

SCOUTS OF EMPIRE

of which the Canadian artist and traveller Paul Kane has left us such a glowing description.

Resting here for a few days, Thompson started down the Columbia, and on July 9 reached the mouth of Snake River—the highest point attained by Lewis and Clark. Here he took formal possession of the country. “Here,” he says in his journal, “I erected a pole, with a half sheet of paper well tied about it, with these words on it—Know hereby that this country is claimed by Great Britain as part of its Territories, and that the N.-W. Company of Merchants from Canada, finding the Factory for this People inconvenient for them, do hereby intend to erect a Factory in this place for the commerce of the country around.—D. Thompson.” Alexander Ross ascended the Columbia in August of the same year, and mentions the proclamation in his narrative: “Early in the morning what did we see waving triumphantly in the air at the