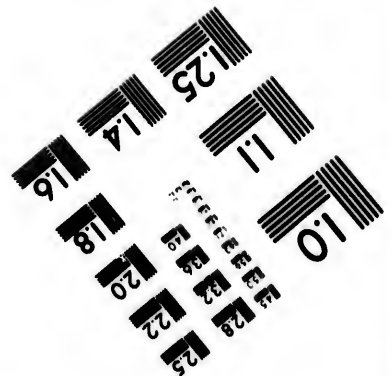
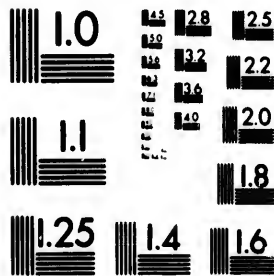


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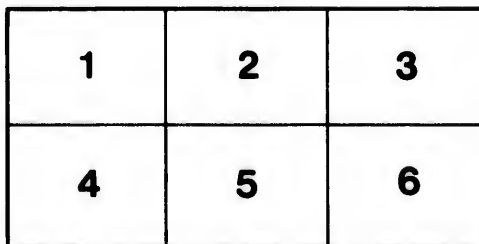
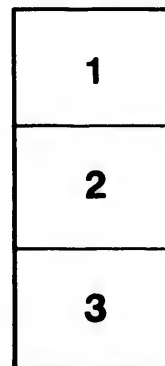
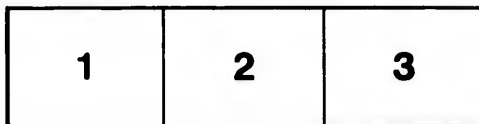
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*Harry Pierson,
"Stanger" NW. Army,
Hudson Co., N.S.
Sept. 9th, 1899.*

FROM THE TRANSACTIONS OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF CANADA

SECOND SERIES—1888-99

VOLUME IV

SECTION II

ENGLISH LITERATURE, HISTORY, ARCHÆOLOGY, ETC.

**THE FURTHER HISTORY OF
PIERRE ESPRIT RADISSON**

By REV. GEORGE BRYCE, LL.D.

OF WINNIPEG

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IV.—*The Further History of Pierre Esprit Radisson.*

By REV. PROF. GEORGE BRYCE, LL.D.

(Communicated by Sir J. G. Bourinot, and read May 26, 1898.)

We are much indebted to the Prince Society of Boston for collecting the memorials of the versatile French explorer, Pierre Esprit Radisson, who with his brother-in-law, Medard Chouart des Groseilliers, led the way in the formation of the Hudson's Bay Company, which after a history of two centuries and a quarter still preserves its vigour and influence. The Prince Society has printed an¹ interesting volume containing the journals of Radisson, which are preserved in the British Museum in London and in the Bodleian library in Oxford.

Dr. N. E. Dionne, the accomplished librarian of the Legislative Library, Quebec, has contributed to the proceedings of the Royal Society of Canada very appreciative articles entitled² "Chouart and Radisson." In these he has relied for the detail of facts of discovery almost entirely on the publication of the Prince Society. He has, however, added much genealogical and local Canadian material, which tends to make the history of these early explorers more interesting to us as Canadians than they would otherwise be.

A resident of Manitoba who has shown an interest in the legends and early history of Canada, Mr. L. A. Prudhomme, St. Boniface, judge of the county, has written a small volume of sixty pages on the Life of Radisson. Like the articles of Dr. Dionne, this volume depends entirely for its information on the publication of the Prince Society.

Readers of recent fiction are no doubt familiar with the appearance of Radisson in Gilbert Parker's novel³ "The Trail of the Sword." It is unnecessary to state that there seems no historic warrant for the statement, "once he attempted Count Frontenac's life. He sold a band of our traders to the Iroquois." The character, thoroughly repulsive in this work of fiction, does not look to be the real Radisson; and certainly as we survey the bloody scene which must have been intended for a period subsequent to Frontenac's return to Canada in 1689, where Radisson fell done to death by the dagger and pistol of the mutineer Bucklaw, and was buried in the hungry sea, we see what was purely imaginary. Of course, we do not for a moment criticise the art of the historic novelist,

¹ "Radisson's Voyages." Boston. Printed for the Prince Society, 1885.

² "Chouart and Radisson." Par le docteur N. E. Dionne; 2 articles. First, pp. 115-135, 1893. Second, pp. 29-48, 1894. Proceedings of the Royal Society of Canada.

³ "The Trail of the Sword." A novel. By Gilbert Parker. D. Appleton & Co. New York. 1894.

but simply state that the picture is not that of the real Radisson and that we shall find Radisson alive a dozen and more years after the tragic end given him by the artist.

These three works, as well as the novel, agree in seeing in Radisson a man of remarkable character and great skill and adroitness. We may quote the translation of the Prologue to Judge Prudhomme's little work.¹

THE PROLOGUE.

"What a strange existence was that of this man! By turns discoverer, officer of marine, organizer and founder of the most powerful commercial company which has existed in North America, his life presents an astonishing variety of human experiences.

"He may be seen passing alternately from the wigwams of the miserable savages to the court of the great Colbert; from managing the chiefs of the tribes, to addressing the most illustrious nobles of Great Britain.

"His courage was of a high order. He looked death in the face more than a hundred times, without trepidation. He braved the tortures and the stake among the Iroquois, the treacherous stratagems of the savages of the West, the rigorous winters of the Hudson Bay and the tropical heat of the Antilles.

"Of an adventurous nature, drawn irresistibly to regions unknown, carried on by the enthusiasm of his voyages, always ready to push out into new dangers, he could have been made by Fenimore Cooper, one of the heroes of his most exciting romances.

"The picture of his life, consequently, presents many contrasts. The life of a brigand which he led with a party of Iroquois cannot be explained away.

"He was blameable in a like manner for having deserted the flag of France, his native country. The first time, we might, perhaps, pardon him, for he was the object of grave injustice, on the part of the government of the colony.

"No excuse could justify his second desertion. He had none to offer, not one. He avowed very candidly that he sought the service of England because he preferred it to that of France.

"In marrying the daughter of Mr. John Kertk, he seems to have espoused also the nationality of her family. As for him, he would have needed to change the proverb, and in place of 'one who marries a husband, takes his country,' to say, 'one who marries a wife, takes her country.'

"The celebrated discoverer of the Northwest, the illustrious Le Verendrye, has as much as Radisson, and even more than he, of just

¹ "Notes Historiques sur la vie de P. E. de Radisson," par L. A. Prudhomme, St. Roniface, Man. Imprimerie de l'Agriculture.

"reason to complain of the ingratitude of France; but how different was his conduct.

"Just as his persecutions have placed upon the head of the first, a new halo of glory, so they have cast upon the brow of the second, an ineffaceable stain.

"Souls truly noble do not seek in treason, the recompense for the rights denied them."

FURTHER HISTORY.

It is not, however, to go over the ground so well traversed in these productions, that we present this paper. The Prince Society volume states p. 21, "We again hear of Radisson in Hudson Bay in 1685; and this is his last appearance in public records or documents as far as is known." The only other reference is that made by both Dionne and Prudhomme that Charlevoix states "that Radisson died in England."

It was the good fortune of the present writer to spend the summer of 1896 in the Mother Country. A month of this time was spent in London, and much of this month in the British Museum and the Hudson's Bay Company house on Lime street, E.C. Through the kindness of Lord Stratheona, the Governor of the H. B. Co., every facility was given the writer for making researches in the archives of the company. Books, minutes, letter-books, original journals, and even a manuscript in English of one of Radisson's voyages, afforded scope for full investigation of a number of problems. Patient search enabled the writer to trace the history of Radisson on for many years after the date given, and to unearth a number of very interesting particulars connected with him, indeed to add some twenty-five years hitherto unknown to our century, to his life, and to see him pass from view early in 1710. To make the subsequent story more intelligible we give the

CHRONOLOGY

OF RADISSON'S LIFE UP TO 1685.

A. EARLIER LIFE AND VOYAGES, 1620 (?) - 1663.

I. Birth and Immigration.

| | |
|--|------|
| Pierre Esprit Radisson, born in Paris..... | 1620 |
| (afterwards lived at St. Malo). | |
| Arrived with his father's family in Canada, May..... | 1651 |
| (settled at Three Rivers). | |

*Since discovered
He
1636*

II. Western Voyages.

| | |
|---|------|
| First voyage to the Iroquois country..... | 1652 |
| (captured by Iroquois). | |
| Escaped and fled to Holland..... | 1653 |

| | |
|--|---------|
| Returned to Canada..... | 1054 |
| Second voyage to Onondagas..... | 1057 |
| Third voyage, visits Sioux and Assiniboines through the Mississippi country..... | 1058-00 |
| Returns to Montreal with 500 Indians..... | 1060 |
| Fourth voyage, to region north of Lake Superior..... | 1061 |
| Held great council with the Indians..... | 1062 |
| Leaves the country of the Crees and returns to Montreal..... | 1063 |

B. LATER VOYAGES, 1663-1685.

I. In English Service.

| | |
|---|------|
| Quarrels with French Governor. Goes to Boston from Quebec..... | 1064 |
| Crosses to England..... | 1065 |
| Vessel engaged to go to Hudson Bay delayed..... | 1066 |
| Disturbed condition of England causes further delay..... | 1067 |
| "Eaglet," on which Radisson embarked, did not reach Hudson Bay; "Nonsuch" with Groseilliers on board did..... | 1068 |
| "Nonsuch" returns to England..... | 1069 |
| Hudson's Bay Company chartered through assistance of Groseilliers and Radisson..... | 1070 |
| Radisson first visits Hudson Bay..... | 1070 |
| Radisson returns and winters in London..... | 1071 |
| Radisson with Captain Gillam goes to Hudson Bay..... | 1072 |
| Returns to London and winters there..... | 1073 |

II. Enters French Service.

| | |
|--|------|
| Radisson and Groseilliers desert England for France, October..... | 1074 |
| Radisson goes on expeditions to the Antilles..... | |
| Crosses under French auspices to Canada..... | 1081 |
| Goes to Hudson Bay in French ship..... | 1082 |
| Winters in Hudson Bay, captures Gillam's ship and returns to Canada..... | 1083 |
| Crosses to France and undertakes new expedition to Hudson Bay..... | 1084 |

III. Deserts France and Returns to England.

| | |
|--|--------|
| Radisson joins English and goes immediately to Hudson Bay, 12th May..... | 1084 |
| Seizes 20,000 furs from French and comes to London..... | 1084 |
| Sails again to Hudson Bay..... | 1085-6 |

C. FURTHER HISTORY.

Now first published.

TWO IMPORTANT NOTES.

Before proceeding with the further history, two important points in Radisson's life may claim some notice. These are the time and place of birth of Radisson and the question whether Radisson and Groseilliers, in their fourth voyage, reached Hudson or James bay.

1. Mr. Gideon D. Scull, the author of the introduction to the Prince Society publication, states that Radisson was born at St. Malo, came to

Canada in 1651, and in 1656, at Three Rivers, married Elizabeth, daughter of Madelaine Hainault.

Dr. Dionne is more cautious, and states that Radisson's father had lived in St. Malo, Brittany, but says nothing of the place of birth of Pierre. He says Radisson's father was Sebastien Hayet-Radisson, who married Madeleine Herault.

Judge Prudhomme seems to have a more satisfactory account than either of the preceding.

He states that Radisson was born at Paris; that his mother's maiden name was Madeleine Herault; but that having become a widow, she was married a second time in 1680, to "Sebastien Hayet, St. Malo." It was, therefore, his half sister, Marguerite Hayet, who was married to Medard Chouart.

As to time of birth Scull says nothing; Dr. Dionne is also silent. Judge Prudhomme gives no date, but states that Radisson, before coming to Canada, had visited Turkey and Italy. This would seem to require a greater age than some have supposed. It would favour the date of 1620, which has been given by some as the year of his birth, and would make him thirty-one years of age on his arrival in Canada. In a memorial addressed, in 1692, to the Hudson's Bay Company by a friend of Radisson's, speaking in his behalf, it is said of him, "educated from a child in Canada, spent youth in hunting and commercing with the Indians." While this might be reconciled with his going to Italy and Turkey as a boy on shipboard, it cannot be made to agree with his being born in 1620. It will be seen that Radisson's time of birth, birthplace and lineage are all somewhat in dispute.

2. But a greater matter in doubt is whether Radisson or his brother-in-law, Groseilliers, visited Hudson Bay by land. The conflicting claim to the territory about Hudson Bay by France and England gives interest to this question. Two French writers assert that the two explorers had visited the Hudson Bay by land. These are, the one, M. Bacqueville de la Potherie, Paris, 1722; and the other, M. Jeremie, governor of the French ports about 1700 in Hudson Bay. Though both maintain that Hudson Bay was visited by the two Frenchmen, Radisson and Groseilliers, yet they differ entirely in the details, Jeremie stating that they captured some Englishmen there, a plain impossibility.

Oldmixon, an English writer, in 1708, makes the following statement: "Monsieur Radisson and Monsieur Gooselier, meeting with some savages in the Lake of the Assinipouals in Canada, they learnt of them that they might go by land to the bottom of the bay, where the English had not yet been. Upon which they desired them to conduct them thither, and the savages accordingly did it." Oldmixon is, however, inaccurate in some other particulars and probably had little authority for this statement.

THE CRITICAL PASSAGE.

The question arises in Radisson's Journals, which are published in the volume of the Prince Society.

For so great a discovery the passage strikes us as being very short and inadequate and no other reference of the kind is made in the voyages. It is as follows, being taken from the fourth voyage, page 224 :

"We went away with all hast possible to arrive the sooner at ye great river. We came to the seaside, where we finde an old house all demolished and battered with boulets. We weare told yt those that came there weare of two nations, one of the wolf and the other of the long-horned beast. All those nations are distinguished by the representation of the beasts and animals. They tell us particularities of the Europeans. We know ourselves, and what Europ ic, therefore in vaine they tell us as for that.

"We went from isle to isle all that summer. We pluckt abundance of ducks, as of all other sort of fowles ; we wanted not fish, nor fresh meate. We weare well beloved, and weare overjoyed that we promised them to come with such shipps as we invented. This place hath a great store of cows. The wild men kill not except for necessary use. We went further in the bay to see ye place that they weare to passe that summer. That river comes from the lake and empties itself in ye river of Sagnes (Saguenay) called Tadousack, wch is a hundred leagues in the great river of Canada. as where we are in ye Bay of ye North. We left in this place our marks and rendezvons. The wild men yt brought us defended us above all things, if we would come quietly to them, that we should by no means land, & so goe to the river to the other side, that is, to the North, towards ye sea, telling us that those people weare very treacherous."

THE CLAIM INVALID.

We would remark as follows :

1. The fourth voyege may be traced as a journey through Lake Superior, past the pictured rocks on its south side, beyond the copper deposits, westward to where there are prairies or meadows, where the Indians grow Indian corn and where elk and buffalo are found, in fact in the region toward the Mississippi River.

2. The country was toward that of the Nadoneseronons *i.e.*, the Nadouessi or Sioux ; northeast of them were the Christinos or Crees ; so that the region must have been what we know at present as Northern Minnesota. They visited the country of the Sioux, the present States of Dakota, and promised to visit the Christinos on their side of the upper lake, evidently Lako of the Woods or Winnipeg.

3. In the passage before us they were fulfilling their promise. They came to the "seaside." This has given colour to the idea that Hudson Bay is meant. An examination of Radisson's writing shows us, however, that he uses the terms lake and sea interchangeably. For example in page 155 he speaks of the "Christinos from the bay of the North Sea," which could only refer to the Lake of the Woods or Lake Winnipeg. Again on page 134 Radisson speaks of the "Lake of Hurrons, which was upon the border of the sea," evidently meaning Lake Superior. On the same page in the heading of the third voyage he speaks of the "filthy Lake of the Hurrons, Upper Sea of the East, and Bay of the North," and yet no one has claimed that in this voyage he visited Hudson Bay. Again elsewhere Radisson uses the expression "salted lake" for the Atlantic which must be crossed to reach France.

4. Thus in the passage, "the ruined house on the seaside" would seem to have been at one of the lakes mentioned. The Christinos tell then of Europeans, whom they have met a few years before, perhaps an earlier French party on Lake Superior or at the Sault. The lake or sea abounded in islands. This would agree with Lake of the Woods where the Christinos lived, and not Hudson Bay. Whatever place it was had a great store of cows or buffalo. Lake of the Woods is the eastern limit of the buffalo. They are not found on the shores of Hudson Bay.

5. It will be noticed also that he speaks of a river flowing from the lake, when he had gone further in the bay, evidently the extension of the lake, and this river empties itself into the Saguenay. This is plainly pure nonsense. It would be equally nonsensical to speak of it in connection with the Hudson Bay as no river empties from it into the Saguenay.

Probably looking at the great river Winnipeg as it flows from the Lake of the Woods, or Bay of Islands as it was early called, he sees it flowing eastward, and with the mistaken views so common among the early voyageurs, conjectures it to run toward the great Saguenay and to empty into it, thence into the St. Lawrence.

6. The passage shows that the point reached, which some interpret as Hudson Bay or James Bay could not have been so, for it speaks of a farther point toward the north toward the sea.

7. Closely interpreted it is plain that Radisson had not only not visited Hudson or James Bay but that he had a wrong conception of it altogether. He is simply giving a vague story of the Christinos.

THE FURTHER HISTORY OF RADISSON.

We may now take up the story a little before the end of our chronology at the time of the return of Radisson the second time to the service of England in 1684.

The voyages of Radisson and his brother-in-law had been very profitable, and the French court were now thoroughly encouraged and agreed

to send out two vessels to the Hudson Bay. Now occurred one of the most extraordinary passages in the life of Radisson. He opened communications with the Hudson's Bay Company as to entering their service. He, however, continued to deceive the French government. The French expedition was ready to start. The day, the 24th of April, was fixed. He succeeded in delaying the expedition, until he should arrange his private business in England. On the 10th of May he arrived in England, and completely ignoring his relation to his native country entered into correspondence with the Hudson's Bay Company.

DESERTS FRANCE.

The entry in the company's minutes bearing on this affair is as follows:

12th May, 1684.

¹ "Sir James Hayes and Mr. Young report that Peter Esprit Radisson has arrived from France, that he has offered to enter their service, that they had taken him to Windsor and presented him to His Royal Highness, that they had agreed to give him £50 per annum, £200 worth of stock, and £20 to set him up to proceed to Port Nelson; and his brother (in-law) Groselliers to have 20/ per week, if he came from France over to Britain and be true. Radisson took the oath of fidelity to the company."

A few days later Radisson took the ship "Happy Return" to Hudson Bay. Sailing immediately to Hayes River, Radisson found that his nephew, J. Baptiste Groseilliers, had removed his post to an island in the river. On his being reached Radisson explained to him the change that had taken place, and that he proposed to transfer everything, establishment and peltry, to the Hudson's Bay Company. Young Groseilliers being loyal to France objected to this, but Radisson stated that he had no option and would be compelled to submit. The whole quantity of furs transferred to Radisson by his nephew was 20,000, an enormous capture for the Hudson's Bay Company. In the autumn Radisson returned in the Hudson's Bay Company's ship, bringing them great store of booty.

A GENEROUS REWARD.

At a meeting of the committee of the company (October 27th) ² "A packet was read from Pierre Radisson showing how he had brought his countrymen to submit to the English. He was thanked and a gratuity of 100 guineas given him." It is also stated that "a promise having been made of 20/ per week to Groseilliers, and he not having come, the same is transferred to his son in the bay." The minute likewise tells us that "Sir

¹ H. B. Co. minutes.

² *Ibid.*

William Young was given a present of seven musquash skins for being instrumental in inviting Radisson over from France." From this we infer that Sir William, who, as we shall afterwards see, was a great friend and promoter of Radisson, had been the active agent in inducing Radisson to leave the service of France and enter that of the English company.

The company further showed its appreciation of Radisson's service by voting him £100 to be given to four Frenchmen left behind in Hudson Bay. Jean Baptiste Groseilliers, nephew of Radisson, was also engaged by the company for four years in the service at £100 a year. Radisson seems to have had some dispute with the company as to salary at this time. On 6th May, 1685, his salary, when out of England was raised to £100 a year, and £300 to his wife in case of his death. Radisson refused to accept these terms. The company for a time held to its offer, but the time for the ship to sail was drawing nigh and the committee gave way and added to the above offer £100 stock to be given to his wife. John Bridgar was appointed governor at Port Nelson for three years; and Radisson superintendent and director of the trade there. Radisson was satisfied with the new terms, and that the company was greatly impressed with the value of his service is seen in the following entry: "A hogshhead of claret being ordered for Mr. Radison, 'such as Mr. R. shall like.'"

OUR NEW FACTS.

At this point all the historians leave Radisson. The Prince Society publication states, as we have said: "We again hear of Radisson in the Hudson Bay in 1685, and this is his last appearance in public records or documents as far as is known."

Judge Prudhomme of Manitoba writes: "The famous expedition of Chevalier de Troyes was organized principally to possess itself of the person of Radisson. The Fort Ste. Thérèse (Port Nelson) fell into the hands of the French and it is probable that Radisson became their prisoner. What became of him after? He disappears from the domain of history." Charlevoix, we have noticed, states only that he died in England.

As we indicated, we are in a position to correct all these statements, and to relieve the anxiety of his sympathizing biographers. In 1687 Radisson was still in the employ of the company and the committee decided that he should be made a denizen or subject of England. He arrived from Hudson Bay in October of this year, appeared before the H. B. Co. Committee and was welcomed by its members. It was decided that £50 be given as a gratuity to the adventurer till he should be again employed. On the 24th of June of 1688 Radisson again sailed in the ship for Hudson Bay, and during that year he was paid £100, as 50% dividend on his £200 worth of stock; and in the following year £50 as 25% dividend on his stock. As the following year (1690) was the time of the

"great dividend," Radisson was again rejoiced by the amount of £150 as his share of the profits.

DISPUTE WITH RADISSON.

The prosperity of the company seems to have led to an era of extravagance, and to certain dissensions within the company itself. The amounts paid to Radisson seem to have been smaller in accordance with the straits in which the company found itself arising from French rivalry on the bay. In 1692 Sir William Young is seen strongly urging fuller consideration for Radisson, who was being paid at the reduced rate of £50 a year.

In the Hudson's Bay Company's letter-book of this period we find a most interesting memorial of Sir William Young's in behalf of Radisson, with answers by the company, on the whole confirming our narrative, but stating a few divergent points.

We give the memorial in full.

LETTER

Dated 20th December, 1692, being plea of William Young in behalf of Pierre Esprit Radisson.

"Radisson, born a Frenchman, educated from a child in Canada, spent youth hunting and commercing with Indians adjacent to Hudson Bay, master of the language, customs and trade.

"Radisson being at New England about 27 or 28 years past, met there with Col. Nichols, Governor of New York, and was by him persuaded to go to England and proffer his services to King Charles the Second, in order to make a settlement of an English factory in that bay.

"At his arrival how the said king, giving credit to Radisson for that undertaking, granted to Prince Rupert, the Duke of Albermarle and others, the same charter we do still claim by, thereby constituting them the proprietors of the said bay, under which authority, he the said Radisson went immediately and made an English settlement there according to his promises.

"On his return to England the king presented him with a medal and gold chain. When rejected by the company he was compelled to return to Canada, his only place of abode. Joined the French and led an expedition to Hudson Bay. With aid of Indians destroyed company's factory and planted a New England factory in Port Nelson river.

"During that winter Radisson did no violence to the English but supplied them with victuals, powder and shot when their ship was cast away. Refused a present from the Indians to destroy the English and gave them a ship to convey them away. Afterwards settled the French factory higher up the same river, where his alliance with the Indians was too strong for

New England or Old England, and immediately after he went to France. Mr. Young, member of the Hudson's Bay Company, with leave from Sir James Hayes, deputy governor, tried to hire him back to Hudson's Bay Company service with large promises. During negotiations Radisson unexpectedly arrived in London. Company's ships were ready to sail. Had just time to kiss the king's hand at Windsor and that of the Duke of York, then governor. They commended him to the care and kindness of Sir James Hayes and the Hudson's Bay Company, and commanded that he should be made an English citizen, which was done in his absence.

"Before sending him the company gave him two original actions in Hudson's Bay Company stock, and £50 subsistence money, with large promises of future rewards for expected service.

"Arriving at Port Nelson he put company in entire possession of that river, brought away the French to England, and took all the beavers and other furs they had traded and gave them to the company without asking share of the profits although they sold for 7000 pounds.

"He was kindly welcomed in England and again commanded by the king. Committee presented him with 100 guineas and entered in the books that he should have £50 added to the former £50, until the king should find him a place, when the last £50 should cease. Had no place given him. Sir Edward Dering, deputy governor, influenced committee to withdraw £50, so he had only £50 to maintain self, wife and four or five children and servants, £24 of this going for house rent. When chief factor at Nelson was tempted by servants to continue to cheat the company, was beaten because he refused."

THE DEMAND MADE.

Prays for payment of £100 and arrears because

1. All but Sir Edward Dering think it just and reasonable.
2. No place was given in lieu of £50.
3. Of fidelity to the company in many temptations.
4. He never asked more than the company chose to give.
5. Imprisoned in bay in time of trade for not continuing to cheat the company.
6. The company received from Port Nelson, after he gave it them £100,000 worth of furs, which it is now believed would have been lost, with their whole interest in the bay, if he had not joined them when invited.
7. The original actions and the £100 revert to the company at his death.
8. Income inadequate to maintain wife and children in London.
9. Debts great from necessity. Would be compelled to leave wife and children and shift for himself.

10. He cannot sell original actions, since they cease with his life.

11. Of King Charles' many recommendations to kindness of company.

12. French have a price on his head as a traitor, so that he cannot safely go home.

13. Mr. Young further pleads that as Mr. Radisson was the author of the company's prosperity, so he (Mr. Young) was the first to persuade him to join their service. That he (Mr. Young) had been offered a reward for his service in persuading him, which he had utterly refused. But now that this reward be given in the form of maintenance for Radisson in his great necessity, &c.

ANSWER TO MR. YOUNG'S APPEAL.

The committee passes over the sketch of Radisson's life which they do not gainsay.

In second paragraph, they observe that Mr. Young states their neglect to maintain Mr. Radisson without mentioning their reasons for so doing, which might have shown whether it was their unkindness or Radisson's desert.

They go on to take notice of the fact that about 1681 or '82 Radisson and Groseilliers entered into another contract with the company and received £20. Soon after they absconded, went to France, and thence to Canada. Next year they joined their countrymen in an expedition to Port Nelson, animated by the report of Mr. Abram to the company that it was the best place for a factory. They took their two barks up as far as they durst for fear of the English. Then the French in the fall built a small hut, which Mr. Young says was too strong for either New England or Old England without guns or works—a place merely to sleep in, manned only with seven French.

This expedition, Mr. Young saith, was at first prejudicial to the company, but afterward of great advantage, which we cannot apprehend.

In another place Mr. Young is pleased to state that the New England settlement was so strong that the Old could not destroy it. Old England settlement was only a house unfortified, which Bridgar built to keep goods dry because Gillam's boat arrived late.

THE ANSWER TO REASONS.

1. Mr. Young says all are in favour of Radisson but Sir Edward Doring; we have not met with any who are in favour but Mr. Young. Those who give gratuity should know why.

2. That he had no place nor honour given him is no reason for giving gratuity, there being no contract in the case.

3. Never found him accused of cheating and purloining, but breach of contract with company after receiving their money we do find him guilty of.

4. Says he never did capitulate with the company. Find he did (see minutes, 6th May, 1685).

5. Cannot believe Radisson was beaten by the company's servants. Greater increase of furs after he left, &c., &c., &c.

NOTABLE LAWSUIT.

This memorial and its answer show the rather unreasonable position taken by the company. In the time of its admiration for Radisson, and of fat dividends it had provided liberal things, but when money became scarce then it was disposed to make matters pleasing to itself despite the claims of Radisson. In the year following the presenting of the memorial it is stated in the minutes that "Radisson was represented to the committee as in a low and mean condition." At this time it was ordered that £50 be paid Radisson and to be repaid out of the next dividend.

The unreasonable position assumed by the company, in withholding a part of the salary which they had promised in good faith filled Radisson with a sense of injustice. No doubt guided by his friend, Sir William Young, who, on account of his persistence on behalf of the adventurer, seems now to have been dropped from the committee of the company, Radisson filed a bill in chancery against the company, and in July, 1694, notice of this was served upon the committee.

Much consternation seems to have filled their minds and the deputy governor, Sir Samuel Clark, reported shortly after, having used £200 for secret service, the matter being seemingly connected with this case.

RADISSON WINS.

Notwithstanding the great influence of the company the justice of Radisson's claim prevailed, and the court of chancery ordered the payment of arrears in full. The committee afterward met Sir William Young and Richard Cradock, who upheld Radisson's claim. It is reported that they had agreed to settle the matter by paying Radisson £150, he giving a release; and that he should be paid, under seal, £100 per annum for life, except in those years when the company should make a dividend, and then but £50 according to the original agreement. Radisson then receives, as the minutes show, his salary regularly from this time.

LATER YEARS.

In 1698 Radisson petitioned parliament for consideration, presumably in connection with losses suffered from the French in Hudson Bay. In the year 1700 he seems still to be struggling in his straitened circumstances, for in that year he applied to the company to be appointed warehouse keeper for the London premises, but this application was refused.

If the date of Radisson's birth, given by some, of 1620 be accepted he had now reached the four score years so seldom attained by man. This is, however, very doubtful. His children, of whom he is said to have had nine, appear to have passed over to Canada, and to have become a part of the Canadian people. His brother-in-law, Groseilliers, also, returned to his adopted Canada. Regularly during the succeeding years the quarterly amount is voted to Radisson by the company, until January 6th, 1710, when the last quota of £12 16s. seems to have been given. About this time at a ripe age passed away Pierre Esprit Radisson, one of the most daring and ingenious men of his time. We know nothing of his death, except from the fact that his pension ceased to be paid.



