

of the freemen, rather than quit the country and leave their families, promised to hold themselves at the disposal of the North-West Company, and to take up arms when required by Alexander M'Donell. Accordingly M'Donell sent some of them, the same or next day, with a party of half-breeds under the command of Seraphim Lamare, clerk of the North-West Company, with orders, which were given in my hearing, to pillage Mr. Fidler :—

I then set out for Bas de la Rivière with Alexander M'Donell, and with from twenty to twenty-five half-breeds, clerks and servants of the North-West Company, and from twenty to twenty-five Indians, of whom Magicabo was the chief. At Bas de la Rivière a council was held by Archibald M'Lellan and Alexander M'Donell, at which I was present ; also Cuthbert Grant, Cadotte, Reinhard, William Shaw, Bastoncis Pangman, and several other half-breeds, about twenty in all, and in which M'Donell and Bastonois proposed to the half-breeds to proceed to Fort William, for the purpose of taking it, and in case they should meet the Earl of Selkirk or any of his people in the way, Alexander M'Donell proposed to them to place themselves in ambush near the river, and fire upon, and sink them while engaged in passing the rapids ; and I remember that the Chûte de Bonnet was particularly mentioned as a place where they might all be easily destroyed. A half-breed named La Plante, from the Saskatchewan, spoke in reply, saying, that he understood Lord Selkirk was guarded by a party of the King's troops ; that for his part he would never fight against them ;