

will be justified; but it is unnecessary at present to enter at large upon this subject, because, even if he had been wrong, that could not justify the North-West company in taking redress at their own hands, still less in such a tissue of outrageous conduct towards persons who were in no degree concerned in the acts which they complained of. And here I may be allowed to observe, that when the dangers to which the settlers might be exposed, are ascribed by Mr. McGillivray to the demeanour of Mr. McDonnell towards the servants of the North-West company, such a pretext cannot very easily be reconciled to the allegation, that the violence which has taken place was in no degree instigated by any gentleman connected with that company.

Before I quit this subject, I would only beg leave to observe, that if Governor McDonnell had acted illegally or improperly, the plain course for obtaining redress was, for the persons aggrieved to complain to the Privy Council. If the North-West company had been disposed to try the question fairly, their complaint might have been brought forward in London more than 12 months ago; and if they had any confidence in the justice of their own cause, it is not easy to explain why a set of gentlemen of so much ability and knowledge of business should have declined to act in this regular mode, and should have preferred such a violent and unheard of proceeding, as that of arresting the governor of the district within his own bounds, and carrying him off by virtue of a warrant from a justice of peace in another jurisdiction, and that too for an act which, if it was illegal, was no more than a civil trespass, or at the very utmost, a bailable offence. For this strange line of conduct I can imagine only one reason, viz. that in the infant colony under the command of Mr. McDonnell, there was no other person capable of managing the undertaking, and that if he could be unexpectedly carried off, no doubt could be entertained, that the settlement might be easily broken up. But it would not have served this purpose to call upon Mr. McDonnell to answer for his conduct before the Privy Council, since on his being ordered home, there would have been time to have sent out a competent person to fill his place.

Be this as it may, the conduct of Mr. McDonnell, or any recriminations between him and the gentlemen of the North-West company, can in no degree affect the main question, which your Excellency has to determine, viz. as to the necessity of military protection, to prevent the recurrence of such acts of violence as were perpetrated last Summer at Red River.

If as to this point, any doubt can still remain upon your Excellency's mind, I trust that it must be removed, upon a consideration of the present condition of the people who have been driven away from the settlement. Though the North-West company succeeded in seducing a majority of the settlers to desert their engagements and withdraw to Upper Canada, yet a considerable proportion of them remained steady; and retired with their remaining officers towards York factory on Hudson's Bay; where I understood it was their intention to remain till they should be enabled to return to Red River. Some other people, who on the invitation of their friends at that settlement, embarked from Scotland a few months ago, will also be obliged to remain near the factory. These two bodies of people will amount to nearly 150 persons, men, women, and children, who are forced to remain in a situation comparatively very inhospitable, where little or no preparation can have been made for their reception, and where they must be supported at an enormous expense till they are enabled to resume the cultivation of their own lands, under the safeguard of the public force.

I have, &c.

His Excellency Sir G. Drummond,
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed) *Selkirk.*

Inclosure
(2)
in Sir G. Drummond's, of 6 December 1815.

A Sketch of the Conduct of the North-West Company towards Red River Settlement, from September 1814 to June 1815 inclusive.

1. I arrived at the settlement, from the coast of Hudson's Bay, October 19th.—The arrangement concluded with the proprietors of the North-West company in June last, for provisions for the ensuing winter, and the advantages we expected to derive mutually from the prospect of a friendly intercourse with each other, appeared to be at an end. I was the more surprised at this, as Mr. Duncan Cameron, who was sent by his associates to manage the affairs of the department, was one of the proprietors who had made the arrangement with me for the provisions. Fortunately for us and themselves, Lord Selkirk prudently kept back the people who wished to emigrate, until accounts should reach home, that we were ready to receive them, permitting only about 15 persons to come out by the ships, chiefly tradesmen.

2d. Mr. John