

PREFACE.

WHILE the bibliography of Manitoba is far more extensive than many imagine, yet in no work on that province can any information, other than the most meagre, be obtained in regard to the dealings of the Hudson's Bay Company, the former owners of the country, with its lands, the conditions under which the same were planted by various kinds of settlers, the forms of tenure under which they held, the particular lands which were allotted to them, or the names of the grantees of such allotments.

It was only when engaged as one of the counsel on a case,* instituted by the descendants of one of Lord Selkirk's settlers, to set aside a patent erroneously granted by the Canadian Government, that I fully appreciated the lack of such information, realized the practical as well as historical importance of the subject, and became aware of the very great misconception that existed in regard to the tenures of the Company and the titles of Lord Selkirk's settlers. From being interested in the subject as a purely legal one, I found my attention being engaged from an historical point of view, and, being asked by the Historical and Scientific Society of Manitoba to read a paper on some aspect of the Company's rule, the first chapter of this book was the result. Encouraged by the reception it met with then, and later, when

* *Templeton v. Stewart*, 3 Western Law Times Reports, 189. Reprinted in Appendix N.