

PAPERS RELATING TO THE

how far such men may be carried by the thirst of gain, combined with the habit of acrimonious rivalry.

Under these circumstances, the necessity of affording protection to ensure the safety of the colonists must be evident; and I beg leave to submit to your consideration, whether this can be adequately provided for without the aid of His Majesty's government.

I have the honour to be, &c.

To the Governor, Deputy Governor,
and Committee of the Hudson's Bay Company.

(Signed) *Selkirk.*

Inclosure

(3)
in Earl Bathurst's
of 18 March 1815.

STATEMENT.

THE servants of the Hudson's Bay company employed in the fur trade, have hitherto been fed with provisions exported from England. Of late years this expense has been so enormous, that it has become very desirable to try the practicability of raising provisions within the territory itself; notwithstanding the unfavourable soil and climate of the settlements immediately adjacent to Hudson's Bay, there is a great deal of fertile lands in the interior of the country, where the climate is very good, and well fitted for the cultivation of grain.

It did not appear probable that agriculture would be carried on with sufficient care and attention by servants in the immediate employment of the company; but by establishing independent settlers, and giving them freehold tenures of land, the company expected to obtain a certain supply of provisions at a moderate price. The company also entertained expectations of considerable eventual benefit, from the improvement of their landed property by means of agricultural settlements. Having a due regard to the implied conditions of their charter, they deemed it a duty incumbent on them (as soon as the practicability of agricultural improvements was demonstrated) to give a liberal degree of encouragement to an experiment, which, independently of the advantages, promised to have the most beneficial effects on the civilization of the Indians.

With these views the company were induced, in the year 1811, to dispose of a large tract of their lands to the Earl of Selkirk, in whose hands they trusted that the experiment would be prosecuted with due attention, as the grant was made subject to adequate conditions of settlement.

In entering upon this transaction, the Hudson's Bay company had no reason to suppose that the intended establishment would meet with any peculiar difficulties. The country on Red River, where it was to be formed, had been frequented by the servants of the company for a long course of years; and they were in the habits of the most friendly intercourse with the natives. The district had been much exhausted of valuable furs, so that the trading posts in it had proved of late years unprofitable, and doubts had been entertained whether they ought to be continued; and the Indians had, on various occasions expressed much anxiety, lest the Hudson's Bay company should abandon the posts from which they had so long been accustomed to receive their supplies of British manufactures.

It was not therefore to be supposed that they would object to an establishment, calculated to secure them permanently from any such apprehension; and there is no reason to believe that any dissatisfaction would have existed on their part, if it had not been industriously fomented.

No. 2.

Copy of a Dispatch from Lieut. General Sir Gordon Drummond to the Earl Bathurst, K. G.; dated Quebec, 16th August 1815:—Sixteen Inclosures.

My Lord,

Castle Quebec, August 16th, 1815.

HAVING considered what would be the best method of gaining the information required in your Lordship's letter of the 18th March, it appeared to me, that by addressing myself for that purpose confidentially to the heads of the North-West company, whom I knew to be persons of the utmost integrity and respectability, I should not only have the best chance of attaining that object, but of more effectually providing for the security of the lives and property of the settlers on the Red River