

before the Committee of the (British) House of Commons, on the Hudson's Bay charter, in 1857, "The competition of the two Canadian companies against each other, and, after their junction, their joint competition against the Hudson's Bay Company, were conducted with great extravagance. There had been frequent collisions between the Indians and the whites, and gradually everything became worse, until about the year 1811." (Evidence, question 5778.)

It was at this time that Lord Selkirk entered into close connection with the Hudson's Bay Company. According to the statement of his opponents, His Lordship's first intention was simply to purchase shares in the company as a stock-jobbing operation, but an examination of the rights conferred by the charter, having enlarged his views of the power and privileges of the company, he invested to the extent of £40,000, the total amount of stock being £100,000. It was, continue his opponents, by the influence this gave him, that he was able to obtain a grant of 116,000 square miles, notwithstanding the opposition of other shareholders. (Narrative, 1817, pp. 3 to 5). The Earl's own statement is, that the shareholders who opposed were partners of the North-West Company, and had purchased such shares as were in the market, for the purpose of offering a factious opposition to any proposal he had to bring forward. Mr. Edward Ellice, in his evidence before the Committee of the House of Commons, already referred to, substantially confirms the statement of Lord Selkirk's interest in the company and the acquisition of the land, which he states was given as a free grant, adding, that after his connection with the company its movements became more active. No sooner was the grant made than a prospectus was issued in the United Kingdom, immediate preparations were made for its settlement, and Mr. Miles Macdonell was appointed to take charge of the arrangements for obtaining and settling the colonists on the Red River. The letters in note F, taken from Capt. Macdonell's letter-book, addressed to Lord Selkirk and others, give a narrative, almost from day to day, of the occurrences preceding the shipment up till the time when the emigrants reached the Red River.

The Miles Macdonell, thus appointed, generally but erroneously described as a captain in the Queen's Rangers, was born in Inverness, Scotland, in 1767. In 1779, he was at Carleton Island with his father, a loyalist refugee from Tryon County in the State of New York, who held the rank of captain in the King's Royal Regiment of New York, of which Sir John Johnson was Colonel. Miles received, in 1782, his commission as ensign in the same corps, and served till its reduction in 1784 (C. 793, p. 68). Shortly after the close of the war, he returned to Scotland and in 1788, at the age of twenty one, he married there, Isabella Macdonald of Morar, with whom he came back to Canada (Miles was, it may be mentioned, thrice married). In 1794, he was appointed lieutenant in the second battalion of Royal Canadian Volunteers, to which his father, John Macdonell, Speaker of the Assembly in Upper Canada, had been gazetted as captain (Simcoe to Dorchester, 20th Decem-