

Without one sigh, one keen regret,
And of thy merits leave no proofs—
I should unworthily repay
The kindness of those friends,
Whose worth deserves as warm a lay,
As love or friendship ever pays."

Following the example of the Co-Delegate, my next will be a dissertation on Red River, in some cases confirming his statements; but in the general furnishing additional observations.

OLD FORT, July 40th, 1855.—Before proceeding further, in reference to our journeyings, I will furnish some observations relative to Selkirk's Settlements, *alias* Red River; for which I am mainly indebted to one of the residents.

This region of country appears to have been explored and first occupied by Fur Traders about the middle of the 17th century. Prince Rupert and other British lords undertook at their own expense, an expedition to Hudson's Bay, for the discovery of a new passage into the South Seas, or to China, and for the purpose of finding some trade for furs, minerals, and other commodities. They made some discoveries, and were subsequently incorporated, in the year 1670, under the title of Hudson's Bay Company, and received a charter from Charles II. granting to them and their successors all the territory in North America, subject to the British crown, that was drained by waters flowing into Hudson's Bay.—Besides this territory they have extended their jurisdiction over the lands watered by the rivers that flow into the Arctic Ocean, and also that vast territory west of the Rocky Mountains. In fact, their territory embraces all North America (with the exception of the Russian possessions in the extreme north-west, and Greenland, in the north-east) that lies north of the Canadas and the United States and its possessions.

The first permanent settlement of Red River was made by a few Scotch Highlanders, sent out by Lord Douglas, Earl of Selkirk, in the years 1812-15. In the summer of 1812, some sixty young men and women, principally relatives left their fatherland to find a home in the American wilderness. They had a rough passage, and many of them died of typhus fever, after they entered Hudson's Bay. The remainder were obliged to winter at Churchill, which they all left in March, on snow shoes; and after encountering many difficulties, arrived at Red River, not to find a quiet home, but to meet additional trials and disappointments. (Two of that number are now in the settlement.) Subsequent proceedings led most of them to Canada as their future home, and that same summer they settled on the North of Lake Erie. In the summer of 1815, a second and larger party left Scotland. They reached Red River in October, and not being able to get provisions for the winter, they were compelled to go out on the plains, to live as the Indians did, in quest of Buffalo. Disturbances followed, in which Governor Semple fell wounded, but not mortally. An Indian, however, put the muzzle of his gun to his head, and blew out the governor's brains. After staying at Red River a few weeks, they, with others, who had come from Europe were driven out by hunger to winter on the plains. They were a mixed company, as may be inferred from the fact, that in their camp, that winter, they were able to speak several different languages. In the spring they returned, and did what they could towards making comfortable habitations, and to get in what seed they had; but from this time, for three years, their crops were partly or entirely cut off by grasshoppers. Voyagers, in passing the shores of Lake Winnipeg to Hudson's Bay, are said to have found dead grasshoppers heaped up like snow-drifts. The settlers

were again driven to the plains, until the fourth and last time, when, in 1821, the colony began to prosper. Many a curious little story is told of those days.

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The French emigrated here, from Canada, in 1818, and the Swiss in 1823. Floods have occasionally destroyed their crops, swept away their houses, and destroyed much other property. One occurred in 1826. Another in 1852, compelling the inhabitants to flee to some high ground far away from their dwellings. The grave-yard, the "seed-plot for eternity," was completely inundated at that time.

The number of its inhabitants, &c., were fully detailed by the Co-Delegate. Upon these items, therefore, I will not dwell.

The settlement lies on both sides of the River, and extends more than forty miles. On the west side, between the two forts, the houses, parks, and cultivated fields lie between the river and an extensive prairie,—where, in Summer, all their cattle feed in common. By a law of the place, hay-making commences on the 20th July, in each year; and as this hay-field is common, and far out on the plains, this is done that each one may have an equal share.

OLD FORT, July 30th, 1855.—Our voyage from the Upper to the Lower Fort may be considered as but the start for our ultimate destination, for on reaching there we anchored for the night. We were most courteously received by Dr. Cowan, the gentleman in charge, and a very excellent repast at once furnished for our entertainment. While here we paid a visit to J. E. Marriott, Esq. a retired chief-factor of the H. B. Co. This gentleman, I am informed, may be regarded as one of our most valued friends, having rendered much assistance in translating our hymns, &c. He was greatly interested in us, and made many enquiries relative to our future movements, wishing us every possible success in our great and glorious work at Edmonton. I cannot speak too complementarily of the kindness shown us by himself and his good lady.

July 20.—Left Lower Fort Garry at 6 A. M. Breakfasted at the Indian Settlement, with the Rev. A. Cowley and lady, and Mr. George, of the Church Missionary Society. Afterwards were shown over the mission premises. Here is a new stone church, commenced by the Rev. Mr. Cochran, whose indefatigable energies have directed him to another field of labour. Mr. George proceeds shortly to Fort Alexander. The Rev. A. C. acted towards us in a most gentlemanly manner, wishing us every success. Dined at the mouth of Red River. The grass at this point is from 5 to 7 feet in height. After several hours hard rowing, effected a landing at the Willow Islands at 9 P. M. The approach was dangerous, in consequence of this part of the lake being exceedingly rocky.

July 21.—About one o'clock aroused by our guide, and were soon bounding over the agitated waters. After a very rapid run of 7 hours landed for breakfast. During the next two or three hours we encountered a violent storm, which compelled us to land as soon as possible. After dinner our guide ventured to cross over to the Dog's Head Point. Serious apprehensions were soon entertained, but by the good providence of God, we ultimately effected a landing near the above named point. The coast in this direction presents a bold front of granite rock, very irregularly formed.

July 22.—*Sabbath.* How calm and tranquil was this day of rest. How different from the past. A heavy swell from the west had produced vast undulations like the mounds of a grave-yard, and had burst over massive rocks on which we were now seated.—