

wild medley of Gaelic, English, French, and Indian oburgations. The name given him, "le grand," was certainly suitable. Another Nor'wester, John McDonald, was known as "le prêtre." This name was given because Mr. McDonald, a rigid Roman Catholic, had insisted on the observance, on the voyage, of the Church fasts by his French-Canadian employés. He retired to the Ottawa, and there spent his declining years. Another Nor'wester, McDonald, was also known as "le bras croché" (crooked arm). This habit of giving soubriquets was not uncommon in the North-west, as, indeed, it seems to be customary in all Highland communities, where many of the same name are found. Of the Nor'west Mackenzies, for example, there were four well-known—"le rouge," "le blanc," "le borgne" (one-eyed), and "le picoté" (pitted or marked).

#### A BRAVE MACKAY.

Another man distinguished, even among the better-known Nor'westers, was Colonel William Mackay. He came west to trade about 1793, along the rivers tributary to the Mississippi. He was a brother of the unfortunate Alexander Mackay, already mentioned, killed in the attack on the "Tonquin." After much wandering he took up his position at the great trading post of Michilimackinac. When the war of 1812-15 came on between Canada and the United States, he entered heartily into it, led the voyageurs, and distinguished himself in the battle of Lacolle Mill, on the St. Lawrence. During the war Mackay is said to have traversed the whole country lying north of Lake