

RED RIVER SETTLEMENT.

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2d. Mr. John Spencer, our Sheriff, was arrested by a warrant from A. N. McLeod, Esq., a justice of peace for the Indian territory and one of the agents of the North-West company, and was carried away a prisoner.

6th September. Bail was offered by the gentlemen and people of the colony to any amount for his appearance at Fort William or Montreal, or even to be kept a prisoner at the North-West company's fort till I should arrive at the settlement; but all was rejected by Mr. Cameron, who sent off a canoe with him towards Fort William. The people would have rescued him when passing the settlement, and assembled for the purpose; but the gentlemen discountenanced the project.

3. All the fat seized along with the other provisions, was left at Brandon House, which had been put in possession of the North-West company for the purpose of bringing it down, and delivering it to us at the Forks, as I had lent them the quantity they required for the trade, out of our store; Mr. John Wills and J. Dugald Cameron, two of their proprietors, having pledged themselves particularly to have it brought down and delivered to us at the settlement. Indeed all the partners pledged themselves in the same way at the time the arrangement took place. Finding that this had not been done, Mr. Cameron was applied to the day after my arrival. For some time he evaded to give a direct answer, saying that it was not convenient at that season for the want of men. This was waved by our offering to bring it down ourselves, upon which he was obliged to give a positive refusal to let us have it. This was a great disappointment, having reckoned much on this article for the support of the people through the winter.

4. Mr. Duncan Cameron arrived in Red River, sporting a suit of military uniform, gave himself out as a captain in His Majesty's service, and acting by the King's authority from Sir George Prevost. Every well-informed person looked upon this as a self-created appointment, at most a North-West trick; but it had a very considerable effect upon the lower class of people. Captain Cameron had subordinate officers, Lieutenant Alexander McDonnell and Ensign Seraphim Lamar. It is said that last Spring, the North-West clerk, Cuthbert Grant, was appointed to be a captain over the half breeds, William Shaw, lieutenant, and Peter Pangman Bostonois, ensign. It appears that the officers are still getting commissions in the voyageur corps, although that corps has been disbanded by Sir George Prevost's general order of 1st March 1815. All the North-West gentlemen have returned inland this year with military appointments, swords and uniforms.

5. Mr. Cameron began early to use every insidious means to create dissatisfaction among our people. To the tradesmen and other servants was held out the alluring temptation of the great wages they might get in the Canadas, with offers to bring them there free of expense. Agents were employed, and a communication opened with our people at Fort Daer; every man was sounded; we had no idea, for a length of time of the extent of the mischief.

6. The emigrants that arrived last from Sutherlandshire, after seeing the country, and being put in possession of their different allotments of land, were so pleased with the flattering prospect before them, that they wrote home to their friends, inviting them in the most pressing terms to come to join them. Since their intercourse with Mr. Cameron, the tranquillity and happiness of these people have been interrupted by the most insinuating and delusive arts of which he is capable. They are asked to the North-West fort, where they are addressed by him in their own language, treated with a dram, and perhaps to sit at table with him; he affects to sympathize with them, for having come to a new and wild country; reflections on the distinguished nobleman who sent them, and the persons having charge of them here, are not spared. He dwells on the dangers they must inevitably be exposed to from the natives, whom he represents so full of cruelty and treachery, as to come at night unprovoked to cut their throats, and that they are only restrained from such acts of violence by the influence he has over them. He then expatiates on the beauty and wealth of the Canadas, offers to bring them there at the expense of the North-West company, and to give them lands, with cattle and implements of husbandry, gratis. They were also led to believe, that they could never get out of the country unless they embraced the offers then made to them. By such plausible discourse have these people been misled, who know no better.

7. By the arrangement which Mr. Cameron and the other proprietors had made with me, they were to assist in feeding the colonists in the course of the ensuing