

to rebuild their destroyed dwellings, and looked forward with hope. The Governor's dwelling was strengthened, other buildings erected beside it, and, more necessity being now seen for defence, it assumed a more military aspect, and took the name Fort Douglas.

The blood of the members of both fur companies was now up. Cameron had returned in the summer of 1815 from the disposal of the deserting colonists, and from the meeting of the partners at Fort William, to await developments, and check new movements of the colonists. Alexander Macdonell, the Nor'-Wester, had returned and gone west to Qu'Appelle. In October, 1815, Cameron was seized along with Fort Gibraltar, and two of the river field-pieces recaptured. The matter was, however, settled and the fort restored to Cameron, who had been liberated. The further anxiety of Lord Selkirk for his colonists may be seen in the appointment of an experienced and capable military officer, Robert Semple, as Governor of Assiniboina. Governor Semple arrived at Red River in the autumn of 1815, alas, to make his grave on its banks. His arrival and presence gave much confidence to the settlers, and he was ably assisted by his lieutenant, Colin Robertson. Officials and settlers, as usual, spent the winter at Fort Daer.

The presence of the two daring Nor'-Westers in the country, Cameron and Macdonell, was reason enough for believing that there would be renewed trouble. All through winter threatenings of violence filled the air. The Bois-brûlés, or half-breeds, were arrogant, and led by Cuthbert Grant, a lad of little more than twenty, looked upon themselves as the "new nation." Returning after the New Year of 1816, from Fort Daer, Governor Semple saw the necessity for aggressive action. Fort Gibraltar was to become the rendezvous for a Bois-brûlé force of extermination from Qu'Appelle, Fort des Prairies (Portage La Prairie), and even from the Saskatchewan. To prevent this, Governor Semple captured the fort, and took Cameron into custody. This event took place, according to some, in March, according to others, in April, 1816. It is supposed that the Governor kept it as property taken in war, for, except on this ground, it is difficult to see how his action could have been justified.

Still in possession of Gibraltar, it was deemed wise to bestow Cameron, in a safer place. He was accordingly despatched as a prisoner under the care of Colin Robertson to Jack River House, on his way to Hudson Bay. By the failure of the ship to leave Hudson Bay, Cameron remained seventeen months a prisoner before he reached England, where he was released immediately on his arrival. He afterward returned to Canada, and represented the County of Glengarry for some time, probably between the years 1820 and 1830, in the Canadian parliament. No sooner had Cameron been taken away than there followed the destruction of Fort Gibraltar. Retaliation, the purpose of destroying what might give shelter to the attacking force, and perhaps the desire of profit, were the reasons for the destruction of Fort Gibraltar. Colin Robertson, it is said, was determinedly opposed to the demolition. He is said to have seriously differed with Governor Semple on the subject. On the next day after Robertson's departure with Cameron, its fate was decided, and the buildings were pulled down in end of May, 1816. A force of some thirty men was employed; and expecting, as they did, a body from the west to attack them, the work was all accomplished in seven or eight days. The materials were taken apart: the stockade was made into a raft, the remainder was piled upon it, and all was floated down Red River to the site of Fort Douglas. The material was then used for strengthening the fort, and building new houses in it. Thus ended Fort Gibraltar. A considerable establish-