

thousands of British subjects who have flocked to the United States, and are now American citizens. There is "ample room and verge enough" for many flourishing colonies. What has the Company done in this way? With one exception, and that sorely against its will, absolutely nothing. In 1811 it granted to the Earl of Selkirk, who had purchased a large proportion of its stock with that view, 116,000 square miles of land on the Red River, situated midway between the American boundary and Lake Winnipeg, and His Lordship located there a colony consisting principally of Scotch Highlanders and their families, whom he conveyed thither from Europe. The purpose was ostensibly that of colonization, for which the country is admirably suited, great portion of the soil consisting of rich alluvion, which, when first tilled, yields crops of wheat forty-fold; and which, after twenty years of successive cultivation, without manure, green crops, or fallow, still yields from fifteen to twenty-five bushels per acre of fine heavy corn. But the main purpose of the settlement was to place a barrier in the way of the operations of the North West Company, not colonization. One of the first proceedings of the colonists was to seize supplies of food intended for the posts of the Canadian Company; and frequent affrays took place, in one of which the Governor of the new colony and several other persons lost their lives. By the treaty of 1818 it was admitted that a large portion of the settlement was within the territory of the United States; the rest of it has since reverted to the Company.

In making this grant the Company exhibited its usual contempt of law, for it had no legal right to create a sub-monopoly, empowering Lord Selkirk to appoint Governors, create courts of justice, and perform other acts of sovereignty, all of which it did. This sole colonizing experiment has proved a comparative failure, as it well might, for the Company seems to have taken the most likely means to make it one. Land was sold at more than double the price of good land fifty miles to the south on the same river, in the American territory, and on conditions which render the purchaser an absolute slave to the Company's monopoly. Every attempt of the settlers to open a traffic with England has been frustrated by the tyrannical regulations of the Company, and by