

use of land was not, it is submitted, sufficient to give the claimant any right to consideration under the Manitoba Act, unless, of course, there were other additional circumstances in favour of the applicant. Those in authority, however, on the principle, doubtless, of taking all that can be got, advised the half-breeds to stake, work, or otherwise define claims to unoccupied lands in the settlement. Little encouragement was needed to incite the "staker" to action, for they set to work with the most praiseworthy alacrity, and in a surprisingly short space of time the fronts of the three rivers fairly bristled with stakes, "blazes," and claims. It must not be imagined that the staker in general was content with one claim; on the contrary, with commendable forethought, he made provision not only for himself and his living children, but those dead and in expectancy. One individual in particular, who aptly rejoiced in the name Solomon, his surname being Venne, and whose "growing virtues" were not "circumscribed" in the manner detailed in the *Elegy*, staked out upwards of fifteen claims, not along the small streams as did his compatriots, but, being a man of large ambitions, selected the duly surveyed and allotted Red River, no less, for this purpose.

Canada at first refused to recognize these staked claims at all, but pressure was brought to bear, and by Order in Council of January 29, 1876, certain concessions were made. These were enlarged and made more definite on April 20, 1876, and the government finally succumbed on February 25, 1881, by virtue of which last-mentioned order all patents have been issued.