

ance. First of all, there was a palisade of huge pickets, with sharpened points, whose twenty feet of height made it impossible to scale them without ladders. This stood in the form of a square, the sides of which were not less than one hundred yards in length. At each corner frowned a bastion marked with loopholes for muskets, while above the gates, of which there were two, one facing the lake and the other the land, rose lofty lookout towers, that enabled the sentinel upon them to see anything within the radius of many miles.

Inside the square, and arranged so as to make the best of the space at hand, were the buildings which housed the factor and his family, the clerks who assisted him, the postmaster, interpreter, *voyageurs*, and other employees, and finally the store and warehouses, all built in the strongest manner of logs, and looking very rough, but very solid. In front of the factor's house stood a flag-pole, from which, on special occasions, the flag of Old England would flaunt upon the breeze.

In mid-winter, when all hands were at home, the garrison of the fort comprised some fifty men, Scotch, French, and half-breed, many of them with families; and to keep all these in good behaviour, seeing how apt they were to proceed from argument to blows, when they had nothing else to do, required no small address and determination on the part of the factor. But so firm and just a hand did he keep over them, that