

(The poet Falcon calls upon all to drink! drink! at the defeat of Governor Semple and victory of Grant).

"Amis, buvons, trinquons,
Saluons la chanson
De Pierriche Falcon,
Ce faiseur de chansons."

III.

A CHAMPION OF NATIVE RIGHTS.

As the natives born on the soil became more numerous and more educated by the School and Church they sought to enjoy greater freedom and the possession of natural rights. When communities were formed the Company saw a spirit of independence growing up. The Hudson's Bay Company had for more than a century and a half enjoyed a monopoly. Instead of meeting popular demand half way they introduced Judge Thom, a Scottish lawyer from Montreal, and constituted with a monopolist spirit an appointed Council of Assiniboia. The agent to guard their monopoly was made Recorder or Judge with almost absolute power. Twenty leading natives of fair means approached the Governor to gain information as to whether they with a trace of Indian blood could "hunt, buy, sell or traffic in furs, etc." The Governor was pacific but the Recorder was inexorable. James Sinclair of the same stock as the Earl of Orkney of the same name, who is well known by Scott's beautiful ballad of "Rosabelle," became leader. The whole native population of Orkney and French descent was aroused. The crisis came in the case of a native trader Sayer being thrown into prison for selling furs. At his trial being held on Ascension Day, French and English comrades seized him and liberated him from the court room—the Metis shouting, "Vive la liberté! Le Commerce est libre! Le Commerce est libre!" The Recorder never sat as judge again, and the writer knew him in London some forty years afterward—a retired beneficiary of the Hudson's Bay Company.

IV.

ISBISTER—A BRILLIANT SON OF RED RIVER.

One of the most distinguished sons of old Red River Settlement was Alexander Kennedy Isbister who was born in 1822, son of an Orkney father in Fort Cumberland and at The Pas on the Saskatchewan River. He was educated at the McCallum School, now absorbed into St. John's College, Winnipeg. Having served as a clerk with the Hudson's Bay Company, Isbister went to England. He became a lawyer, took part in the passing of "The Reform Bill" and devoted