

TWENTY-EIGHT YEARS IN THE WILDERNESS

career in the west at Fort Churchill, on Hudson Bay. There he began what is undoubtedly one of the most remarkable series of journals in the whole history of exploration. For the amazing period of sixty-six years, with scarcely a break, he recorded in these journals the results of his labours as fur-trader, surveyor and indefatigable traveller. They fill forty-five volumes of manuscript, and cover a very large part of what is now the Dominion of Canada. They include the narratives of a number of original explorations of great value, and of innumerable surveys of regions where others had preceded him, but had left only imperfect records. They constitute a veritable mine of information on the topography of North-western America, as well as on the history of the western fur-trade. These journals, with his great manuscript map, made for the North-West Company in the years 1813-14, and embodying the results of his observations and surveys for nearly a quarter of a century,