

that were no less essential a feature of the gathering than the councils.

Archie was deeply impressed by the stately dignity of the Montreal partners, yet there was not one of them — and in this opinion, Rose-Marie heartily concurred — who seemed to him one whit more noble of presence, or worthy of respect, than his own father; and his young heart swelled with filial pride as he noticed the consideration the factor received at their hands.

As a matter of fact, Mr. McKenzie occupied a position of particular interest and importance. Miles McDougal's designs had not been hidden from the Nor'westers, and every effort had been made to nip them in the bud; but the cunning rascal had overreached his opponents, and they were fain to await with lively anxiety the result of his expedition. So far, but little more than that he had miserably failed, and lost his own life into the bargain, was generally known, and at the very first of the council meetings his would-be victim was called upon to relate the whole story.

When the factor told, in simple but graphic language, how treacherously he had been trapped, and how bravely he had been rescued, the staid and solemn assemblage broke out in a hearty round of applause.

"Well, well, McKenzie," burst out Mr. McTavish from the head of the table, "that boy of yours must be a lad of rare spirit. You must bring him