

the oaths were administered in the Mess Room of Fort William, in the presence of Messrs. Cameron and McDonnell, Mr. McLeod, and other partners. The engagés were informed, that their oaths imported, that they were to be faithful to the king, and to obey all the orders which might be given them by their Commander Mr. Cameron, for the defence of the interests of the North West. This was probably the first time that his Majesty and Mr. Cameron had ever been associated together when oaths were administered. The engagés were then likewise informed, that by taking the oaths they would be exempted from punishment for any acts they should commit in obedience to their employers on whom alone the responsibility for offences would rest. One of the engagés present, who had been appointed one of the guides to convey the party to Red River, when it came to his turn to take the oaths, courageously told Mr. McLeod, "that he did not know by what laws they were acting, that he did not believe there were two sets of laws for his Majesty's subjects; that he saw plainly they wanted him to go to war, but that if he must fight he would go to Montreal to learn who were the enemies of the King and fight against them, but not against his fellow subjects. That he would do his duty to the North West Company as their servant, but would not bind his conscience by any oath to obey them." The conduct of this engagé was highly

laudable,