

courier seemed to rise from the depths of Grande Portage Bay.

There came the snoring surge of waters swiftly cloven, a triumphant yell out of the lakeward dark, the thump of a quickly wielded paddle upon a canoe gunwale, and the next instant a lone birchbark craft tore through the water-gate of the pier and spilled its lone occupant on the cribwork at their feet.

"Spotted Deer!" exclaimed Carlisle, recognizing the Cree dispatch-bearer he had sent down to James Bay by the Hayes with the report of victory for the governor.

"Ae," replied Spotted Deer, "with the sun and the stars I have paddled to meet you here."

He held out a dispatch that bore the governor's seal.

Hastily Carlisle broke it open and glanced it over in the red flare that the camp-fires sent across the water. His hand shook a little as he passed it on to Andrews.

"Read it out, Andrews," he begged. "It concerns them all as well as me."

Andrews read aloud:

I was overjoyed to get the news of the Northwesterners' defeat. Its consequences will be far-reaching indeed. It means no less than the conserving of our charter till such time as we see fit to surrender it. It means the founding of a Western empire which we shall pioneer.

Words cannot express my delight and my satisfaction at the trust I had in you, and I want to record that trust in a more material way. As I wrote you, the James Bay climate has been hard on me. The doctor here at York Factory says I have no option but to leave.