

BIOGRAPHY OF

tion, and became Governor of the Company, its chief executive officer in North America—stationed at Montreal. It had been a long and painful experience. It had wrought in him marvellous changes—the timid lad, fresh from his home and protecting friends, had been transformed into the stalwart man, with rugged frame, keen, alert brain, a knowledge of the country and its inhabitants, which made him an authority, a master of the great Company's secrets and policy—and possessed of a wonderful executive ability. The year of his appointment as Governor saw the close of one part of his career, but the curtain was to rise almost immediately on another part—crowded with events of the first magnitude, in which he was to have official recognition, and in which he moved in the highest circles of Imperial, social and political life.