

is out. the latter went off in a pet, the cause as far as I can learn was who should be the first—M^cTavish or M^cK—and as there could not be two Cesars in Rome one must remove.

by the last accounts from England there is very bad appearance of furs, selling well. they say most of the furr buyers are bankrupts owing to several Houses in Hamburg failing, which has bankrupt all the foreign Houses in London, and several in New York. Seaton Maitland & C^o who had all the China business in hand of M^cTavish & C^o is shut. I suspect it will fall heavy on them. muskratts is the only article which may keep at 24—good—and this is owing to Astore and me being in opposition. if you can sell yours for that I think you ought as you may have buyers there, for should Astore & me agree they will fall—unless they should sell high in London. there is only 10,000 Shipt from Quebec, not one from this. Astore & me bought the whole—from 20^s to 24^s some small parcels at auction from the spirrit of opposition sold at 26^s & 27^s I bought 700 Bear skins at auction when the account sales encouraged us, very high. that article I am informd will fall one half, and if some new place is not found for Raccoons they will go badly. the yankeys will trade Rum for Raccoons should you have any I would recommend you to do it. they may not be worth here 6^d.

another cause has happend contrary to our expe[ctations.] 50,000 men from England landed in Hol[land], the Duke of York commanded. all the Dutch fleet surrendered. the army within a few miles from Amsterdam was drove back to their Landing great numbers kill'd, and to save the remainder was obliged to make some kind of a convention

figures of his generation in the Canadian fur trade. He was born on the Island of Lewis, Scotland, in 1763; he came to Canada in 1779, and for five years served as clerk for Gregory, McLeod and Company in Montreal. In response to his desire to become acquainted with the fur trade in the field, he was sent to Detroit by his firm in 1784, and remained here for a year. He was then admitted to partnership in the company and went to the far Northwest. Thereafter, his rise to fame and wealth was rapid. In 1789 he descended the Mackenzie River to the Arctic Ocean, and four years later crossed the continent from Fort Athabaska to the Pacific, being in each case the first explorer to reach these oceans from the interior. Between Mackenzie and Simon McTavish existed a bitter antipathy, which was the occasion of much discord in the Canadian fur trade until the death of McTavish in 1804. In 1808 Mackenzie returned to Scotland and there spent the remainder of his life. He died suddenly, March 12, 1820. His geographical discoveries have served to make his name one of the most renowned in Canadian annals. See Wallace, *op. cit.*, and references there cited.