

## WENTY-EIGHT YEARS IN THE WILDERNESS

mountains to Rocky Mountain House. September of the following year he set out on horseback, from a point on the Kootenay below the falls; crossed the Cabinet Range, and reached Kullyspell, or Pend d'Oreille, Lake, where he built Kullyspell House. From this time until the spring of 1810, he was almost constantly occupied in exploring the Pend d'Oreille country, Crossing to the east once more, with the winter's pack, he returned in November. The Piegans having barred his way through Howse Pass, Thompson turned north, and after suffering almost incredible hardships, penetrated the mountains by way of Athabaska Pass, which he discovered in January, 1811. He reached the Columbia some distance below the Blaeberry, and in the spring added this portion of the river to his previous surveys. In June he travelled overland to the Spokane River, which he descended to the Columbia, and ascended the latter as far as Kettle Falls, the magnificent waterfall