

much for the honor he has paid me. But Archie McKenzie I am, and Archie McKenzie I'll stay, as long as I live."

"God bless you, my darling boy," exclaimed the factor, tears brimming his eyes. "You've spoken just as I prayed you would. No, no; not even Mr. McTavish with all his wealth and power can have you. We'll stand by each other until the end."

Although deeply disappointed with his decision, Mr. McTavish was too sound of heart to take umbrage at it. On the contrary, it did but heighten his opinion of both Archie and his father, and while expressing his regret, he manifested clearly that by declining to become his adopted son and heir the former had by no means forfeited his regard, nor canceled his good intentions concerning him.

In the years that followed, as Archie rose step by step in the company's service, he had many substantial proofs of the great man's interest; and through his influence, no less than through his own merits, he was enabled to achieve a career of no ordinary success, ultimately attaining the highest appointment in the service; to wit, the Chief Factorship, which important position he filled with dignity and honor until his retirement in ripe old age to a life of well-earned ease and abundant comfort.