

voyage, through the Rocky Mountains, to find the Pacific Ocean. He ascended the Peace River, spent the winter in trapping, and was ready on the first approach of spring, in 1793, to pass through the mountains. After incredible hardships, and amidst hostile Indians, he reached the Pacific Ocean, and, in token of his success, inscribed on a sea-side rock, with vermillion and melted grease—"Alexander Mackenzie, from Canada, by land, 22nd of July, 1793;" the first white man to cross the Rockies north of Mexico, and the first to set foot in British Columbia. It was but a fitting tribute to the Celtic discoverer, and the leading Celts of the North-west Company, that the country west of the Rocky Mountains should be called New Caledonia. A few years after Mackenzie's return to Lake Athabasca and Canada, he retired to Britain, where, in 1801, he published his interesting book of voyages, received the honours of knighthood on account of his great discoveries, and spent his remaining years.

Another of the daring kings of adventurers was a Scotchman—David Thompson—who held, with great credit, the position of

"ASTRONOMER" AND SURVEYOR OF NOR'WEST
COMPANY.

He was one of the hardiest and most enterprising explorers ever in the North-west. He had come from Britain to the Bay in the service of the Hudson's Bay Company, but had given up his position, in a few years, on account of the unwillingness he had found, on the part of the company, to prosecute exploration. In 1796 Thompson, on the expiry of