

So I must sail on the London fur vessel this summer. I shall carry my resignation with me, and you I have appointed temporary governor in my stead till I reach England and have the London Committee ratify the appointment. Any appointments you may think due those under you I shall also slate accordingly, as one of my last acts before giving up the governorship.

Spotted Deer speaks of a rumour that runs hinting of another honour you will win. My sincerest congratulations and the hope to see you both soon! I am arranging a grand reception for you when you reach James Bay.

"Paul—Paul!" breathed Joan, tensely, while Carlisle, his eyes shining into hers, mutely pressed her hands.

"You dwellers in the wilderness, I introduce Governor Carlisle and his wife!" announced Andrews, handing the dispatch back and stepping aside.

From the massed brigades a vociferous cheer thundered out, and simultaneously the fifteen hundred paddles poised in perpendicular salute, the crimson firelight flashing from the blades.

Carlisle acknowledged the salute with upraised hand and began to speak in resonant tones fraught with deep emotion.

"Men of the Hudson's Bay, I take the governor at his word. You have earned more than any men may get in this world, but this much at least may be yours. To Galt, Lewis, Lea, Garry, Hampton, Jarvis, and Wells I give the permanent Factorships, of Cumberland House, the Pas, the Nepowin, Moose Lake, Chimawawin, Grand Rapids, and the Carrot River.

"Waseyawin, Missowa, and their middlemen