

and on this account the little river Seine, which empties into Red River opposite Point Douglas, was long known as German Creek. The name St. Boniface itself, is that of Winifred or Boniface, the German apostle and patron saint, and commemorates this early German-speaking people. It is needless to go into the story of the Red River troubles of 1814-16. It has been often told. But in the last named year, Lord Selkirk, coming to the Northwest to help his struggling colony, brought with him, up the Canadian lakes, about one hundred men, who had been among the mercenaries engaged by Britain to fight in the war of 1812-15 in defence of Canada against the United States. These men were of the class spoken of so tenderly by Wordsworth:—

"That stern yet kindly spirit who contains
The Savoyard to quit his naked rocks,
The free born Swiss to leave his narrow vales."

At the close of the war of 1816 these foreign regiments had been disbanded, and eighty men of the corps called after their colonel, the "De Meuron regiment," were taken from Montreal, and twenty men of the De Watteville regiment from Kingston, and these under their four officers, Captains D'Orsonneus and Matthey, and Lieutenants Fauche and Grafenreith found their way up to Lake Superior. After having encamped for a time near Fort William, at a locality still known as "Point De Meuron," they pushed on, and coming in the winter of 1816-17 by way of Lake of the Woods, crossed the country to Pembina, and descending the Red River, captured Fort Douglas on the site of the Winnipeg of to-day. Their settlement by Lord Selkirk took place shortly afterward. Among these colonists there were no women, and the lonely bachelors of German Creek were disconsolate in their new homes. Being old soldiers they were turbulent, and Sheriff Ross is somewhat severe in referring to their selfishness and discontent. They made but little progress, though in 1818, the priest Joseph Norbert Provencher, afterwards first Roman Catholic Bishop on the Red River, arrived from Lower Canada to minister to them, most of them being Roman Catholics.

In the year 1821, there came to the banks of Red River, a somewhat remark-

able stream of Swiss immigration. This was also begun under the direction of Lord Selkirk. As anxious to fill up the vacant lands of his Assiniboina, as a government agent of to-day to induce settlers to come to Manitoba, Lord Selkirk seized hold of one of the officers of the disbanded De Watteville regiment, Col. Rudolphe May, and dispatched him to his native Switzerland to bring out colonists. Col. May was a native of Berne, and on his return to his own land, scattered widely French and German copies of a somewhat highly-colored prospectus of the attractions of Red River. His efforts were successful, and a band of Swiss, all Protestants, but of whom about three-quarters were French-speaking, enrolled themselves as colonists. Mrs. Adams tells us that the party to the number of one hundred and sixty-five assembled at a village near Basle, a Swiss town on the Rhine, May 3rd, 1821. On the 30th of the same month the emigrants, having come down the Rhine, sailed from the Dutch seaport of Dort, in the British ship "Lord Wellington." The sea voyage was tedious, extending over nearly four months, and the weary settlers landed at York factory, on Hudson's Bay, about August 27th.

The journey from Hudson's Bay to Red River, made in York boats, was tiresome and dangerous, and the worn out colonists larded at their future home, which was wild and unattractive enough, about the end of October. The arrival of the Swiss made a great stir in the Selkirk Colony. They did not arouse the opposition, that the De Meurons had met. Though Sheriff Ross speaks of their unsuitability as immigrants, they having been "watch and clock makers, pastry cooks, musicians," and the like yet he approvingly says, "As to character they must have proved an acquisition to any community, being a quiet, orderly and moral people, remarkable withal for the number of handsome young people, both lads and lasses among them." Rev. John West narrates very graphically the circumstances of the raid made by the lonely De Meuron's settlers upon the attractive Swiss girls on their arrival. Sheriff Ross at once given to the Swiss families which contained hand-