



NORTH-WEST SETTLERS, —DIOCESE OF RUPERT'S LAND.

First arrival.

First hut (afterwards used as a stable.) Second residence (log house.)

household goods into a few Red River carts, harnessed his oxen and ponies, and started westward to seek another homestead in the valley of the Saskatchewan. It should be borne in mind that this emigration was not due to any coercion on the part of the Canadian Government, but chiefly to the nomadic instincts of the natives. In fact, the Government accorded certain extra privileges to the latter which were denied the white settlers; for, besides the usual homestead and other grants given to the white, every Half-breed, born in the country prior to the "Transfer" of 1869, was entitled by law to an extra and special grant of 160 acres of land, in virtue of his being a native, and as a compensation for any real or imaginary proprietary rights he was supposed to have surrendered to the Government at the time of the Transfer. The Government also bestowed an honest share of its patronage among the better class of the natives; yet all these privileges were not sufficient inducement to keep the bulk of them at home. Civilization was a restraint. They wanted elbow-room, hence the emigration.

We pass over the march of a month or more through bogs and marshes, through flat and rolling prairie, through black flies

municipal laws and the privilege of self-taxation for educational and other purposes. This was wormwood to the Half-breed, who had been accustomed to receive the Gospel and elementary education for nothing. Further, the native being proverbially prolific, found himself unable to provide farms at home for his numerous sons, so he looked towards the west, and sighed for the open plains which lay for a thousand miles between himself and the Rocky Mountains. Then began an emigration westward—as a small offset to the immigration from the East. Many a native sold out his homestead in Manitoba, packed his family and his

(aptly called bull dogs) and mosquitoes, till at length the Central Saskatchewan is reached—*i. e.*, the vicinity of the confluence of its north and south branches. The country west, south-west and north-west of this point contains several colonies of Half-breeds, both English speaking and French. The largest of these are Prince Albert on the Saskatchewan, 550 miles north-west of Winnipeg, with a population of 900 souls, of whom 600 are English-Cree Half-breeds, the remainder being whites; St. Laurent, on the South Branch, close by, with about the same number of French Crees; and Edmonton, 1,000 miles north-west of Winni-