

age how to murder and mutilate their fellow-beings—subjects of the same king—for no offence under Heaven but that of defending rights legally acquired and honestly exercised; that every drop of wine swallowed in these festivities was purchased at the cost of as much Christian blood shed by them in defiance of all law, human and divine; and that every dish upon the bounteous board cost the life of an Indian, deluded, debauched, stimulated, and finally sacrificed by them for the furtherance of objects the most mean and selfish, and the gratification of a malignity which could have had its birth-place nowhere but in the councils of a band of fiends and outlaws.

Mr. Ross Cox, who was a clerk employed by the Northwest Company, has given some accounts of these transactions, but as his narrative bears upon its face the marks of falsehood, as well as those denoting a total want of all proper feeling and all sound principle, we shall here add one or two anecdotes derived from, not a party concerned, but an innocent settler in Selkirk's Settlement, whom we met with at Fort Mandan, touching these atrocities.

Soon after the purchase by Lord Selkirk of the tract of land upon Red river, he discovered that his objects, laudable and legal as they were, were likely to be frustrated by the Northwest Company; and for this reason he purchased two hundred shares and became one of the proprietors in the Hudson's Bay Company, that by thus uniting their interests, his infant colony might have the protection of this ancient and powerful corporation. It was principally because of this connection that the direct war upon it was marked by such unprincipled and atrocious conduct.

It is not true, as Cox states, that when the final struggle occurred at Red river, it was brought about by fourteen of the *Bois Brule* (or half-breeds) who accompanied a party of carts and horses with provisions &c., in violation of the orders of M'Donnell, stationed at Q'Appelle river; nor is it true that the first order to fire was given by Mr. Semple, the governor of the colony. The facts are precisely the reverse of all this. It was an expedition gotten up by the partners of the Northwest Company, consisting principally of half-breeds, who are fully as much, or more ferocious than the natives, for the express purpose of crushing this settlement; and the force greatly outnumbered those employed in the defence. They did enter the settlement in violation of law—they did attack the settlers with a brutal fury known only to such beings—and they did crush the colony—murdering all its chief men, some of the women, and a number of children; burning their houses and devastating their fields, and levying by way of *black mail*, upon all its live stock.

A Mr. Clark, who had originally belonged to the Northwest Company, but who was tempted by better pay, as all of them might have been, to desert those who had some claims upon his gratitude, was placed in charge of the post at Athabasca. Here he was regularly besieged by his old friends. After living some time upon *pemmican* and horse flesh, he was reduced first to *wild rice*,* of which he had

* Wild rice is found in the greatest quantities on Wild Rice river, a small tributary of Red river, in the territory of Iowa, but it is scattered along all the streams near the parallel. It is in much esteem with the Sioux and other Indians.