

in and let us see him. He certainly deserves the thanks of the company, and he shall have them, and more, too."

"Hear, hear!" shouted the others. "Bring in your boy, McKenzie, and introduce him to us."

Only too glad to comply, the factor hurried out to seek his son; but, as it happened, Archie had that morning gone some distance away in a canoe, and being unable to find him his father promised to have him at the next meeting. So when he saw him, he informed him of the honor awaiting him, and told him he must be on hand the following morning to be presented to the council.

It was a bit of the good fortune which had attended Archie through life that he should make the acquaintance of the great Mr. McTavish in quite an unexpected way without a formal introduction. The annual rendezvous had one feature that was not at all creditable, even if characteristic of those hard-drinking days. Wine and brandy flowed without stint, and as a consequence it was frequently a matter of some difficulty to find a sober man. The *voyageurs* and *bois brulés* made up for the long months of enforced abstinence by gross indulgence, and quarrels and combats were of constant occurrence.

Early in the morning in question, Archie, in company with Rose-Marie, had gone down to the riverside, some distance from the buildings, when his attention was attracted by the sound of two