

enterprise and intelligence made them important factors in the social and commercial world of Canada: nearly all resided at or near Montreal: they were known amongst the French element in Montreal as "*Les Bourgeois du Nord-Ouest.*"

Imagination can depict the 19 magnates, sporting on their manly breasts the Company's gorgeous and large gold medal, with the motto *Fortitude in difficulties*, thereon engraved—cosily seated at their mahogany, over their walnuts and wine, discussing the business prospects of the coming season, together with the hardships and perils encountered by them in forest and on lake, with occasionally spicy anecdotes about their hardy voyageurs and factors, and now and then a sly wink about some beautiful Pocahontas or other, met in their dreams or in their travels, for we know the sturdy *Nor-Westers*, were not all Josephs.

How many intelligent, manly fellows had joined in good fellowship, in those fortnightly meetings, during the winter season? At that same table had sat, in 1810, the clever Earl of Selkirk, worming out their inward thoughts and schemes, before turning savagely against them. He died in 1820. Later on Lt. (Sir) John Franklin, had pledged the health of the club, whilst the northern blast was howling over the brow of the neighboring Mount Royal:—alas, to yield up later his noble spirit at the call of duty to a still wilder blast on the arctic shores, in 1848, the heroic fellow!

How many others have sat together at the festive board: brimful of life—buoyant with hope—heedless of forest perils: Benjamin and Joseph Frobisher, Sir Alexander McKenzie, Simon McTavish, Roderick McKenzie, his son Charles, Chs. J. B. Chaboillez, Simon and Alexander Fraser, James Forsyth, John Richardson, John Gregory, N. Montour, R. Grant, W. McGilvray, Peter Pangman, John Ross, Peter Stuart, Duncan McGilvray, William Hallowell, Angus Shaw, Wm. McKay, John McDonald, Alex. McDougall, Alex.