

venture upon. They well knew that, according to Swift's observation, a political lie may often serve its purpose, though it should have currency only for a week. Having long experienced the utility even of these ephemeral fabrications, they could not be expected to lose an opportunity of declaiming for a whole season, without any chance of contradiction. The small remnant of truth, which in ordinary circumstances, they find it useful to mix up in their fabrications, might now be spared; and with the help of this extraordinary advantage, a story has been brought forth, which has not the slightest resemblance to the real fact.

On Mr. Daniel M'Kenzie's first examination, concerning the part which he had taken in the transactions at Red River, his answers were extremely contradictory to one another, and his behaviour such as to amount to a contempt. He might have declined to answer at all; but since he chose to give an account of his proceedings, Lord Selkirk thought that he might at least expect consistency. Mr. M'Kenzie was immediately after directed to be removed from the apartment that he occupied, to a building which had been commonly used as a prison by the North-West Company, and put into a room, which had been recently occupied by Mr. John Bourke.—It was not to be presumed, that a partner of that Company, would complain of this as a place of confinement, since the North-West Company themselves considered it as suitable for gentlemen in custody, having detained Mr. Bourke in the same place, for