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TWENTY-EIGHT YEARS IN THE WILDERNESS

LACKING the dramatic qualities of the lives of other western explorers, that of David Thompson is none the less of absorbing interest. His fame does not rest upon one brilliant exploit, but rather upon the results of a lifetime, and a long lifetime at that, of patient and most effective service. "In the westward explorations of the North-West Company," says H. H. Bancroft, "no man performed more valuable service, or estimated his achievements more modestly."

He was born in the parish of St. John, Westminster, on April 30, 1770, and entered the service of the Hudson's Bay Company at the age of fourteen, starting his long