

TWENTY-EIGHT YEARS IN THE WILDERNESS

would be needed to carry his ambitious project to a successful conclusion. The Blaeberry represented the first step in a long and difficult journey to the shores of the Pacific. "May God in His mercy give me," he piously notes in his journal, "to see where its waters flow into the ocean, and return in safety."

Two days later he descended the Blaeberry to the Columbia, which, through a natural misapprehension, he named the Kootenay. Here he camped for twelve days, building canoes, and on July 12 started upstream. Duncan McGillivray had anticipated him as far as the Blaeberry, in 1800, but David Thompson was the first white man to reach the upper waters of the Columbia. Before his task was completed, he was to endure many hardships and dangers, and to have his iron will and powers of endurance tried to the uttermost, but in the end he would have to his credit the exploration of the entire length of the Columbia,