

## SCOUTS OF EMPIRE

ings—the exploration of the mighty river of the Pacific slope, the Columbia. To this important work he devoted five years of his life. It was the crowning achievement of his long service in the west. Upon its completion, he left for ever the wonderful region of immense river-systems, boundless plains, and gigantic mountain ranges, in which so much of his life had been spent, and thereafter devoted himself to government surveys in the comparatively well-known country east of Lake Superior.

In May, 1807, Thompson left Rocky Mountain House, on the north bank of the Saskatchewan a little above the mouth of the Clearwater, and on June 22 reached the summit of Howse Pass. A few miles more, and he stood on the banks of the Blacberry, a small tributary of the Columbia. He had now exchanged the comparatively gentle and easy-going rivers of the plains for the wild and turbulent streams of the Pacific slope. All his energy and resourcefulness