian must not confine his interests to his own country, its welfare and its development. He must be large-hearted, liberally educated. He must know everything about his own country, and at the same time a great deal about others. In this THE YOUNG CANADIAN will be alive to the times. We shall be up to date. Carefully prepared papers on matters of more general moment and of wider influence will keep our young readers abreast of the age; and as to be truly great one must be truly simple, and if to be truly simple be to be truly great, we may with all modesty anticipate that our pages will meet with due appreciation from others than young Canadians.

MARGARET POLSON MURRAY.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF.

## ARCHIE OF ATHABASKA.

BY J. MACDONALD OXLEY.

## CHAPTER I.

## HIMSELF AND HIS HOME.



He was but a few months younger than the century, having first opened the big grey eyes, that were afterwards to see so many strange and stirring scenes, in the month of May, of the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred, in the very heart of the vast northern wilderness of Canada.

A remarkable mingling of race and character was this baby boy whose advent brought great joy to Fort Chipewyan, and upon whom, without any formal baptismal service, for priest and parson alike were quite unknown in that far-away place, the name of Archibald was conferred by his proud father, Donald McKenzie, Esq., an official of the great North-West Fur company, and in command of the fort already mentioned.

If there be anything in a name one need have no difficulty in settling what nation little Archie's father belonged to, and you had only to take a good look at him to see that his name fitted him all right, for he was a Scotchman in every line of his face and turn of his body. They called him "Big Donald" in the North-West, for he stood full six feet high, and was so stout of limb, broad of shoulder, and deep of chest, that exertion seemed to fatigue him no more than danger appalled him. He had not a handsome face, but, better than that, a transparently frank honest one; and with his shaggy eyebrows, heavy moustache, and dense brown beard, from whose midst issued a voice of startling depth and volume, commanded universal respect among the voyageurs, bois brulés, (half-breeds), and Indians that formed the subjects of his realm.

For the factor of an important fort in those days held little short of regal sway over the men that were under him, and the Indians that came to barter their precious peltries for his beads and blankets and kettles and hatchets. He was responsible only to the company whose headquarters were at Montreal, thousands of miles distant, and, so long as the number of packs sent yearly from his district showed no falling off, he could do pretty much as he liked without interference from anybody.

Donald McKenzie had sailed across from Scotland when just out of his teens to make his way in the new world as best he might, with nothing but keen wits, strong hands, a brave heart, and a clear conscience to help him. Meeting in Montreal with a brother Scot, a few years his senior, who had been some time in the employ of the North-West Fur Company, or "Nor'-Westers" as they were generally called, and who stirred his imagination and ambition alike by graphic descriptions of life with the fur traders, he determined to enlist in the same service. He had no difficulty in obtaining an engagement. The company was composed mainly of Scotchmen, and so sturdy and promising a fellow-countryman did not have to go a-begging. He was accepted on sight, and was that same summer despatched to Fort William, at the far end of Lake Superior, where he entered upon the life in which his career was to be one of thrilling experience and steady success until the brown beard was plentifully streaked with grey, and he could honourably retire rich in reputation and in purse also.

*This thrilling story of adventure in our Great North West, at the beginning of the present century, will appear in an early number.*