

PIONEER LAYMEN OF NORTH AMERICA

journey of 600 miles; and when the ice broke they rushed down the furious cataracts in their frail canoes another 300 miles and reached the Bay. The men in the forts were looking seaward for the enemy, and never dreamed of these dare-devils from the woods. Post after post was taken, though hundreds of miles apart; the Frenchmen descending through the roofs of the forts and flinging granades on the heads of the sleeping garrisons, and in one case paddling out silently to a vessel in the dead of night, and capturing the Governor himself, who was on board.

This was the beginning of Iberville's wonderful series of battles in Hudson Bay in his efforts to drive out the English. He kept fighting and winning until the year 1694, but his fellow countrymen always failed to profit by his victories.

Where was Radisson all this time? In London, supervising the cargoes of furs from America. In the very early days, namely between 1667 and 1673, when the Company was first started, he and Chouart had made about \$2,000 a year each, and he then lived in Seething Lane, which was an aristocratic quarter; but later on his salary was no higher than £100 a year. When the Company's revenues ran low it was cut in half, and he had to sue in court for his wages. Even when the Company was prosperous he was living from hand to mouth, and receiving £10 one month and £2 the next, making, as Laut puts it—and she is reading from the records—an average of \$5 a week, though occasional presents were sent him, such as a hogshead of wine, fresh provisions, a silver tankard, etc.

In 1697 he was treated a little better; for his services were needed just then. From time to time gratuities were voted to him, all of which are down in the books. In 1700 he applied for the position of warehouse keeper, but was refused. Thus it went from bad to worse, until finally on July 12, 1710, the following pathetic entry was made: "The Secretary is ordered to pay to Mr. Radisson's widow, *as a charity*, the sum of six pounds." This is quite a different story from what we read in