

North-west Company sent hither a Canadian, Joseph Frobisher, who founded the first trading-post. The Hudson's Bay Company soon followed the example of its rival, so that here, as in many other places, these two commercial bodies found themselves in competition at an early date. Nevertheless, the discoveries of Hearne, of Peter Pond in 1779, and even of Sir Alexander Mackenzie in 1789, however authentic and scientific, were apparently anticipated by the far-reaching tracks of the *coureurs de bois*; for when Pond reached the Great Slave Lake, the half-breed Canadian family of Beaulieu had already settled on the Salt River—one of them, named Jacques, indeed acted as interpreter for this trading-officer, just as, at a later date, his nephew François was Sir John Franklin's hunter and interpreter.

In 1820, and again in 1829, Sir John Franklin, accompanied by Lieutenant Back and Dr. Richardson, visited Athabasca on their way to the Arctic Ocean, when commencing their explorations for the famous North-West passage. The portrait drawn by these travellers of the Chipewyan Tinneys (whom they also call, though wrongly, Athabascans) is anything but a flattering one, and shows the recent change for the better in the character and disposition of these Indians. I can myself speak of as great an alteration in the Beaver Indians, who are now as gentle and inoffensive as they were thievish, shift, and faithless twenty-five years ago. This is the natural effect of the commercial relations and religious habits acquired since that date by these child-like tribes.

The Chipewyans, without being as timid as their northern brethren, who deserved the uncomplimentary epithet of "Slaves" bestowed on them by the first explorers, are now a gentle, peaceful, and honest people, comparatively chaste and religious, though they may perhaps be accused of being a little too morose in disposition and fond of solitude. The Catholic Missionaries first visited them in 1847, and two years later settled among them. In 1866 or 1868, if I remember rightly, a clergyman of the church of England was domiciled at Fort Chipewyan; and lastly, in 1875, the Montreal sisters of charity founded a school with an orphanage and hospital there. This fort has for some years been the seat of an Anglican bishop.

From the time of the historian Charlevoix a vague acquaint-