

from so disagreeable a charge; but the prisoners having applied for a Writ of Habeas Corpus, I was charged to convey them to Montreal, where we arrived on the 10th of September, and where the prisoners were all admitted to bail.

Private affairs having called me to England, I left Montreal in the beginning of November last, and it is after having read a publication by the North-West-Company, intitled «A Narrative of Occurrences in the Indian Countries of North Amerika», that I make this true Statement, which I hope will take away the unfavourable opinion which the injurious publication of the North-West-Company may have made on the public.

Nothing can exceed the malignity of the allusions which are levelled, by the North-West-Company at the character of the late Regiment de Meuron, some of whom chose to accompany the Earl of Selkirk. They are called worthless plunderers and deserters from Bonaparte's armies in Spain, from whence the North-West-Company assert they were sent to America. This shows completely how little regard they have for the feelings of others, and what a change there is in their opinions as soon as their interest is concerned. The officers of the Regiment de Meuron have always been admitted in society in Canada, and especially at Montreal, where the Agents and other persons connected with the North-West-Company form a great part of it. — We have received attentions from the latter without the least reflection having been cast on our characters, but as soon as we agreed to become settlers with the Earl of Selkirk, we were accused, as before mentioned, of the grossest misconduct.

The officers of de Meuron's Regiment had been induced (after a mature consideration of the Hudsons-Bay-Charter, which the Earl was pleased to submit to our notice, and which appeared to us unexceptionable, particularly as it had received the sanction of the most eminent Counsel in England) to accept his officers to become settlers in his Colony at the Red River. I feel it, therefore a duty incumbent on me as one of the officers of the Regiment, to contradict those assertions so injurious to the character of men who for many years, have most honorably and faithfully served his Majesty; and who, on the reduction of the Regiment, had agreed to accompany the Earl of Selkirk, not for the purpose (as had been falsely stated) to be employed by his Lordship in a military expedition (though the men must have had a warlike appearance from wearing the new clothing issued to them from the regimental stores) and to commit hostilities and depredations on British subjects — but for the purpose of becoming useful members of his Lordships settlement.

With respect to the late Regiment de Meuron being called plunderers and deserters from Bonaparte's armies in Spain, it is well known that in 1809, when the Regiment was at Gibraltar, his Majesty's Government authorised that all the Germans and Piedmontese whom the conscription had forced to enter Bonaparte's armies, from which they escaped as soon as an opportunity offered, should be enlisted in his Majesty's service, in consequence of which many came over and received the regular bounty. The regiment went the same year to Malta, where it remained till 1813, when it was ordered to North Amerika. On its departure from the island, his Excellency Lieutenant-General Oakes, the Governor, issued the following Garrison-Order.

Garrison-Order.

Malta, May 4 1813.

«Lieutenant-General Oakes cannot suffer the Regiment de Meuron to quit » this garrison where they have so long been stationed under his command, » without assuring them of the satisfaction which their good conduct and attention » to military discipline have constantly afforded him, and which have been equally