

His Lordship at the same time in person urged me to send a military force to the Red River.

Although nothing was adduced by the Earl, which could possibly make a change in the sentiments which I had already felt it my duty to convey to your Lordship, on the impracticability of the measure, yet anxious to afford every satisfaction in the question, and at once to convince still further both His Majesty's Government and the Earl Selkirk himself, that the object, if at all attainable, could not be accomplished without the most serious detriment to His Majesty's service, I called upon the Commissary General to furnish me with all information on the subject, judging from the known abilities and experience of Mr. Robinson, that no person could be so well qualified as himself to afford it, free from interest or bias: the propriety of calling upon this officer was more particularly obvious, as upon him rested the execution of any orders that might be given for the establishment of a military force in that quarter.

The Report and Memoranda of the Commissary General I have now the honour to forward, by which your Lordship will at once see that the object contemplated by the Earl of Selkirk can in no reasonable possibility be effected.

I likewise beg leave to forward the copy of a letter, with two accompanying documents, which I have received from the Honourable Wm. McGillivray, on the part of the North-West company, which body I thought fit to direct to be informed of the circumstance of Lord Selkirk's having presented me with the statement drawn up by Mr. McDonnell, in order that an opportunity might be afforded them of furnishing any reply they might have to make.

This step I judged proper, to prevent the necessity of any reference being made from home, in consequence of the consideration of Lord Selkirk's correspondence on the subject.

During an interview with his Lordship, I was made acquainted by him of his intention of proceeding in the Spring to Red River; and some apprehension being entertained by his Lordship for his personal safety, in the performance of this undertaking, I did not hesitate to accede to his request of being permitted to take with him as an escort, at his own charge and expense, any officer with five or six soldiers, who might be found ready to volunteer their services in accompanying his Lordship during this truly laborious route.

I at the same time expressed to the Earl, my very great regret at not finding it in my power more fully to meet his wishes.

I trust that on a review of the causes which render it impracticable to detach and station a force at Red River, your Lordship will see grounds to be in every respect satisfied, that in hitherto declining the attempt, I have been guided by the conviction and judgment, which I feel confident will be found best calculated to preserve the interests of His Majesty's Government in that portion of his dominions committed to my charge.

The Earl Bathurst, K. G  
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.

(Signed) Gordon Drummond.

Inclosure

(1)  
in Sir G. Drummond's, of 6 December 1815.

Sir,

Montreal, 11th November 1815.

Previously to my departure from England, I had received from Messrs. Maitland, Gordon & Auldjo, copies of the communications which they had in the month of June last with the Deputy Adjutant General, relative to my application for protection to the settlers of Red River; and since my arrival here I have seen another letter, addressed to them on the same subject on the 12th July. It appears to me that they have misapprehended this letter, which I conceive to have been meant as a communication of the allegations of Mr. McGillivray, to which it was necessary that a satisfactory answer should be given before your Excellency could comply with our request. It is impossible for me to suppose that it could be intended to give a decided negative without further inquiry; and that a determination to afford no protection to these settlers could be taken upon the mere *ex parte* statement of those from whom the danger was apprehended. I regret, that from this mistake, Messrs. Maitland, Gordon & Auldjo omitted to give your Excellency, at an earlier date, those further explanations