

CHAPTER V.

THE PEMBINA RIVER POST, CONTINUED: 1802-03.

SEPT. 4th, 1802. We arrived at the Forks of the Assiniboine. Delivered to Mr. [Charles Jean Baptiste] Chaboillez the Upper Red River, or rather the Assiniboine River, brigade in charge, he having remained inland during the summer. Mr. J. McDonell [John McDonnell¹] goes to

¹ See his lively, rough-and-ready journal of 1793-97, already cited at date of Aug. 19th, 1800, note ⁵³, p. 47. This McDonell or McDonnell is to be distinguished from various persons of the identical surname, and also from sundry McDonalds of a different family—particularly John McDonald of Garth. One liability of mistake in the identity of persons named John is, that in annals of the period “John” was often abbreviated “Jo.,” as if “Joe” or Joseph; but the regular abbreviation of the latter was “Jos.” John McDonnell was brother of Gov. Miles McDonnell, and uncle of W. J. McDonnell, some time vice-consul at Toronto; Miles McDonnell was Lord Selkirk’s agent and first governor of that colony, nicknamed *chef des jardiniers* (“head gardener”). John entered the N. W. Co. as clerk in 1793 or earlier, and arrived at Grant’s Fort Espérance on Qu’Appelle r., Oct. 11th, 1793. He became a partner about 1796, and spent some years in the Upper Red River Dept. In 1797-98 he had the N. W. house on the Assiniboine, 1½ m. above the mouth of Mouse r.—a notable place, as this was the usual point of departure for the Mandans on the Missouri. Thompson went from and returned to it in 1797-98; he gives its position as lat. 49° 41’ 06” N., long. 99° 59’ 15” W. Our author is going to make the same trip in 1806. McDonnell went in to Fort William in 1798, arriving June 29th. He goes to the Athabasca Dept. in 1802, as Henry tells us. He signed the Montreal agreement of Nov. 5th, 1804, by his attys. He arrived at Fort William at 2 p. m. Sunday, Aug. 2d, 1812, on the Invincible. He sold out in 1815, settled at Point Fortune, died there, and was buried in the Catholic cemetery of Rigaud, leaving several children.—Æneas McDonell or McDonald, a clerk N. W. Co., Nepigon District, was shot by one Mowat, clerk H. B. Co., 1810.—Alexander McDonnell was assistant to John McDonald of Garth on the Assiniboine or Qu’Appelle r., winter of 1807-08; he succeeded Miles McDonnell, and was nicknamed by the half-breeds “grasshopper governor” (*gouverneur sauterelle*); he was at one time in charge of Fort Garry.—Allen McDonnell or Macdonell was at the Mandans in the summer of 1806, when Charles Chaboillez, *junior*, Charles McKenzie, Mr. Caldwell, and