

ment it was in its time; its name was undoubtedly a misnomer so far as strength was concerned: yet it points to its origination in troublous times.

FORT DOUGLAS.—We have said that the Hudson's Bay Company claim to have built a fort on Red River in 1799. No trace of it can be distinctly made out, though there seems to be a floating tradition that there was a Hudson's Bay Company fort somewhere near the site of Fort Gibraltar or, possibly, further down the bank towards the colonists' establishment. In 1812 and the subsequent years, however, their interests seem all to have been included in the Colony Fort. Whether the fur-trade interests were absorbed in Fort Douglas or not, the chief reason for strengthening the colony establishment was the protection of the settlers. From a mere scattered gathering of buildings, it was, by extensive buildings and repairs in the autumn of 1815, that it gained the name Fort Douglas, being so called after Lord Selkirk's family name. Probably one of the reasons for destroying Fort Gibraltar, was to provide material for the enlargement of Fort Douglas. We find that, during the same year, orders were given to bring down portions of the North-West Fort, which had been at Pembina, for the same purpose. It was stated that when Fort Gibraltar was destroyed, haste was made, lest the destruction should be interrupted by the arrival of the threatened Bois-brûlé invaders from Qu'Appelle. That invasion did take place, and we shall see that Fort Douglas, too, has its well-marked history.

Not more than three weeks had elapsed after the last beam of Fort Gibraltar had been removed, when, from the watch-tower of Fort Douglas, the alarm was given that the half-breeds were coming. This was about six o'clock in the evening of June 19th, 1816. The Governor immediately ordered a party to prepare to meet the intruders, who seemed to be avoiding the fort, and to be directing their movements against the settlers down the river. The Governor seemed to have intended to hold a parley with the approaching force. On perceiving, as he rode forward, that the party was larger than he had supposed, he sent back to the fort for a stronger force, and for a piece of artillery to be brought. He then proceeded some two miles down the river from the fort to a point since celebrated as the scene of the conflict of Seven Oaks. The half-breeds who were mounted now approached the Governor's party in the form of a half-moon, giving the war-whoop. One of their leaders named Firmin Boucher advanced towards the Whites, with the insolent cry, "What do you want?" The Governor replied "What do *you* want?" The answer to this was, "We want our fort,"—no doubt referring to the destroyed Fort Gibraltar. The Governor replied harshly, "Well, go to your fort!" A hurried rejoinder of an insulting kind being made to the Governor, he rashly seized Boucher's horse by the bridle, seemingly with the idea of making him a prisoner. As Boucher slid from his horse, a shot was fired from the Bois-brûlés' ranks, and one of the Governor's body-guard fell. The firing became general. The Governor fell by the second shot, wounded in the shoulder. Lying helpless, the Governor was given in charge of a French Canadian to assist him to the fort, when a worthless Indian along with the party, running up, shot him in the breast and killed him.

Completely destroyed, scattered, or terrified, there was no force of settlers or Hudson's Bay Company men sufficient to defend Fort Douglas. John Pritchard, afterwards a confidential agent of Lord Selkirk, conducted negotiations between some forty settlers at the fort and the half-breeds. The settlers at first proposed to defend the fort, but a wiser deter-