

THE YOUNG NOR'-WESTER

CHAPTER I

HIMSELF AND HIS HOME

HE was but a few months younger than the century, having first opened the big grey eyes, that were afterwards to see so many strange and stirring scenes, in the month of May of the year of Our Lord one thousand eight hundred, in the very heart of the vast northern wilderness of Canada.

A remarkable mingling of race and character was this baby boy, whose advent brought great joy to Fort Chipewyan, and upon whom, without any formal baptismal service,—for priest and parson alike were quite unknown in that far-away place,—the name of Archibald was conferred by his proud father, Mr. Donald M'Kenzie, an official of the great North-West Fur Company, in command of the fort already mentioned.