

It was as much due to his son as to his own deserts that Mr. M'Kenzie found the way open for him to obtain a year's leave of absence and proceed to Montreal. And Mr. M'Tavish had Archie in his mind no less than the worthy factor when he secured for the latter the goal of his highest ambition, by having him admitted into the Company as a partner.

To Montreal the M'Kenzies went, in company with the returning partners, and Archie wondered as, wide-eyed and open-mouthed, he gazed about him if there could be a grander city in the world. But there were greater marvels than Montreal in store for him. Early in the autumn Mr. M'Tavish invited him to accompany him on a visit to New York, and when he beheld this great city, and pushed his way through her crowded streets, he was quite convinced that the world had nothing more astonishing to show him. He had a wonderful fortnight there, and returned loaded with presents for his parents and Rose, and overflowing with what his eyes had seen and ears had heard in the American capital.

Not long after this Mr. M'Tavish made a proposal which gave the factor grave concern, for it was nothing less than that he should be permitted to adopt Archie as his own son. The offer was so brilliant and enticing that Mr. M'Kenzie would not take upon himself the whole responsibility of refusing it, and accordingly laid it before Archie. But Archie did not hesitate for a moment.

'No, father,' he answered decidedly. 'I will never