

PIONEER LAYMEN OF NORTH AMERICA

the Treaty of Peace) and had found that the French had quitted all pretences to Hudson Bay; and thereupon this deponent, by the special direction of the said M. Callière, did write the papers hereunto annexed. And the said M. Callière acted in the said affair by the directions of the Superintendent of Marine Affairs in France, and the deponent was commanded by the said M. Callière to go to Fort Nelson and withdraw the French that were there, from that place, and the said place was then put into possession of the English."

Appended to this affidavit is the Commission written by Radisson at the dictation of Callières. Both documents are given at length in "The Conquest of the Great Northwest" (I., pp. 186 and 197).

On the supposition therefore that France had relinquished all claims to Hudson Bay, Radisson, on May 10, 1684, went to London, where he took the oath, not of allegiance, but of fidelity as a British subject. In a week he was off for America in the *Happy Return*, and when sixty miles off Fort Nelson he left the ship and started in a light craft to hunt up his nephew, young Chouart, so as to prevent a collision with the English. To his surprise the fort was deserted, and he was told that the French had gone further up the river to avoid being massacred by the Indians, who had been bribed to do so by the British. Radisson found Chouart, who when informed that he was to make over all his property to the English, accepted the situation without protest, though he and his men rejected an offer of service in the Hudson Bay Company. Later on, however, in spite of a solemn promise that their liberty of action would be respected, three of them were invited on board a vessel and carried over to England. Radisson protested vehemently against this outrage. Arriving in England they were kept under strict surveillance and were not allowed to return to their country until some kind of a promise of fidelity was wrung from them.

Now came another startling change of front. A very short time after all this, Governor de Denonville, who had already