

THE  
MEMORIAL  
OF  
THOMAS EARL OF SELKIRK.

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To His Grace CHARLES DUKE of RICHMOND, Knight of the Most Noble Order of the Garter, Captain General and Governor in Chief in and over the Provinces of Lower Canada, Upper Canada, Novascotia, New-Brunswick and their several Dependencies, Vice Admiral of the same, General and Commander of all His Majesty's Forces in the said Provinces of Lower Canada and Upper Canada, Novascotia and New-Brunswick and their several Dependencies, and in the Islands of New-Foundland, Prince Edward, Cape Breton and Bermuda, &c. &c. &c.

*The Memorial of Thomas Earl of Selkirk,*

RESPECTFULLY SHEWETH,

THAT in the year 1811, your memorialist obtained from the Hudson's Bay Company for a valuable consideration a conveyance of a tract of land situated on Red River, being a part of the Territory granted to that Company by Royal Charter: your memorialist had previously consulted several of the most eminent Counsel in London, who concurred in opinion, that the title was unquestionably valid; and he has good reason to believe that a similar opinion has been expressed to His Majesty's Government by the Attorney and Solicitor General of England.

By the terms of the conveyance, your memorialist was bound to settle a specified number of families on the tract of land conveyed to him: and your memorialist as well as all persons holding lands under him were debarred from interfering in the fur trade. Notwithstanding this restriction, your memorialist was early apprized that any plan for settling the country in question, would be opposed with the most determined hostility by the North West Company of Montreal; and threats were held out by the principal partners of that association in London, that they would excite the native Indians to destroy the settlement. In order to obviate this danger, your memorialist instructed his agents to use their utmost endeavours to conciliate the good will of the native Indians, to make a purchase from them of the land requisite for the settlement, and also to abstain from all interference with the servants of the North West Company, except in so far as it should be unavoidable in self-defence. But as it was probable that the influence of the North West Company might be sufficient to mislead the native Indians, it